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PEIPING BASE IN PARIS – SLICK VOICE

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PARIS.—In a large apartment on the fashionable Rue François Premier, not far from the House of Dior, the Chinese Communists have headquartered a

massive propaganda effort reaching out to the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and the United States.

At No. 40 of this street, in the heart of Paris near the Champs Élysées, the visitor asks the concierge for the apartment of Jacques Verges, a well-known international Communist and editorial director of the French- and English-language editions of *Revolution*, a slick paper monthly magazine committed to the Chinese Communist point of view.

GIBSON'S ROLE

Ahead of me on the stairs two Chinese men disappeared through the unmarked door of the Verges apartment. Inside, in a room stacked high with copies of *Revolution* and adorned with pictures of Lenin, Mao Tse-tung, and Ho Chi-minh, I was greeted by a young American, Richard Gibson.

Under the overall direction of Mr. Verges, Mr. Gibson is in charge of the English-language edition of *Revolution*. He is listed on the masthead of both editions as a member of the "editorial committee, along with Hamza Alavi of Pakistan, Mohammed Babu of Zanzibar, Amilcar Cabrera of Venezuela, Nguyen Kien of Vietnam, Hassan Riad of the United Arab Republic, and Castro da Silva of Angola.

Mr. Babu now is Foreign Minister of the new revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. An editorial footnote in the latest French issue of *Revolution* sends him the warm congratulations of his editorial colleagues and wishes him and the "people of Zanzibar new success in the struggle against feudalists and neo-colonialists."

The English edition of *Revolution* is printed in Switzerland, presumably at the modern printing plant which the Chinese Communist Government recently bought at Bern. The magazine is in its ninth monthly issue and has reached a circulation, according to Mr. Gibson, of about 6,900 copies.

Of this monthly total the Chinese Communists buy 3,000 copies, distributing them throughout English-speaking Africa. About 1,000 copies go to the island of Zanzibar.

Nigeria also receives many copies, Mr. Gibson said, but Ghana none, for the reported reason that periodical distribution in that country is handled by the London Daily Mirror and *Revolution* has not been able to crack the distribution circuit.

PRINTED IN PARIS

Apart from the 3,000 copies taken by the Chinese Communists, 300 subscribers in Egypt buy *Revolution*. About 1,500 copies go to the United States, primarily to student groups in southern cities. This would imply a Negro readership.

Mr. *Verges* is variously reported to have been born in Reunion Island, a French overseas department in the Indian Ocean, or in Thailand, of a Creole father and Vietnamese mother. Mr. *Verges'* brother Paul, also a Communist, was defeated for a seat in the French National Assembly by former French Premier Michel Dabré in a byelection on Reunion Island in May 1963.

The French-language edition of *Revolution*, a larger and slicker presentation than its counterpart in English, is printed in Paris and has a circulation of 17,000 to 19,000 copies, asserted to be larger than any other leftwing publication in France.

The Chinese Communists, Mr. Gibson said, buy no copies of this edition. But inside the cover of the February 1964 issue (No. 6), subscribers are offered, free, a weekly summary of Chinese Communist news called Peiping Information. Also offered free of charge are any or all of some 60 titles of books and other publications published in the French language at Peiping.

Neither edition of *Revolution* carries advertising, except of other Communist publications friendly to Peiping. A copy of either edition costs 75 cents, or its equivalent in other currencies. Given the quality of their printing and small circulation, both editions must be heavily subsidized.

SPANISH EDITION

Mr. Gibson asserted that no one party dictated the editorial line of *Revolution*, though the magazine agreed with the Chinese Communist position in "Marxist disputes." The magazine would be considered an intruder by the Soviet-oriented French Communist Party.

Now in the advanced-planning stage are a Spanish edition, to be printed in Paris and aimed primarily at Latin America, and an Italian quarterly edition,

to be printed in Italy. Both are scheduled to appear this year. A German language edition, "probably to be printed in Hamburg," also is planned, according to Mr. Gibson.

Articles in the latest English language *Revolution* include "The Class Struggle in Africa," "What Kind of Independence for Angola?" "Support the Panamanian People's Just Struggle" and "The Meaning of Black Revolt in the U.S.A." Appearing in the February issue of the French "*Revolution*" are "15 Days With the Venezuelan Maquis," "Songs of Revolt in South Africa," "Spain in Movement," "Pakistan: the Burden of American Aid," and others.

On the ground floor of the *Verges* apartment building is a shop selling expensive furs. Across the street is Dior, an ultimate symbol of capitalism. A few doors away is the Norwegian Embassy.
