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THE new friendship between America and the Red China may be leading to better relations between Red China-Israel as well.

This week's issue of the *Jewish Press*, the largest circulation Anglo-Jewish newspaper in the world, provides the first public details of Peking's secret negotiations with Israeli officials which have the eventual aim of normal diplomatic relations.

According to the newspaper, quoting "reliable sources," diplomatic relations will "probably not take place until after Israel will have signed a peace treaty with Egypt, thus giving the Red Chinese an excuse to recognise Israel."

Such speculation is given further credibility by the statements and attitudes of Peking since the Camp David conference.

They have generally been considered moderate and in support of President Sadat's initiatives.

According to the *Jewish Press* front-page banner-headline story, "many high level direct contacts

Secret talks may lead to Peking-Israel recognition

Mark A. Bruzonsky —
reporting from Washington

between Israel and Red China have taken place" since last summer.

Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman and Red China's Foreign Minister and former Ambassador to the UN, Huang Hua, are reported to have held top secret negotiations near Zurich at that time.

Huang stopped in Zurich after a trip to Zaire while Weizman landed in Zurich after a mysteri-

ous flight to London. Huang is also said to have met with former Israeli UN Ambassador Chaim Herzog a number of times in New York.

Some Israeli officials are said to be anxious that Communist China's recognition of Israel will further infuriate Moscow which might then step up its anti-Jewish policies at home and abroad.

But other officials are said to think Red China's new attitude toward Israel increases pressure on the Soviet Union to think about its lack of diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

One American Jewish leader has privately indicated that the Soviet Union and the Peoples Republic of China are now in a "race to establish relations with Israel."

An Israeli embassy official in Washington has indicated that he's ready at any time to welcome relations with the Soviet Union, hinting that behind the scenes negotiations may be going on between these two countries as well.

It is known that Nahum Goldmann, former President of the World Jewish Congress, met the Soviet Ambassador in Washington recently to discuss, according to Israeli press reports, the possibility of direct flights of Soviet Jews between Moscow and Tel Aviv.

Goldmann was reported to be making this contact on behalf of Menachem Begin whom he recently discussed Israeli-Soviet relations with in Jerusalem. There is some speculation here that Goldmann's discussions with the Soviets here may go beyond the announced subjects.

As for the possibility of relations between Israel and Red China, the right-wing *Jewish Press* concludes its story discounting the dangers and urging Israeli government action.