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COMING

Everywhere we hear about the rising role of women in public affairs. On the world scene, however, it seems more accurate to talk about the phenomenon of women falling from power. Chiang Ch'ing in China, Indira Gandhi in India, and Sirimavo Bandaranaike in Sri Lanka have all been, with varying degrees of graciousness, ejected from their seats of power. A few issues back we featured Roxane Witke's eye-opening interviews with Chiang Ch'ing. Now Ralph Buultjens offers his remarkably candid interviews with Indira Gandhi and with Sirimavo Bandaranaike. They discuss women in public life, the changed meanings of "nonalignment" in the 1970's, the prospects for democracy in the Third World, and a host of other subjects that are certain to make these interviews a topic of lively debate.

"Of course we must move quickly toward normalizing relations with mainland China." Of course? Gerald Hyman takes a skeptical look at the arguments advanced in favor of that conventional wisdom and concludes that the U.S. is in a stronger position than some other experts suggest. He makes a persuasive case for playing it cool in order to strike a deal with China that would be less one-sided than the current proponents of immediate recognition are willing to settle for.

"Grotesque." "Murderer." "Monster." These are the epithets thrown at Idi Amin of Uganda—and each is richly deserved. Kay Blackwell is no apologist for Amin, but she explores the tribal worlds of Uganda and suggests there is also something frightfully "normal" about his atrocities. Here is a sobering assessment of the odds against human rights and democracy in an Africa that is still, so largely and so sadly, "the dark continent."

Check one: Soviet foreign policy over the past sixty years has been a success failure mixed bag. Walter Clemens looks back on and behind the twistings and turnings of the Kremlin's global strategies and comes up with a report card that should produce red faces in both Moscow and in Western capitals.