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SOVIETS AND CHINA RESUMING NORMAL TIES AFTER 30 YEARS; BEIJING PLEDGES 'DEMOCRACY'

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Chinese and Soviet leaders agreed today to increase economic and cultural cooperation, and discussed the possibility of military contacts, as they formally announced the normalization of relations between their two nations and Communist parties to end their 30-year split.

During their meetings with Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, Chinese leaders also made a startling call for more democracy and human rights in China. Their newfound enthusiasm for more democracy seemed based in part on Mr. Gorbachev's liberalization in the Soviet Union, and appeared to be a response to the big pro-democracy demonstrations over the last month.

This evening, 300,000 workers, students and onlookers turned the center of the capital into near-pandemonium in one of the biggest displays of popular dissatisfaction the capital has seen since the Communist revolution in 1949. [Page 4.] Party-to-Party Meetings The Soviet Union and China were close allies from 1949 to the late 1950's, but their relations then began to deteriorate to the point where they had border clashes in 1969. As a result, while both sides maintained ambassadors in the other country, party relations were virtually cut off. The significance of Mr. Gorbachev's visit is not only to improve state relations, but also

to normalize contacts between the two Communist Parties.

Gennadi I. Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, said tonight that the two countries had agreed to hold regular meetings of their Communist Parties, to create a new "mechanism" to work toward demilitarizing their border, and to step up economic and cultural exchanges.

Mr. Gerasimov said the Soviets had also proposed regular contacts between the Soviet and Chinese militaries, and were hopeful that this would be accepted. A Nod to Gorbachev

The Chinese were more reticent in discussing how normalization might be achieved, but they were happy to discuss their ideas about democracy. The most remarkable statements came from Prime Minister Li Peng, a target of the student demonstrators because of his previous wariness about rapid political and economic liberalization.

"We don't think that capitalist countries have a monopoly on freedom, democracy and human rights," Mr. Li said today in his meeting with Mr. Gorbachev. "People in socialist countries should also enjoy freedom, democracy and human rights. China is prepared to improve these aspects of its political reform."

Mr. Li also said China had "taken note of the new thinking" that Mr. Gorbachev has fostered in the Soviet Union, in what appeared to be a signal of China's interest in following the Soviet example in some areas.

Prime Minister Li's remarks appeared to represent the first time that a Chinese leader has mentioned respect for "human rights" as a goal for the nation. Until an article in the official People's Daily on Friday, which quoted unidentified scholars as calling for human rights, the term was used dismissively, as a bourgeois concept that had little or no meaning in China.

The Chinese Communist Party leader, Zhao Ziyang, also called for more openness - it was his aide, Bao Tong, who arranged for publication of the People's Daily article, party officials said - but his comments were slightly less forceful and less surprising because he has long been associated with a policy of greater liberalization.

On the other hand, just three weeks ago Mr. Li reportedly was involved in plans for an abortive crackdown on the democracy movement, and he said early last month that China would not copy Soviet political reforms. More Rescheduling

On the second day of his four-day visit to China, Mr. Gorbachev again found

that events had to be rescheduled because of the demonstrations in the center of the city. A wreath-laying ceremony on Tiananmen Square was canceled, and his meeting with Prime Minister Li was moved to Mr. Gorbachev's guest house to avoid disruptions.

Perhaps because the domestic unrest has made it more important for them to achieve a diplomatic success to win popular support, Deng Xiaoping, China's senior leader, and other officials were unexpectedly gentle with Mr. Gorbachev on their major area of disagreement, Cambodia.

The Soviet Union backs the current Vietnamese-installed Government in Cambodia, while China backs rebel factions that have formed their own government, and there are still major disagreements about forming a new Government after the scheduled withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia by September.

Mr. Deng and Mr. Gorbachev discussed the Cambodian issue in depth, but they came to no overall agreement. Mr. Gerasimov said the two sides had moved closer on the Cambodia issue, although he declined to give details. 'Open Up the Future'

During their meeting, Mr. Deng pointedly reminded Mr. Gorbachev of China's history of humiliation at the hands of foreign powers, including the disagreements between China and the Soviet Union in the 1950's. At the time the two countries were allies but many Chinese resented what they regarded as Soviet arrogance and presumption in their partnership.

Having made his point that China did not want a return to that kind of unequal relationship, Mr. Deng said that Mr. Gorbachev's visit could be summed up in a Chinese expression: "End the past and open up the future."

Some of the more mysterious remarks made in the meetings today came when Mr. Zhao launched into a major defense of Mr. Deng and stressed his importance to the nation. The comments, which were repeated on China's television news program to guarantee a wide audience, may have been intended as a response to growing criticism of Mr. Deng and to accompanying suggestions that he should retire from public life.

Mr. Zhao also mentioned a previously undisclosed resolution of the Central Committee calling for Mr. Deng's guidance in dealing with most important issues. There have been widespread rumors here that Mr. Deng may retire after Mr. Gorbachev's visit ends, and Mr. Zhao's remarks could be seen either as a denial of

the rumors or as a confirmation of them by giving Mr. Deng praise before he retires. Democracy, but With One Party

In a rare admission of the disaffection among Chinese youth, Mr. Zhao also said, "Some people, especially young people, frequently raise doubts about the superiority of socialism."

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