

COMMUNICATIONS

Editor, *Journal of Asian Studies*

Dear Sir:

May I comment briefly on one or two points raised by Professor Owen Lattimore in his review (May 1960, pp. 357–359) of *Russian and Soviet Policy in Manchuria and Outer Mongolia, 1912–1932*, by Professor Peter S. H. Tang?

Professor Lattimore doubts that the author made adequate use of materials in languages other than English, Russian and Chinese. Since I supervised the preparation of this study as a dissertation, I can certify that Dr. Tang took special pains to consult sources and studies in several other languages. In condensing his study for publication and preparing a selective bibliography of reasonable length, Dr. Tang naturally listed only the sources that he had found most useful.

I do not find in Professor Lattimore's review, apart from some criticisms of the citation of books in the bibliography and index, any evidence that Dr. Tang's book is not "a careful study," especially of the Soviet sources, which

have often been neglected by persons writing on these two important areas. I therefore feel, as I stated in my Introduction, that Dr. Tang's study is "authoritative" and will remain so until a demonstrably more complete study can be made by some future scholar.

How far the Mongols have been independent actors on the twentieth century stage and how far they have been subjected to overweening pressures from without can be judged better by reading Dr. Tang's book than it can from Professor Lattimore's review, and I am sure that many readers of the *Journal* will wish to form their own opinions. It is unfortunate, I feel, that Professor Lattimore has largely ignored the solid documentation of the study and has preferred, especially in his first and last paragraphs, to raise a duststorm of political insinuations.

PHILIP E. MOSELY

New York City
June 23, 1960