

Kissinger Watch by M.T. Upharsin

Peking's governor of New York?

Time Magazine, which not so long ago named a computer as "Man of the Year," has this year chosen China's leader Deng Xiaoping. Looking into the background of this change of mood, we assumed, knowing Henry Kissinger's fondness for advising the boardrooms of *Time*, that Dr. K. could not be far behind.

The wisdom of certain insiders in the world of business consultancy is that the leading selling-point of Kissinger, in his Kissinger Associates firm, is his supposed "inside connections" in Peking. Several companies have paid ridiculous sums, it is said, to hear the playback of the Chinese leaders' "Kissinger card." Especially now that the American ambassador in Peking, Winston Lord, is a creature who emerged from Henry Kissinger's back pocket when Lord was a Kissinger underling at the U.S. National Security Council, there are those who imagine there is quick money to be made from Henry's insights into Han wisdom.

Kissinger also offers an entrée, through his ties to the Chinese speculative-venture enterprise known as Everbright Industries. Famous for his illicit wheelings-and-dealings on the Israeli West Bank, Kissinger is never one to shy away from a scam.

Hence, it came as no surprise, when we saw the latest Kissinger syndicated column, appearing in the Jan. 20 *Jerusalem Post*, under the title, "The Long March to Modernization."

The article's special pleading suggests that Henry is getting a fancy sum from certain of his friends of China. Maybe that sum is being set aside, should the Republican Party of the State of New York, as is now rumored, play its own "Kissinger card," and run Henry Kissinger for New York governor.

For those who actually know the situation in China, Kissinger's Jan. 20 article is, at best, a bundle of lies. The Chinese internal economic situation is a powderkeg, as the parlous state of the Chinese economy is unable to sustain the population-density of the nation. Without the kind of extraordinary commitment to infrastructure-vectored "great projects," tied to an attack on the entrenched peasant base of Chinese society, the well-known Chinese "population problem," becomes the trigger for crises throughout Asia.

None of this sober reality appears in Kissinger's column, which is mainly a paean to Deng Xiaoping. "China alone among Communist nations has had the courage to seek to tackle head on" the crisis of bureaucratic rigidity, he writes. "Deng Xiaoping and his colleagues have chosen a path to modernization for which there is no precedent: They are sufficiently Communist to be suspicious of private ownership, but they are sufficiently practical to understand that central planning on the Soviet model is incompatible with modernization. They have stressed individual incentives and markets within the framework of a loose central plan. So far the successes have been startling. In agriculture, China is now an exporter in some categories. . . ."

"The question then becomes whether the remarkable achievements of the past six years can be perpetuated in a post-Deng period. The succession of a great man is always hard to predict—nowhere more so than in China,

which tends to clothe even the ephemeral in the appearance of permanence.

"Still, Deng has shown extraordinary wisdom and sensitivity in putting into place several layers of succession. The longer he lives the greater is the prospect that these will become unchallengeable."

Two and a half empire game

Then, Kissinger puts forward the modified version of the old "China card" argument, while saying he is not proposing the China card. The game goes back to the belief in some Western quarters, particularly in the London circles associated with the ghost of Lord Bertrand Russell, that there must be a "two and a half empire" strategy, with China being "the half."

Continues Kissinger: "America has a major stake in China's success. A strong and independent China is in America's interest; not because it will be easy to deal with—quite the contrary—but because the threats to its security will for the foreseeable future come from countries the U.S. also considers threats to global security. In this sense, the modernization of China serves American interests—not as an American card against the Soviet Union—but because of maintaining its own security for its own purposes. China contributes to the global equilibrium."

Then: "The modernization of China will produce a new model for growth in the developing world, somewhere between unrestrained private enterprise, of which many new nations are afraid, and Soviet-style economics, which cannot work."

We can't say yet if Kissinger will also pose "the China model" as the basis of his potential campaign for governor of New York.