

Soviet-Chinese conflict . . .

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Cheng also said the probability of a Sino-Soviet War is weakened by the "soft warning" approach the Soviets have directed toward the Chinese.

He explained that the Soviet Union has set no specific deadlines for a Chinese withdrawal from Vietnam, but rather has warned the Chinese not to stay too long. "Russia's tone justifies why there is no attack," he said.

Cheng said the Soviet Union may be sending China a signal concerning improvement of the political climate between the two countries. He said that by Soviet reluctance to attack China, the Russians are leaving "the door wide open for reconciliation."

If the Soviets attack China, though, all possibilities of reconciliation are shut off, he said.

No quick solutions

Cheng said he feels very strongly, for those reasons, that there will be no Sino-Soviet war.

"But I may be wrong," he added.

As a whole, Cheng said, he does not foresee any quick solutions to the China-Vietnam war.

He said that if the Soviets escalate their assistance to Vietnam, a stalemate in the fighting may occur. Cheng explained that an increase in Russian aid would better Vietnam's fighting potential, helping keep a balance of military might between China and Vietnam.

"There would be no defeat, no victory; no advance, no retreat," he said.

Korean comparison

Cheng compared the present Southeast Asian conflict to the Korean War. He said the American and communist forces were stalemated in the Korean War for several years.

However, the possibility of a United States intervention, as in the Korean War, is unlikely, he added. He said the U.N. Security Council would have little effectiveness as both China and the Soviet Union hold a veto power.

The United States and the Soviet Union may encourage

Peking and Hanoi to conduct cease-fire negotiations, though, Cheng said.

He added that even if a cease-fire could be achieved, the goals of both China and Vietnam would be difficult to resolve.

Cheng said Vietnam's goals are to maintain the pro-Hanoi government in Cambodia, to push the Chinese troops back to the border, and to attain prestige by eliciting a public statement of defeat from China.

Higher price

The price is higher for the Chinese, though, he added. He said that while China would like the pro-Hanoi government in Cambodia defeated and destroyed, China would also like to see a resolution of the ethnic Chinese issue with Vietnam.

Cheng said the ethnic Chinese in Vietnam constitute 10 to 15 percent of the population, and belong primarily to the upper class.

He explained that the Chinese nationals have resisted efforts by the communist government to take away their property ownership and to reassign them to work in communes. As a result, some of these Chinese have been arrested, some prosecuted, and some sent back to China, he said.

Cheng said the ethnic Chinese issue is tied to Hanoi and Moscow relations. He said Vietnam has asked China to encourage its nationals to accept the customary loss of ownership in a communist state, but that China has hedged, asking for a "cool off" of Vietnam's relations with the Soviets.

Independent State

According to Cheng, Vietnam has replied that it is an independent state, and "don't tell us what to do."

The tension between Vietnam and China has built up since last April, Cheng said, and it exploded at Christmas time over the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia.

Cheng said if Vietnam had not invaded Cambodia, the Chinese probably would have not penetrated Vietnam. He added that the tension probably would have peaked, then

talks would have helped to cool off the two nations.

However, the establishment of a pro-Hanoi government in Cambodia combined with a lack of patience over the unstable border conditions, which arose from the ethnic Chinese problem, and a consensus among the Chinese leadership all led to China's invasion of Vietnam, according to Cheng.

"Anytime is a good time," he said, paraphrasing a Chinese official's comments on the timing of the invasion.

Careless calculations

But China made some careless calculations about the Vietnamese resistance and the temperament of the Western powers, Cheng said.

The Chinese leadership should have realized that the Vietnamese have had recent fighting experience, he said, but "they didn't stop and think."

"The Chinese leadership is not too experienced in war affairs," Cheng said.

China assumed Japan and the United States would support the Vietnamese invasion, or at least stay neutral, as relations among those countries were at a peak, he said.

"China tended to think Russia would not attack because China had good relations with Japan and the United States," Cheng said.

The Chinese expected those two countries to come to China's side, thus keeping the Soviet Union away.

But China misjudged the temperament among the Western powers, Cheng said. They would denounce anyone using force.

"China was hurt very much by their actions," Cheng said. "It will take a long time to repair it."

'Business as usual' in China connection

The invasion of Vietnam by the People's Republic of China should mean nothing more than business as usual for the United States, according to a UNL political science instructor.

Joan Wadlow, an instructor in international relations and American foreign policy and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences said she sees China's actions in Vietnam as an effort to prevent Soviet influence over all of Southeast Asia.

China took punitive action, along the border of Vietnam and China, according to Prime Minister Teng Hsiao ping. The punitive action was a result of Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia and the toppling of the Chinese supported Pol Pot regime. The border incidents took place shortly after Teng's visit to the United States in January.

Wadlow said she does not foresee any type of American intervention in South East Asia and expects normalization of relations with China will continue as planned.

"The public opinion polls show no support for the intervention," Wadlow said, adding there would be nothing for the United States to gain by such intervention.

Following the border incidents at Lao Cai, Cam Dong, Lang Son and Dong Dang, Vietnam, President Carter sent a personal appeal to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev to hold back any punitive action against China. Carter also relayed a personal appeal for restraint to Teng through Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal.

Though Blumenthal's mission has been interpreted by some U.S. Congressmen as endorsement of the Chinese intervention, Wadlow said it is nothing more than coincidence that Blumenthal was in China at the time of the invasion.

Wadlow said she does not expect the Chinese actions will escalate to a nuclear incident, adding that the United States would undoubtedly intervene at that point.

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