

Take the question of Chile

[Extract] Talk by a member of the Liaison Department of the CPC to a visiting delegation of the South African journal, IKWEZI July 1979.

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Take the question of Chile. In Chile a reactionary coup d'etat took place of an anti-communist character. We opposed it as oppression of the forces of the national democratic revolution. It took place under complicated international situation; against the background of rivalry between the Soviet Union and the U.S. Latin America is under the influence of the United States. Allende had met Chou EnLai and had visited China. When he died we sent a telegram of condolence.

The Soviet Union tried to take him as an example of peaceful transition to socialism, which is a revisionist line. With ulterior motives the Soviet Union made bad suggestions to him. We advised him not to follow the Soviet Union as he would divorce himself from the masses, but Allende was taken in by the Soviet Union due to his lack of experience and he became a sacrificial lamb for peaceful transition.

When Allende was killed the Soviet Union again made a lot of fanfare and propaganda to divert the attention of the world's peoples and adopted such measures as severing diplomatic relations with Chile, and so on. By doing this the Soviet Union tried to pose itself as the most revolutionary country

and slandering China as siding with the totalitarian regime of Chile. This is sheer deception. If the Soviet Union really supported revolutionary struggles why did the Soviet Union have diplomatic relations with Suharto of Indonesia. But this is not the crux of the matter.

After the coup d'etat we did not follow suit. We first exposed Soviet policy in Chile. Besides the military regime in Chile is anti-communist and we oppose it, but Chile is a Third World Country and we must not go to extremes in handling it, and we must unite with it in the anti-hegemony struggle.

We did not sever diplomatic relations with Chile, we wanted to maintain a foothold in the backyard of U.S. Imperialism.

Through our Embassy we tried to render various kinds of help.

Therefore tactically we adopt different methods. To maintain diplomatic relations with countries does not mean support for the internal policies of that country. We also maintain diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and the U.S. but we oppose their policies vigorously.

Maintenance of diplomatic relations is different from support for revolutionary struggles.