

# Communist China leaders' 'bad dream'

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If Peking's propaganda is a guide, Communist China's leaders have conjured up a bad dream for themselves and have concluded that if two foreign devils haunt them the one closer at hand is by far the more ominous.

What Peking is saying seems to lend substance to President Nixon's expressed hope for better relations with mainland

China. He said Sunday night he did not expect anything approaching resumed diplomatic relations, but he did hope that his February visit to Peking would produce "normalization in terms of setting up some method of communication better than we currently have."

Communists, living in their own world of double talk, do not always say what they mean, but Peking seems agitated about Soviet intentions as it reads them. This

involves something like a huge Soviet noose looped about much of that so-called third world of "medium-sized and small nations" in Asia and Africa for which Peking now claims to speak.

As Red China puts it, the Russians are reverting to type, acting like the czars of old trying to establish "a world empire." Peking insists that Soviet activity in the Asian subcontinent is "connected with a scheme to build "a sealane arch" that

would extend from the Mediterranean and Black seas in a southward-dropping semicircle through the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean, the Bay of Bengal, around Southeast Asia and up to the Sea of Japan.

That, said a recent article carried by the official Red Chinese news agency, is why Moscow is so deeply involved in arms aid to India and why the Soviet fleet has shown the flag all along the Arabian Sea and

Indian Ocean.

To turn India into an important base for its expansion in the Indian Ocean, Soviet revisionists have been vigorously bolstering up the Indian reactionaries for years," said the article. Moscow, it said, regarded the Indian-Pakistani war as a good chance to step up Soviet expansion in the Indian Ocean and "further its control of India."

Clearly, the suggestion in all this was

that China regarded Russia as the major threat. If the Russian appetite was what Peking seemed to think it was, China alone would be in a poor position to challenge Soviet arms in South and Southeast Asia.

But China with communication open to the United States would be better off if only because of an enormous implicit American potential to tip the balance politically or militarily.

There could be dividends for the Americans, too, in easing China's two decades of implacable hostility toward the United States.

President Nixon said his adviser, Henry Kissinger, in his trips to Peking to arrange for the presidential visit, had raised with Premier Chou Enlai the question of American war prisoners in North Vietnam. The President said he, too, intended to raise the question next month.

This issue can well be the major logjam in the way of an Indochina settlement. If China in fact sees the Soviet Union straining for domination of all Asia, it would seem logical for Peking to establish more meaningful communication with Washington. One way of doing this could be to act as broker between the Americans and the North Vietnamese.

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## Nixon the traveler

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon has spent more time away from the White House than in it during the first three years of his presidency.

He chalked up more than 300,000 miles of travel, to 27 states, the Virgin Islands, Guam, Midway and 19 countries.

Nixon will have to almost double that to surpass Lyndon B. Johnson's total presidential mileage, but available records show Nixon is already a more-traveled president than either John F. Kennedy or Harry S. Truman.

When Truman made his farewell address, he boasted he had traveled 135,000 miles by air, 77,000 by rail and 17,000 by ship.

There are no records on President Eisenhower's mileage, but train and sea sojourns virtually disappeared during his years in office.

John F. Kennedy traveled about 215,000 miles during his shortened term, very few by boat or rail. Johnson logged 523,000 miles between November 1962 and January 1969, according to records at the LBJ Library in Austin, Tex. Virtually all the mileage was by air.

Nixon has taken a few rides on Navy ships and tried out the new Penn Central Metroliner train on a 270-mile round trip from Washington to Philadelphia. But virtually all of his 301,000 miles through Dec. 31, 1971, have been accumulated by air.

Records show Nixon was away from Washington for all or part of 51 days and in the nation's capital for all or part of 514 days during his first three years.

He has averaged about 25 weekends per year at the presidential retreat in the Catskill Mountains at Camp David, Md., far more than any recent president. Though not always at the retreat, Nixon was away from Washington for all but six weekends in 1971.

Nixon has averaged two foreign trips a year since 1969 and his schedule for 1972 indicates he will at least top that. He has already announced trips to Communist China and the Soviet Union.

Nixon is the first president to set up secondary residences on both coasts. He has spent 35 weekends in Florida and California. Nixon visited Key Biscayne eight times in 1969 and 16 each in 1970 and 1971. He made two trips to San Clemente in 1969, three in 1970 and six in 1971. All in all, more than 220,000 of his 300,000 presidential miles have been logged in the United States.

## Mystery mansion attraction

WESTFIELD, N.J. (AP) — The vacant, mystery shrouded home of the John E. List family here has attracted at least a dozen prospective purchasers since the grisly events that changed the turn-of-the-century mansion into a mausoleum.

According to one real estate agent in this well-to-do New York City suburb, offers to purchase the 19-room residence began coming in less than 48 hours after five members of the List family were found shot to death in the house.

According to a report in today's Star-Ledger of Newark, the real estate broker said, "We had one customer call within 48 hours after the bodies were discovered and another man called inquiring about buying the mansion two days later."

One of the customers told the agent she had always admired the house and liked the location.

A second realtor, according to the papers, said his company had only received one offer — from a man who had seen the house more than five years ago, before the ill-fated List family moved to this quiet community from Rochester, N.Y.

On Dec. 7 of last year, police entered the home and found the five victims.

Autopsies revealed the bodies of Mrs. Helen List, 46, her three children, Patricia, 16, John F., 15, and Frederick, 13, had lain side-by-side on the blood-stained first floor for almost a month. The body of her mother-in-law, Mrs. Alma List, 85, originally of Bay City, Mich., was found in her apartment on the third floor of the house.

John E. List has been indicted on murder charges in connection with the five slayings. He has not been seen since the time of the slayings, which is thought to have occurred on Nov. 3.