

China's Press Reports on the Sputnik Affairs and Its Propaganda Activities

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In 1957 the Chinese Communist Party praised Moscow's success in launching artificial satellites in *The People's Daily* by highlighting Soviet advantages. 1) The Sputnik launch was only a part of the most advanced scientific-technological achievements of Moscow. 2) The satellites paved the way for the human conquest of space. 3) The Soviet Union's latest success proved that the socialist system maintained the upper hand over the Western one in nation-building. As a developing country, China (Beijing) respected the Soviet path to remarkable progress. In stark contrast, the Nationalist China (Taipei) had downplayed Moscow's feat until Washington successfully launched its satellite a couple of months later.