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COMMUNIST CHINA

- I. The naming of Liu Shao-chi to the chairmanship of the Chinese Communist government seems to be another indication that Mao Tse-tung wishes Liu to succeed him eventually as chairman of the Chinese Communist party.
 - A. Liu has been Mao's first lieutenant for about 15 years. He ranks immediately behind Mao in the three most important party organs--the central committee, the politburo, and the politburo standing committee (a small super-politburo). He has made the principal address at each of the past two party congresses.
 - B. The government chairmanship is largely a ceremonial post, but it adds to Liu's prestige. It will also make easier the task of building up Liu, for the Chinese people, as a benign father-figure like Mao.
- II. Liu, now 61, has been a cold and humorless man dedicated to problems of doctrine, organization, and policy.
 - A. In recent years, Chinese press has tried to humanize Liu. Moreover, he has sometimes toured countryside to talk with common man, and has sometimes received foreign delegations.
 - B. However, Liu has a long way to go before he will have anything like the popularity of Mao.
- III. Chou En-lai has retained his post as premier and appears to be secure as third-ranking party leader, behind Mao and Liu.
 - A. Chou has held the premiership, the most important government post, since regime was proclaimed in 1949.

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B. This position and his performance in it provide the main basis for his influence in party councils.

IV. Liu Shao-chi has been associated with Mao Tse-tung for more than 40 years, and since 1943 has emerged as Mao's favorite comrade and most likely heir.

A. Liu knew Mao as a student in Hunan. He followed Mao to Peking University, then went to Russia in 1919. He did not like Russia but was attracted to Communist theory, and became a Communist in 1921.

B. Liu was primarily a labor organizer until 1927, and worked for a time with Mao. He was then an underground leader in Manchuria. He was elected to the politburo in 1931, and joined Mao's "Soviet" rural area in south China in 1932.

C. Liu made the Long March of 1934-35 as a political officer. On the march, he strongly supported Mao in disputes with other party leaders. After 1935, he was an underground leader against the Japanese in China.

D. In the early 1940s, Liu made a reputation as an expositor of Mao's doctrine, and supervised the first "rectification" of the party. In 1945, he drafted the party's constitution, and was elected vice-chairman of the party.

E. In 1948, Liu was chosen to state the CCP's condemnation of Titoism and affinity with the USSR. In 1949 he became one of vice-chairmen of new Peiping regime, but for several years thereafter was occupied primarily with party affairs.

F. Liu was ill in 1953, but soon recovered. In 1954, he supervised the purge of two high-ranking party leaders, Kao Kang and Jao

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National People's Congress.

- G. At the party's 8th Congress in 1956, Liu gave the address which corresponded to Mao's report to the 1945 Congress. Liu was then elected senior vice-chairman of the central committee and politburo, and second-ranking member of the politburo standing committee.
- H. Since 1956, Liu has shown a strong preference for hard-line policies. He was apparently out of sympathy with Mao's "hundred flowers" experiment in 1956-57, and played a leading role in the harsh "rectification" campaign which followed.
- I. In late 1957 and early 1958, he became one of the leaders of the "great leap forward" in economic development. At party congress May 1958, Liu again gave the principal report: two persons close to Liu gave the other two major reports, and three persons close to Liu were named as the three new members of the party politburo.
- J. Since mid-1958, Liu has been closely associated with Mao in the "communes" program. He has happily described the communes as "organizers of the entire life of the people," and has given every indication that he would continue this program if he were party chief.
- K. Liu, like Mao and most other CCP leaders, is strongly pro-Soviet, and has often acted as a defender of Soviet positions. However, Liu agrees with Mao that the Chinese party must maintain its freedom from Soviet control and must not blindly follow Soviet lead.

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