

Editorial

The first issue of this Journal coincides with the tenth anniversary of the establishment of a Communist régime in China. During the past decade, China has emerged from a century of imperial decline, civil war and foreign invasion to become a major Power. The centralised, bureaucratic Chinese state has been re-created; but the new Communist version is far more efficient and all-embracing than any of its Confucian antecedents and correspondingly more powerful.

The outside world has already been able to gauge the strength of this régime in Korea and Indo-China, in the Formosa Strait and on the Indian frontier. As China's industrial base grows in the years to come, her influence will be felt far beyond these immediately contiguous areas. Only recently Chou En-lai staked out China's claim to world power status in his declaration that his country must have its say on "all major international questions which concern the interests of world peace."

The present fact of Chinese power is sufficient justification for launching this Journal. We cannot afford to wait for the Chinese to send a sputnik into orbit before realising that China would repay closer study. Peking's current propaganda indicates that Chinese power is aimed far more implacably against the West than that of the Soviet Union. This only increases the need for rigorous and objective analysis of Chinese developments.

We will attempt to provide such comment by publishing articles by specialists on all aspects of contemporary Chinese developments. We hope to provoke controversy, and print in this issue the first part of a debate on an important aspect of Chinese Communist history. In our Quarterly Chronicle and Documentation we will give a continuing narrative of major events. In forthcoming issues, book reviews will perform the customary function of separating the wheat from the chaff among more extended surveys of modern China.

But first it is necessary to know from where we start. We have

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used the occasion of the Communist régime's tenth anniversary to offer a group of distinguished scholars and directors of Chinese studies from various parts of the world some 1,000 words in which to present their appraisals of the past decade—to set down what they think are the most important things to be said at this point in Communist China's history. In the second part of our survey of this period we publish detailed analyses of three fields in which the policies of Mao Tse-tung and his colleagues have been of particular significance.

This Journal is written for both specialist and lay readers. We would welcome comment from both so that we may better achieve the aim of tracing the evolution of contemporary China.