March 28, 1958
Conversation of Mao Zedong with Soviet Ambassador Pavel Yudin (Excerpt)

Citation:

Summary:
In a conversation with Soviet ambassador Yudin, Mao sees a prohibition of the use of hydrogen weapons as very likely, as the capitalist countries "[fear] fighting this kind of war." Further, he notes that the socialist countries have an advantage over Western ones in terms of conventional army size.

Credits:
This document was made possible with support from the Leon Levy Foundation and Carnegie Corporation.

Original Language:
Chinese

Contents:
- English Translation
- Chinese Transcription
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In my opinion, the issues of arms reduction and atomic weapons sooner or later will have to be resolved, since it is inconceivable to think that anything can come out of fighting an atomic war. For instance, a country like Western Germany would probably be totally destroyed by only four hydrogen bombs, and it would take only a few hydrogen bombs to deal with Britain. The capitalist world also fears fighting this kind of war, so, in the end, an accommodation will be reached. The socialist system and the capitalist system will compromise on this issue. Just like the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons in earlier times, an accommodation will be reached to prohibit the use of hydrogen weapons. In this way, the issue of standing armies will be left over. Imperialism cannot match us in this area. As the British say, if the hydrogen bomb and the atom bomb were prohibited, and the Soviet Union used airplanes and artillery to fight us, we (sic) would surely be defeated. So they want to resolve together the issue of the prohibition of atomic weapons and the issue of standing armies. As I see it, these issues can be resolved. The British know that we don’t want to fight a war. Therefore, they want to first arm and then negotiate, doing this as if we may attack them any day. The capitalist world is caught in a contradiction. On the one hand, to better support its economy, it wants to continually expand its military and carry out war propaganda. But, on the other hand, it fears war.
毛接大使尤金的（摘）

1958年2月28日

我看，于裁和禁止原子武器早非解不可，因不能想打起原子有什么果。比如像西德的家只要四就可能完全毁，英也要不了几就了。本主世界也是怕打仗的。所以最后成。社主制度和本主制度在上妥的，就像以前禁止使用化武器一，成禁止使用武器的。就剩下常的。在方面帝主是赶不上我的。英人就，如果禁止了和原子，用机和大炮打我，我一定要失，所以他要把禁止原子武器和常放在一起解。依我看，些都解的。英人知道我不愿打仗，所以就要先起再判，作出子，好像是我每天都可能攻他似的。本主世界在矛盾中，一方他要不地，行宣，好持自己的，而另一方面又怕。