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Soviets Recognize Communist Govt

Russia recognized the new Central People's (Communist) Government of China October 2 and broke off relations with the Nationalist regime in Canton.

Five Soviet satellites and Yugoslavia followed suit later in the week. A showdown was expected in the UN soon on whether Communists or Nationalists should represent China. The U.S. and Britain still maintained relations with the Nationalists but were considering whether to grant Communist China de facto recognition. (Communist troops drove to 70 miles of Canton.)

Besides Russia, the countries that recognized the Communist People's Republic of China were Bulgaria and Rumania October 3, Czechoslovakia and Poland October 4, North Korea and Yugoslavia October 5. Outer Mongolia also broke relations with Canton October 8. This gave the Chinese Communists at least 6 friends in the UN--Czechs, Poles, Yugoslavs, Russians, White Russians and Ukrainians. However, anti-Cominform Yugoslavia was snubbed when the Chinese Communists broadcast acknowledgement of the recognitions October 7 and said nothing about Yugoslavia.

Statements

Russia's recognition of the Chinese People's Government in Peking* (Peiping) followed a statement October 2 by Chairman Mao Tse-tung of the Peking regime. Mao said Communist China was ready to establish diplomatic relations with any foreign government "willing to observe the principles of equality, mutual benefit, mutual respect of territorial integrity and sovereignty." He said of the Chinese civil war: "The people's liberation war has been fundamentally won and a majority...liberated."

In Moscow Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko then announced October 2 that Russia recognized the Chinese Communist Government as expressing "the will of the overwhelming majority of the Chinese people." He also notified the Nationalist Embassy in Moscow that Russia was breaking relations with the Nationalist Government because it had "ceased to exercise power in the country" and become a mere "provincial Government of Canton." On October 4 Russia named Nikolai V. Roshchin, ex-Ambassador to the Nationalists, as Ambassador to Communist China and Peking appointed Wang Chia-hsiang to Moscow.

In both Moscow and Peking these events were hailed as a milestone for communism. Soviet historian Eugene Tarle said in Izvestia (Moscow) October 2 that establishment of the Chinese People's Republic was one of 2 "stupendous events" this year, the other being "failure of U.S. calculations upon atomic monopoly" [See 1949 [Western Defense: 2 U.S. Aid Pacts Signed; Other Developments](#)]. Poet Mirzo Tursunsade wrote in the same issue of Izvestia: "The struggle...for reorganization of the world has begun to burn brightly over the whole East."

The Chinese Communists broadcast October 4 that a "China Conference for Defending World Peace" had pledged Communist China's willingness to "unite with our great ally, the Soviet Union." Russia's possession of an atomic weapon, the broadcast said, meant that the Soviet bloc "will certainly have sufficient strength to pulverize all the criminal plots of the warmongers."

The U.S. Communist Party cabled Mao Tse-tung October 3 that the establishment of the Chinese People's Republic was "one of the great events in human history...an immense contribution to world peace and democracy." [See 1949 [Labor: Hawaiian Dock Strike; Other Developments](#); 1949 [Far East: News in Brief](#)]

* Means "northern capital." The Nationalist name Peiping, meaning "northern peace," was discarded by the Communists last week in favor of the city's old name. [See 1949 [United Nations: Chinese Case to UN; Other Developments](#)]

Nationalists Press UN Case

The Chinese Nationalist Government, in breaking formally with Russia October 3, said Soviet recognition of the Communist regime was "an act of aggression against China," "a threat to the peace and security of the Far East," the last in a "long series of violations of the Sino-Soviet treaty (of 1945)" and "further evidence of Soviet infringement of China's political independence and territorial integrity." Canton said there was "all the more reason" for China's complaint against Russia in the UN General Assembly (scheduled for debate late this month) to receive "immediate attention." [See 1949 [United Nations: Chinese Case to UN; Other Developments](#)]

U.S., British Reaction

The U.S. State Department and British Foreign Office both said October 3 they would take no immediate action on Chinese Communist requests for recognition submitted through consular officials in Peking. State promised not to recognize Peking before Congress was consulted. Britain was inclined to favor de facto recognition of the Communists but was consulting with other Commonwealth countries.

In Shanghai the Communists decreed October 6 that news dispatches could be sent out only by correspondents from countries that had diplomatic relations with the Peking regime. The State Department next day denounced this "crude effort to force recognition" of the Communist Government [See 1949 [Far East: News in Brief](#); 1949 [Far East: News in Brief](#)]



AFP/Getty Images

Mao Zedong proclaims the establishment of the People's Republic of China.

Top Communist Officials

In his statement October 2 Mao also announced that the new Communist Government had taken office that day. It consisted of a 56-member Central People's Government Council elected by the Chinese People's Political Conference in Peking and an inner State Administrative Council chosen by the Government Council.

Mao, chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, also held 2 top governmental posts--chairman of the People's Government Council and the People's Revolutionary Military Council. Five other leaders named to organize government departments:

Premier of the State Admin. Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs--General Chou En-lai.

People's Liberation Army Comdr.-in-Chief--General Chu Teh.

Supreme People's Court Chief Justice--Shen Chun-ju.

Procurator General--Lo Hung-huan.

Central People's Government Council Secretary General--Lin Po-chu.

(Mme. Sun Yat-sen and 83 other leaders in Communist China were ordered arrested by the Nationalist Cabinet October 8. No charges were specified against Mme. Sun, but she had become a leader of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association and vice chairman of the Central People's Government Council in Peking.) [See 1949 [United Nations: Chinese Case to UN; Other Developments](#)]

New Flag

The flag of Communist China introduced October 2 was a rectangular red banner with 5 gold stars in the upper left corner. A large star represented Communist leadership. In an arc to its right were 4 small stars representing the worker, farmer, petty bourgeois and national capitalist classes.

Communists Drive for Canton

The long-expected Communist push on Canton opened this week and produced these results October 7:

Communists captured Kukong, 125 miles north of Canton, and forced the Nationalists to fall back on Yuantam, 60 miles above the capital. The Government prepared to go to Chungking.

General Pai Chung-hsi's 300,000-man Kwangsi Nationalist army was thought to have been bypassed when the Communists took his old headquarters city, Hengyang. Pai set up new headquarters in Lingling but Communist columns advancing on that city from the northwest captured Chihkiang and Shaoyang.

A Communist force pushing down the China coast bypassed Amoy and advanced toward Swatow. Amoy, chief Nationalist port opposite Formosa, also was under direct attack by the main land force and amphibious raiders recently landed in the city from a fleet of junks. [See 1949 [United Nations: Chinese Case to UN; Other Developments](#); 1949 [Far East: News in Brief](#)]

Nationalists Hold U.S. Ships

The Isbrandtsen Line freighters Flying Independent and Flying Clipper, taken in charge by 2 Nationalist warships as they left Shanghai September 29, were freed October 7. The freighters were taken October 2 to the Nationalists' Chusan Islands base southeast of Shanghai [See 1949 [Far East: News in Brief](#)] for removal of their cargoes and Chinese passengers. U.S. protests to Canton brought about their release. The cargoes, passengers and crews were unmolested. [See 1949 [Far East: News in Brief](#)]

The General W. H. Gordon, first evacuation ship to leave Shanghai since June, sailed for the U.S. September 25 with 1,219 non-Chinese passengers, including 363 Americans. About 1,000 American citizens in Shanghai and hundreds more in Nanking and other cities elected to remain. [See 1949 [Far East: News in Brief](#); 1949 [China: Communists Take Shanghai; Other Developments](#); 1949 [China: Shanghai-Hangchow Drive; Other Developments](#)]

Hong Kong commander named by Britain October 1: Lieutenant General Sir E. C. Robert Mansergh, 49, military secretary to British War Minister Emanuel Shinwell. He replaced the ailing Lieutenant General F. W. Festing. [See 1949 [China: U.S. White Paper Concedes Communist Victory; Other Developments](#); 1949 [Far East: News in Brief](#)]

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