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China raps Russia for spying

China today accused the Soviet Union of using spies to conduct subversion and sabotage against sovereign countries including Hongkong.

"To meet its need of carrying out expansion and aggression abroad, Soviet revisionist social-imperialism is resorting more and more to shameful means of espionage to conduct subversion and sabotage against sovereign countries," the New China News Agency charged.

The agency said 50 per cent of the Soviet diplomatic personnel abroad are professional intelligence agents.

"Soviet diplomats, often caught flagrante delicto, have been expelled from 36 countries, in all six continents

for espionage and cognate activities," it said.

"Apart from taking advantage of diplomatic immunity, Soviet agents also carried out espionage activities in other disguise. . . some of them mixed themselves with the economic, military and technical personnel aiding the developing countries," it added.

"Some even disguised themselves as tourists while others were decked out as crew members and still others going abroad temporarily as delegates to some international conferences or as personnel sent to their embassies on business."

Referring to the deportation of several Soviet spies by the Hongkong Government last November, the agency

said, "in recent years, the Soviet revisionist made pamstaking efforts to turn Hongkong into their spy base in Asia.

"Under various pretexts large numbers of Soviet intelligence agents frequented Hongkong to collect information about China and Southeast Asian countries in the political, military and economic field."

The agency went on to criticise the Soviet Government for repeatedly sending spy ships with electronic equipment to the coastal waters of other countries.

"At times, the Soviet revisionist made use of their spy ships plying on the coastal waters of sovereign States to collect information. . . Soviet trawlers

with electronic equipment have been frequently engaged in spying activities off Pakistan's coast. . . last January, a Soviet spy submarine intruded into the Toulon coastal area in the French defence zone," it said.

"It is only justifiable that such persona non grata should have evoked the indignation of and condemnation by the countries concerned."

"Russia claims to be a champion of the struggle against colonialism and imperialism, but her entire conduct is repugnant to the recognised principles of international morality and betrays Russia's claims. No right thinking person can fail to term such conduct as czarist," the agency added.

-Reuter