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# WEEKLY REVIEW

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The WEEKLY REVIEW, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology. Topics requiring more comprehensive treatment and therefore published separately as Special Reports are listed in the contents pages.

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PEKING AND MOSCOW MANEUVER ON BORDER QUESTION

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Peking has accepted a Soviet proposal for border river navigation talks, presumably in hopes of using this forum to revive its claims to disputed islands in the Ussuri River.



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#### PEKING AND MOSCOW MANEUVER ON BORDER QUESTION

Peking's acceptance of a Soviet proposal for renewed border river navigation talks next month suggests that the Chinese hope to use this forum to revive their claims to disputed islands in the Ussuri River. The Soviet offer to renew the talks on river navigation was made on 26 April and the Chinese replied on 11 May.

As part of their continuing political and propaganda war with

Moscow, the Chinese will probably try to manipulate the talks in order to undercut the Soviet case on the general issue of border demarcation. The Soviets are likely to reject this approach, as they did in 1967 when they charged that the Chinese "wrecked" the last navigation meeting by introducing border demarcation problems which the Soviets said were not within the competence of the river navigation negotiators.

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Moscow has not yet commented on the Chinese acceptance or the alternate date proposed by Peking, but it would probably welcome an agreement on practical measures to lessen the risk of incidents in the course of normal river navigation.

During the navigation talks, the Chinese will probably press their claim that under existing treaties and "established principles of international law" Chen Pao (Damansky) and the other disputed islands in the Ussuri River are legally Chinese. Peking appears to have a strong case in regard to Chen Pao, mainly because the main river channel passes between the island and the Soviet shore.

The Chinese have not yet responded to two earlier Soviet proposals to renew talks on border demarcation which had broken down in 1964. The Soviets had publicized these offers as well as the one on river navigation with the apparent aim of cultivating an image as the more responsible and moderate of the disputants. During his report to the ninth party congress in Peking on 1 April, Vice Chairman Lin Piao stated that the Chinese were considering a reply to the Soviet initiatives, but Peking has not yet made a statement.

Although the Chinese may eventually respond to the Soviet

offers, and may even issue a counterproposal for border negotiations, the statement is likely to be unacceptable to Moscow. Peking has consistently maintained that the Soviets must recognize the 19th century treaties which established the present boundaries as "unequal treaties" before any substantive border negotiations can begin. Moscow has refused to grant the Chinese this opening, which is obviously intended to legitimize China's claims to vast territories in Siberia.

The recent upsurge of virulent Sino-Soviet propaganda attacks concerning the border dispute has underscored a continuing hostile attitude in both Moscow and Peking. After a month-long hiatus, Chinese propaganda media renewed their coverage of the border dispute by releasing a full length documentary film on 18 April which portrayed the history of recent Soviet "atrocities" along the Chinese border. The Soviets, whose propaganda on the issue had also diminished, have responded with equally harsh attacks.

Rumors were rife among foreign journalists in Moscow this week concerning hostilities in the Sinkiang-Kazakhstan border region. Both sides have denied knowledge of such incidents, however, and they remain unsubstantiated. [REDACTED]

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