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U S S R I N T E R N A T I O N A L A F F A I R S  
CHINA

VICTOR LOUIS: PRC HAS 1 MONTH TO FORMULATE NEW POLICY

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[Victor Louis article: "Moscow Is Waiting For a Gesture From Peking"; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] What does the Soviet Union think about the recent upheavals in China? Has the elimination of Mao Tse-tung's widow raised any hopes in Moscow? Victor Louis--the only Soviet journalist who contributes to Western papers and also the only journalist who acts as his government's unofficial spokesman--explains.

The events in China are seen as very important in Moscow. It is believed that, in any case, something was bound to happen after Mao's death.

For the time being, the fact that the most anti-Soviet of the Chinese leaders have been eliminated has been welcomed. Chiang Ching, Mao's widow, was the best known among them. As long as she was there there was no chance of a reconciliation between China and Russia and Soviet commentators used to criticize her severely.

It is generally believed in Moscow that there still are some Chinese military leaders of the older generation with whom it could still be possible to reach an agreement. Many of them were trained by the Soviets, some of them in the Soviet Union itself. It is also believed that these men are not the only people in China who know from experience that without Soviet military and economic aid their country would never have achieved its present status and importance in the international sphere. It is therefore believed in Moscow that they still realize the need to find a common language with their Soviet neighbor.

## Last Chance

Furthermore, these men are capable of accurately assessing Soviet military might and of realizing that it is not a paper tiger.

This is what certain Soviet people believe, and they refuse to accept that the Chinese with whom they came into contact in military academies would have changed so much.

However, the new generation of Soviet leaders is much less sentimental than the men who used to know these Chinese personally. This is why this could be China's last chance to admit that the "elders," who for several years have been able to prevent the Soviet Union from making an irreversible decision, were right.

Now that Mao and several other people with whom Moscow could have negotiated--Chou En-lai and Chu Te, for instance--have departed, both the rising forces in China and the Soviets advocating patience will still be able to maintain their position for some time, even if new anti-Soviet statements are delivered by the Chinese leadership, for they will always be able to assert that no one can expect to see the Peking regime change so rapidly. But how long will this argument remain valid? The USSR had some good reasons for waiting for Mao's demise once he turned 80. But such an attitude would be incorrect toward Hua Kuo-feng, who is much younger. It seems that China's new policy should emerge within the coming month and that the Soviets, who in the past adopted a "wait and see" attitude, will be unable to maintain it any longer. Even now they represent only a very small minority.