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According to the Russians, Premier Li Peng is expected to visit Moscow "very soon". The announcement came at the end of last week after Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev had held two days of "business-like and constructive" talks on Cambodia and consultations on bilateral relations in Peking. Some reports also suggest that General Secretary Jiang Zemin will visit the Soviet Union before long.

2. Li's visit will be the first high-level contact between the two sides since Gorbachev went to China last May. It comes at a time when the Chinese are much worried by the extent to which they have been marginalised by the pace and extent of the Soviet-US rapprochement. The visit is likely to record some progress towards resolving bilateral issues (perhaps related to the border question, troop reductions or confidence-building measures) and perhaps further convergence of their positions on the Cambodian question.

3. At the same time, the Chinese remain very sceptical about Gorbachev and some of his policies.

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