Special Enlarged Issue

THE SECOND SESSION OF
THE EIGHTH NATIONAL CONGRESS
OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA

- Summary
- Report on Work of the Central Committee
- Resolution on Moscow Meetings
  of Representatives of the Communist
  and Workers’ Parties
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CHINA NATIONAL NATIVE PRODUCE EXPORT CORPORATION

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THE Eighth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party closed its Second Session last week. The decisions taken at the session mark the beginning of a new period in China's socialist construction with the technical revolution and cultural revolution occupying the centre of the stage.

The Second Session summed up the practical experience of the past eight years in building the country and laid down the general line for the new period — exerting the utmost efforts and pressing ahead consistently to build more, faster, better and more economically.

People may ask: since China's economy and culture are relatively backward, what guarantee is there that her socialist construction can proceed faster and fare better?

It's true that People's China is still economically and culturally backward. But this backwardness is no insurmountable obstacle. It is precisely because of their inherited backwardness that the Chinese people are all the more anxious to build more and faster in order to catch up.

The current big leap forward in China's national economy has itself provided the answer. As Liu Shao-chi stated in his report, the rate of growth of China's industrial production this year is expected to surpass that of any year in the First Five-Year Plan period and the number of above-norm industrial projects under construction this year is more than the combined total of such projects under construction during the whole First Five-Year Plan. In agriculture, from last October to April this year, the nation-wide construction of irrigation schemes has led to an increase of 350 million mou of irrigated land throughout the country, that is, 110 million mou more than the total brought under irrigation in the thousands of years before liberation.

As a matter of fact, industry and agriculture nowadays are pushing each other forward. The upsurge in agriculture last winter and this spring gave a strong impetus to the new industrial advance of this year. The rapid development of industry in turn has prompted an even greater tempo in the growth of agriculture.

To build socialism in a country as vast and populous as China, of course, poses extremely difficult and complex problems. But a huge population and a vast area mean enormous manpower and rich natural resources, which constitute the material foundation for building up a mighty, prosperous country.

The people are the most precious asset. Whatever we do, it is the people that count. China's six hundred million people, now masters of their own fate, united and well-organized, represent a most powerful force to be reckoned with. The initiative and resourcefulness displayed by the people and their dynamic and ingenious spirit in the current big leap forward have proven this beyond the shadow of a doubt.

The Chinese Communist Party has a fine and long-established tradition — the mass line, which means relying on the broadest masses of the people to get things done and serving the interests of the masses. The general line for socialist construction is, in essence, the development and application of the mass line in socialist construction. And this is the sure guarantee that the general line will be successfully carried out.
Like Ordinary Workers

Five buses suddenly turned up at the construction site of the Ming Tombs Reservoir on the outskirts of Peking on May 25. When the passengers alighted loud cheers went up, resounding through the valley. Chairman Mao Tse-tung and his closest associates—Liu Shao-chi, Chou En-lai, Chu Teh, Teng Hsiao-ping and others—in fact the entire Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party had come out en masse to join in the voluntary labour which is constructing the reservoir.

It was a Sunday, and a rather hot one for May with the thermometer high in the 80s in the shade. The leaders of the Chinese Communist Party, many of them in straw hats, joined with the builders of the reservoir in shovelling earth, carrying earth and stones away in baskets hanging from their shoulder poles, pounding earth on the dam which had already reached some 23 metres of its projected height of 29 metres.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung took his place among the workers, shovelling earth like the rest. Tung Pi-wu, member of the Political Bureau, and Central Committee members Wu Yu-chang, Hsu Teh-li, Hsieh Chueh-tsai—all over seventy years old—put in a solid afternoon of work, and didn't let the young men and women on the construction site dominate the show.

At present about 100,000 people are working on the reservoir in three shifts, 24 hours around the clock. The target is to complete construction of the dam, which is the main part of this conservancy project, in June—before the flood waters come. More than 51,000 cubic metres of earth were piled on the dam on the day the Party and government leaders came out to work, breaking all previous records.

New Look in Kweichow

Kweichow Province, in the southwest, used to be known as the triple “have not” province—no good weather for three days on end, no person possessing three ounces of silver, and no plot of flat land bigger than three square feet. This of course was an exaggerated folk way of speaking which nevertheless colourfully depicted the essential backwardness of the province.

Transport was so bad that most of the province cannot be reached by railway. The neighbouring provinces—Szechuan, Yunnan, Hunan and Kwangsi—have all got railways of varying lengths, linking them with remote parts of the country. Now Kweichow’s communications are undergoing great changes.

Preliminary surveys have been completed to build a 320-kilometre railway from Kweiyang, the capital, to Yungkin (in Yunnan), junction of the projected Neikiang-Kunming Railway. When complete, it will connect with the Hunan-Kweichow Railway, at present under construction, and the Chekiang-Kiangsi Railway already opened to traffic. It will become the second east-west trunk line, running parallel with the Lunghai line, and serve to link up the east coast with the busy hinterland city of eternal spring—Kunming.

In the four months from January to April this year Kweichow set up 3,229 factories and mines of medium and small sizes, with an average of more than 40 factories and mines for each county. Sixty per cent of them are operated primarily for the benefit of agricultural production in the mountain areas. But the pride of Kweichow’s industry is the Kweiyang iron and steel plant, now under construction, with an annual capacity of 40,000 tons of steel. It will be commissioned next year and will turn out the first steel ever poured in the province.

Not far from the steel plant, a new textile mill is coming up in Kweiyang. It will have 5,000 spindles and 1,000 looms and will produce enough cloth to provide a new suit for more than half the population of the province each year.

Kweichow used to bring in chemical fertilizer from other parts, although it has all the resources locally for a flourishing chemical fertilizer industry. Now for the first time a modern chemical fertilizer plant is being installed in the capital of the province.

“Haves” are taking the place of the “have nots” in Kweichow.

Science No Mystery

Two lads—one 14 years old and the other only 12—are in the spotlight as inventors of farm tools. The fourteen-year-old Chang Yu-fu of Kaou Province has invented three ingenious tools in rapid succession although he has had no more than a primary school education. The twelve-year-old, Chang Kou-tiu, is the son of a peasant family in a farm co-op in Honan Province. A new type of water-wheel that he has invented has attracted attention far and wide. The publicity given to the inventions has made many others feel that what is known as science is not so mysterious after all.

The story of the two lads is characteristic. Literally millions of people in the countryside, men, women and children, have turned their thoughts to new methods and new tools as the budding technical revolution moves to the centre of the stage.

The press is helping this mass movement along in many ways, stripping science of its mysterious trappings and imbuing the people with confidence in their own abilities to invent and make new discoveries of their own. Renmin Ribao has initiated a new feature “Greatness—From Small Beginnings” acquainting its readers with the lives and work of Chinese and foreign inventors (including Newton, Franklin, Edison, Michurin and others) who made their contribution to science on the basis of their own observation and study of reality and experience notwithstanding their lack of a university or even secondary school education.
Chinese Communist Party Congress

The Second Session of the Eighth National Congress of the Communist Party of China convened in Peking from May 5 to May 23. Three items were on the agenda:

1 — a report by Liu Shao-chi on the work of the Central Committee of the Party since the First Session of the Eighth National Congress in 1956.
2 — a report by Teng Hsiao-ping on the Moscow meetings of the representatives of Communist and Workers' Parties in November 1957, and
3 — report by Tan Chen-lin on the National Programme for Agricultural Development.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung addressed the Congress. The reports were discussed in detail at group meetings and in plenary sessions. A total of 117 delegates spoke at the plenary meetings, including leaders of the Party centre, secretaries and functionaries of Party organizations in various localities, in people's organizations, in factories and on the farms, in the People's Liberation Army, in the universities and colleges. 145 delegates submitted their views in writing to the Congress.

In their speeches and written statements the delegates endorsed the reports of Liu Shao-chi, Teng Hsiao-ping and Tan Chen-lin and the speeches delivered by Chairman Mao. The Congress gave its wholehearted and unanimous support to the general line for the construction of socialism first proposed by Chairman Mao in words which are today on the lips of everybody in China — "to exert the utmost efforts, press ahead consistently and achieve greater, faster, better and more economical results."

The Congress was confident that fulfilment of this line will enable China to catch up with and surpass Britain in the output of major industrial products not in the fifteen years or more envisaged originally, but in less time, and will be able to fulfil the agricultural development programme not in the twelve years originally envisaged but in considerably less time.

Many delegates in their speeches discussed the Moscow Declarations and repudiated modern revisionism as typified by the Programme of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia.

The Congress unanimously adopted a resolution on the report on the work of the Central Committee and a resolution on the Moscow meetings.

The Congress adopted a second revised draft agricultural programme, based on a faster rate of development than previously projected. The programme will be further revised by the Central Committee in the light of developments and will be submitted to the Second National People's Congress. It elected twenty-five additional alternate members of the Central Committee.

Three themes were to the fore at this session of the Congress. It was a session of rectification of styles of work, a session of the big leaps forward in all fields of activity in China today, a session of opposition to modern revisionism. The Congress proceedings indicate that under the leadership of the Communist Party the Chinese people are entering a new period of socialist construction highlighted by the two revolutions, the technical revolution and the cultural revolution, which are now budding following the successes attained in the socialist revolution on the economic, political and ideological fronts.

The general line for socialist construction approved by this session of the Eighth National Congress of the Party sums up China's experiences in building socialism. While the First Session of the Eighth National Congress of the Party a year and a half ago primarily summarized the experience of socialist transformation, the Second Session, just ended, summarized the experiences of the rectification campaign and socialist construction.

The general line of building more, better, faster and more economically promulgated by the Congress is a reflection of the interests and demands of the Chinese people today who are determined to bury the heritage of backwardness and poverty as quickly as possible. It expresses the revolutionary daring of the Communists and their high degree of faith in the capabilities and creative power of the people.

The Congress reflected the national mood of the Chinese people who, as we have reported in detail, are breaking records on every front and in every field of endeavour.

In the rectification campaign and the upsurge in construction the people have displayed a spirit of toppling over old idols, of emancipating the mind, of daring to think, speak and act boldly.

The Congress, as can be seen from the report of the Central Committee, defined the precise nature of the technical and cultural revolutions now beginning to unfold in China and stressed their mass character and the necessity to adhere to the mass line in advancing these revolutions, and to rely on the people's wisdom and resourcefulness, which is the source of unlimited strength.

The attention of the entire nation is now focussed on fulfilment of the general line of socialist construction spelled out by the Congress.

Central Committee Convenes

After the second session of the Chinese Communist Party's Eighth National Congress the fifth plenary session of the Party's Central Committee took place in Peking on May 25. The Central Committee:

- elected Lin Piao as one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Central Committee and a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau;
- elected Ke Ching-shih, Li Ching-chuan and Tan Chen-lin as members of the Political Bureau;
- elected Li Fu-chun and Li Hsien-nien as members of the Secretariat;
- designated alternate members Yang Hsien-chun and Wang En-mao as full members of the Central Committee;
- decided to publish a new fortnightly theoretical magazine Hongqi (The Red Flag). Chen Po-ia, alternate member of the Political Bureau, was appointed editor-in-chief of the new magazine. The first issue made its debut on June 1 and carries an article by Mao Tse-tung entitled "Introducing a Farm Co-op."

Delivered by LIU SHAO-CHI on May 5, 1958


The Eighth National Congress of the Communist Party of China at its Second Session, having discussed the report made by Comrade Liu Shao-chi on behalf of the Central Committee, approves it unanimously.

The Congress is of the opinion that the work of the Party's Central Committee since the First Session of the Eighth National Congress has been correct and great achievements have been made under its leadership in the rectification campaign and the anti-rightist struggle, in the big forward leap in industrial and agricultural production and other fields of work.

The Congress unanimously endorses the general line put forward by the Party's Central Committee on the proposal of Comrade Mao Tse-tung, i.e., to build socialism by exerting our utmost efforts and pressing ahead consistently to achieve greater, faster, better and more economical results.

The Congress calls on all comrades in the Party to work with one mind and one heart and rally the people of the whole country to carry through this general line for socialist construction on the basis of completing the rectification campaign; to actively carry out the technical and cultural revolutions while continuing with the socialist revolution on the economic, political and ideological fronts; to strive to catch up with and surpass Britain within fifteen years or in less time in the output of major industrial products; to strive to fulfil the National Programme for Agricultural Development ahead of schedule; and so to build our country into a great socialist country with modern industry, modern agriculture and modern science and culture in the shortest time possible.
artificial earth satellites. This made the whole world acknowledge that in science and technology too the Soviet Union has surpassed the United States, the most developed of the capitalist countries. In November last year, a meeting of the Communist and Workers' Parties of the socialist countries was held in Moscow, followed by a meeting of 64 communist parties. These meetings issued two declarations of historic significance, greatly strengthened the solidarity of the ranks of the international working class and the socialist camp, and promoted the development of the world peace movement. All this shows that the east wind has prevailed over the west wind, and will continue to do so in the future.

The Moscow meetings of Communist and Workers' Parties marked the beginning of a new stage in the present-day international communist movement. Comrade Teng Hsiao-ping will give a special report on the Moscow meetings and the declarations adopted at these meetings. All I wish to say here is that the development of the international situation over the past six months has proved that the appraisal and analysis made in the Moscow Declarations are wholly correct. The United States, leader of the imperialist camp, is now in the throes of another serious economic crisis; its production has fallen off drastically and the number of unemployed increased enormously. This crisis is hitting the entire capitalist world, and has thoroughly exploded the deceptive propaganda spread since the war by bourgeois politicians and scholars, reformists and revisionists that capitalist economy can avoid crises. The contradictions within the imperialist countries have deepened, and the workers' and people's movements in these countries have made much headway. The contradictions among the imperialist countries, first of all those between the United States, Britain and France, have sharpened, though at present they are still mutually linked up in the NATO, the Baghdad Treaty Organization and the SEATO for the objective of opposing communism, the people and the national independence movements. The tendency to neutralism continues to grow in many capitalist countries. In Asia, Africa and Latin America, national independence movements are forging ahead. Though the imperialists are trying to undermine these movements by underhand means and by force, and though certain sections of the bourgeoisie in those nations are trying to restrict the growth of the people's forces which are most resolutely opposed to imperialism, facts have proved that they cannot hold back the historical advance of the people's national and democratic struggles. The struggle of the Indonesian Government and people in defence of their national sovereignty and unity is pushing ahead triumphantly. The Algerian people are waging heroic struggles against the colonial rule of the French imperialists. The people of the whole world strongly demand peace. They demand that the proposals made by the Soviet Union for a summit conference, for the easing of international tension, for the reduction of armaments and the banning of the use and testing of nuclear weapons, be put into effect and that colonial rule and interference in the internal affairs of other countries be ended. But the imperialist bloc headed by the United States is stubbornly opposed to all this. Thus U.S. imperialism is becoming increasingly discredited in the eyes of the world. The U.S. Imperialists still continue their war threats and preparations for a new war. We must be keenly vigilant against this. But, as the Moscow Declaration says: "Should the bellicose imperialist maniacs, regardless of everything, venture to unleash war, imperialism will doom itself to destruction, for the peoples will not tolerate a system that brings them so much suffering and exacts so many sacrifices."

In contrast to the situation in the imperialist camp, the socialist camp is growing stronger and more prosperous day by day. The economies of the Soviet Union, China and many other socialist countries are developing much faster than before; the living standards of their peoples are steadily improving. The unity of the socialist camp is becoming more firmly consolidated and its relations of mutual aid are being further extended. The peace proposals of the Soviet Union and our other fraternal countries of Eastern Europe, and the withdrawal of the Chinese People's Volunteers from Korea have greatly enhanced the prestige of the socialist camp among the peace-loving peoples and countries the world over. The fact that the economies of the countries in the socialist camp are making rapid progress and are free from crisis, is bringing more and more people in the capitalist countries to a clear realization that socialism is the only bright road before them.

Faced with acute contemporary struggles between the socialist system and the capitalist system and between the working class and the bourgeoisie, the imperialists, in an attempt to save themselves from destruction, have not only resorted to threats of war, war preparations, armed aggression and intensified exploitation and suppression of the people in their own countries and in the colonies and semi-colonies, but have tried hard to find new tools among the ranks of the working class so as to undermine from within the socialist countries and the international communist movement. Recently at its Seventh Congress, the League of Communists of Yugoslavia adopted an anti-Marxist-Leninist and out-and-out revisionist programme in opposition to the Declaration of the Moscow meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties. This programme runs diametrically counter to the interests of the international communist movement and only suits the needs of the imperialists and particularly the U.S. imperialists. Therefore, we must wage a resolute struggle against modern revisionism. This is one of the major tasks facing us internationally at the present time. Only by thoroughly crushing modern revisionism and resolutely defending Marxism-Leninism can the unity of the international communist movement and the socialist countries be strengthened. By basing ourselves on this unity we can further rally the working people throughout the world and all those who oppose imperialism, war and national enslavement in a common struggle to win greater victories for the cause of world peace, national independence, democracy, freedom and socialism.

The present international situation is undoubtedly favourable to the peoples striving for peace, democracy, national independence and socialism and those engaged in peaceful socialist construction in various countries. It is unfavourable only to the aggressive imperialist bloc and the revisionists who persist in defending imperialist policies and betraying the interests of socialism.
In China, as everyone can see, the rectification campaign led by the Chinese Communist Party and conducted in accordance with the guiding principles laid down by Comrade Mao Tse-tung for the correct handling of contradictions among the people, has achieved great results on the political, economic, ideological and cultural fronts. It is the purpose of the rectification campaign, by means of criticism and self-criticism, to raise the level of communist consciousness of the masses and to adjust relationships among the people in a systematic way so that they may meet the needs of consolidating the socialist system and further expanding the productive forces of society. Serving as a lever, the rectification campaign has pushed forward the work of the Party and the state in every field. The rectification campaign of the Communist Party and the struggle against the rightists have developed into a rectification campaign among every section of the people, and the upsurge in this nation-wide rectification campaign has in turn brought about a new upsurge in production and construction throughout the country.

The rectification campaign and the anti-rightist struggle are the socialist revolution carried out on the ideological and political fronts in our country. They are a decisive struggle between the socialist road and the capitalist road. Thanks to the victory in this struggle, a communist ideological emancipation movement is taking place among the broadest masses of the people. This is bringing about profound changes in the alignment of class forces in our country.

There are two exploiting classes and two labouring classes in China today. One of the exploiting classes comprises the bourgeois rightists who oppose socialism, the landlord and comprador classes whose rule had been overthrown, and other reactionaries. The bourgeois rightists are to all intents and purposes agents of the imperialists, the remnant feudal and comprador forces, and Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang. The other exploiting class comprises the national bourgeoisie and their intellectuals who are accepting socialist transformation step by step. Most of them are in a state of transition, wavering between the socialist road and the capitalist road. One of the labouring classes comprises the peasants and other labourers who formerly worked on their own. The overwhelming majority of these have joined co-operatives and are becoming increasingly enthusiastic supporters of socialism. The other is the working class, the most advanced contingent of the whole people and the leading force in our state power and the cause of socialism. All these four categories of people have undergone tremendous changes in the course of the rectification campaign and the anti-rightist struggle.

As a result of the anti-rightist struggle, the anti-communist, anti-popular and anti-socialist bourgeois rightists have been thoroughly isolated by the masses and their ranks have begun to disintegrate. With victory won in this struggle, further heavy blows have also been dealt against the remnant counter-revolutionaries and all sorts of bad elements who tried to undermine socialism. Socialist public order has been greatly strengthened.

The anti-rightist struggle has also been of profound significance within our Party. We expelled a number of rightists from the Party. They were alien class elements who had sneaked into the Party and renegades to the cause of socialism. They developed individualism, sectarianism, localism and nationalism to an extreme degree within the Party and carried out revisionist and other anti-socialist and anti-communist activities. In league with the rightists outside the Party, they attacked the Party and the socialist system. To rid the Party of these alien class elements and renegades is a great victory for its cause.

The national bourgeoisie, the bourgeois intellectuals and the members of the various democratic parties, who stand in the middle of the road and are half-hearted about socialism, have changed, or are changing, to a greater or lesser degree, their old political outlooks in the course of the struggle against the rightists, in the subsequent drive against waste and conservative ideas and practices, and in the great leaps forward in production and other fields of socialist construction. Most of these people, sensing "the compelling force of circumstances," now feel that they must make further progress and must not remain in their middle-of-the-road position as before. They have begun to admit their dual character in relation to the socialist revolution and the need to correct their many wrong views. They have expressed their determination to remould themselves, "give their hearts" to the Communist Party and strive to become left-wingers. Many intellectuals have taken an active part in the rectification campaign and indicated their resolve to become socialist-minded and professionally expert so as to turn themselves into thoroughly red specialists. Some of them have gone among the working people, taking part in manual labour, so as to build sincere contacts with the broad masses of the working people.

In many regions inhabited by national minorities, in the course of the rectification campaign and the struggle against the rightists, local nationalism has been seriously criticized, certain separatists and bourgeois rightists among the national minorities who impair the unity of the motherland have been exposed, and, at the same time, the tendency towards Han chauvinism among certain Han cadres has been further overcome. In this way, the socialist consciousness of the masses among the national minorities has been raised and there is a new look to the brotherhood and unity of the various nationalities.

The experience of the rectification campaign and the anti-rightist struggle once again shows that throughout the transition period, that is, before completion of the building of a socialist society, the main contradiction inside our country is and remains that between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, between the socialist road and the capitalist road. In certain fields this contradiction manifests itself as a fierce life-and-death struggle between the enemy and ourselves; that was the case in the attack launched by the bourgeois rightists in 1957. This attack was repelled, but in the future they will try again to make trouble whenever opportunity arises. We must, therefore, be prepared to wage prolonged and repeated struggles against the bourgeois rightists before their contradictions with the people can be fully resolved. We must also continue to suppress other remnant counter-revolutionaries and all sorts of criminals breaking law and order. In the actual conditions existing in our coun-
try, however, the contradictions between the two classes and the two roads in most cases manifest themselves as contradictions within the ranks of the people. As to the contradictions among the people—be they contradictions between the national bourgeoisie and petty bourgeoisie on the one hand and the proletariat on the other, or contradictions within the proletariat arising from bourgeois and petty bourgeois influences upon sections of the proletariat—they should, as a rule, be resolved through the rectification campaign. As to contradictions among the working people arising from differences in their conceptions of right and wrong, or between the advanced and the backward elements among them, since some are connected with bourgeois and petty bourgeois influences, and most of them do not fall into the category of contradictions between classes at all, it is all the more obvious that such contradictions should be resolved by means of the rectification campaign.

The political atmosphere among the working people has also undergone a deep change following the rectification campaign and the anti-rightist struggle. The political consciousness and socialist initiative of the masses, whether workers or peasants, have been greatly enhanced, as a result of the socialist revolution on the ideological and political fronts and the great debates on the capitalist road and the socialist road, which have been carried out on the broadest scale among the masses, and as a result of the development to the fullest extent of criticism and self-criticism in regard to mistakes and shortcomings in our work, by encouraging a full and frank airing of views, great debates and the posting of *tatsepao.* Leading cadres in many units have made sincere self-criticisms before the masses and earnest efforts to improve their work and ways. This has moved the masses and strengthened their faith in the leading role of the Party; at the same time it led them on their own initiative, to criticize their own shortcomings, rectify the wrong ideas and backward habits which they carried over from the old society, and to improve their own work. This, in all places where the rectification campaign has been carried out thoroughly, has put both the masses and the cadres at ease; any estrangement that existed between them in the past has been eliminated. Feeling that the Party has given its heart to them, the masses too give their hearts to the Party. As a result, all sorts of negative trends reflecting surviving bourgeois ideas in these places have been greatly reduced and the just spirit of communism is in the ascendant. Many who were formerly backward are now ideologically emancipated and, becoming communist-minded, they are rapidly catching up with the more advanced. This is an important sign of the great victory we have won in the socialist revolution on the ideological and political fronts.

In the greater part of the country today, in the cities and countryside, in offices, enterprises, schools and army units, *tatsepao* are being put up, debates are being held, criticism and self-criticism are being vigorously conducted. Throughout the nation a new custom, a new habit is taking shape—to handle all contradictions among the people correctly by way of the rectification campaign, namely, by "starting from the desire for unity, to solve contradictions through criticism or struggle and thus to achieve a new unity on a new basis." Criticism and self-criticism among the masses and cadres all aim at overcoming bureaucracy, sectarianism and subjectivism, doing away with the "five bad airs": bureaucratic airs, apathetic airs, extravagant airs, arrogant airs and finicky airs, doing away with every kind of waste and conservative practices in construction, correcting what is irrational in the organization and management of labour and changing those regulations and institutions that restrain development of the forces of production and the initiative of the masses. By relying on the exposures, criticisms, and proposals made by the masses and their supervision and practical work, many problems long unresolved have been solved rapidly. The masses openly criticize leading personnel by name and also openly criticize each other by name without mincing words and without the slightest hesitation. The aim of such criticism and self-criticism is to serve the interests of the state and the collective, to do better work in the common cause of socialism. Towards those being criticized their attitude is that of a real comrade; they don't aim to "deal them a fatal blow," but acknowledge their achievements and help them to correct their shortcomings and make progress. This is the noble, communist way of doing things.

Radical changes in human relations have taken place in our country with the development of criticism and self-criticism. Cadres in industrial and mining enterprises and agricultural co-operatives have begun to devote regularly part of their time to participation in manual labour alongside the rank and file of workers and peasants. Many leaders of rural work are working on "experimental plots" alongside the peasants. Large numbers of office workers and intellectuals have gone to the countryside and the mountain areas or to work in the basic units of enterprises. The example set by the masses has inspired the cadres and that set by the cadres has also inspired the masses. Managerial personnel now directly participate in some manual labour; and the workers in some managerial work. The relationship of mutual aid and co-operation, of learning from each other and of emulation, between those in the upper and the lower grades, between the managerial personnel and those who directly take part in production, between brain and manual workers, between city and countryside, has greatly developed. Many who were prone to bossiness have changed a great deal in this rectification campaign. So long as we continue to make use of the *tatsepao* and the debates, and constantly practise criticism and self-criticism, we shall certainly be able to get rid of the bossy style of work effectively and thoroughly, and gradually eliminate the evil bureaucratic habits carried over from thousands of years of history.

Such universal criticism and self-criticism as was unfolded in the course of the rectification campaign, such sharp attacks against bureaucracy and the subsequent achievement of such equality in human relations, are unthinkable in any capitalist country. Never before has there been a political party like our Party of the proletariat that regards the interests of the people as its only interest, that firmly trusts the majority of the masses...
and is bold enough to practise democracy on such an extensive scale. The bourgeois rightists and the revisionists allege that bureaucracy is a product of the proletarian dictatorship. The fact is just the opposite. Only the socialist state can, under the leadership of the Communist Party, gradually eliminate bureaucracy by relying on the revolutionary initiative of the working people. In order to develop the people's democracy and eliminate bureaucracy, it is necessary to strengthen the leading role of the Party and the dictatorship of the proletariat, not to weaken them.

Our principle is democratic centralism. Our democracy is democracy under centralized guidance and our centralism is centralism based on democracy. The facts prove that the practice of the most broadly-based democracy among the people, instead of hampering centralism, facilitates the realization of a high degree of centralization. Instead of weakening socialist discipline, it facilitates the consolidation of socialist discipline based on conscious acceptance by the masses. When cadres shed their bureaucratic airs and haughty attitude and mix with the masses, the prestige of the leadership waxes instead of waning. Thanks to the rectification campaign, a vigorous and lively political situation is developing throughout our public life in which there are both centralism and democracy, both discipline and freedom, both unity of will and personal ease of mind.

The broad masses of the working people have realized more fully that individual and immediate interests depend on and are bound up with collective and long-term interests and that the happiness of the individual lies in the realization of the lofty socialist ideals of all the people. That is why they have displayed an heroic communist spirit of self-sacrifice in the work. Their slogan is: "hard work for a few years, happiness for a thousand." This mighty torrent of communist ideas has swept away many stumbling blocks — individualism, departmentalism, localization and nationalism. In city and countryside, people vie with each other in joining in all kinds of voluntary labour. In building irrigation works, the peasants in many places have thrown aside the age-old narrow-minded idea of only looking after their native places. In the nation-wide emulation drive, many advanced units and individuals have enthusiastically passed on their technical experience, inventions and creations to the backward units and individuals so that the latter can catch up with them. Many enterprises, organizations, schools, army units and individuals have taken the initiative in co-ordinating their activities with those of others so as to promote the progress of all concerned. All this is, as Lenin said, "the actual beginning of communism," "the beginning of a change which is of world historic significance."

All the factors mentioned above have combined to form the great revolutionary drive for socialist construction. Comrade Mao Tse-tung has put forward the slogans "catch up with and outstrip Britain in 15 years," "build socialism by exerting our utmost efforts and pressing ahead consistently to achieve greater, faster, better and more economical results," "to be promoters of progress not of retrogression," "build our country and run our households industriously and with frugality" and "battle hard for three years to bring about a basic change in the features of most areas"—all these calls have quickly gripped the imagination of the huge army of hundreds of millions of working people and have been transformed into an immense material force. There has emerged in physical labour and other work a high degree of socialist initiative, a surging, militant spirit, a keenness in learning and studying that will not rest short of its aims, a fearless creative spirit. An emulation drive in which the backward learn from and catch up and compete with the advanced has been launched between individuals, production teams, enterprises, co-operatives, counties and cities. Set norms are being constantly surpassed and new techniques invented. Time after time the masses outstrip the targets set by enterprises and administrative organs.

The spring of 1958 witnessed the beginning of a leap forward on every front in our socialist construction. Industry, agriculture and all other fields of activity are registering greater and more rapid growth.

To begin with industry. The total value of industrial output for the first four months of this year was 26 per cent higher than in the same period last year; the April increase was 42 per cent. According to estimates made on the basis of the present situation, China's steel output this year will be over 7.1 million tons, coal output will reach 180 million tons; 60,000 machine-tools will be produced and irrigation machinery with more than 3.5 million horsepower; the output of chemical fertilizers will amount to 1.35 million tons. In view of this, the rate of growth of China's industrial production this year will be much higher than that set in the original plan and will surpass that of any year in the First Five-Year Plan period.

The revolutionary energy of the masses of workers has also found expression in the trial manufacture of new products, in technical renovation, in the improvement of quality and lowering of production costs. In the first four months of the year, many kinds of small-sized tractors were successfully produced on a trial basis. Several of them can be used equally well for the cultivation of paddyfields, dry fields, mountain areas and terraced fields or for transport, for operating irrigation machinery or generating power for the processing of agricultural prod-
products and other purposes. In the first four months of the year, Shanghai successfully produced more than one thousand kinds of new products on a trial basis. By adopting the new technique of three-tapping troughs, the Taiyuan Steel Plant has raised productivity by nearly 50 per cent. As labour productivity is being raised and raw materials are saved, it will be possible to reduce production costs in industry this year by about 10 per cent compared with last year. This will save the state about 1,400 million yuan.

An upsurge is shaping up in capital construction in industry this year. Nearly one thousand above-norm* projects will be under construction this year; this is more than the total number of such projects under construction in the First Five-Year Plan period. In addition, construction work has already started on thousands of medium and small-sized coal mines, power stations, oil refineries, iron and steel plants, non-ferrous mines, chemical fertilizer plants, cement plants, engineering works and agricultural and animal products processing plants.

The output of local industry this year will show a considerable increase as a result of wide-spread industrial capital construction undertaken by local authorities. Take iron and steel for example. The amount of iron to be produced by local enterprises this year will reach 1,730,000 tons (as against the 593,000 tons produced last year) and that of steel will reach 1,410,000 tons (as against the 790,000 tons of last year). The rapid growth of the local industries is one of the outstanding features of this year’s industrial upswing.

As a result of the intensive drive against waste and conservatism, the costs of capital construction in industry this year will be greatly reduced. In many cases, the same amount of funds needed to build one factory in the past now suffices to build two. For example, in terms of the planned costs, where it would previously have cost about 1,000 million yuan to build an iron and steel plant with an annual capacity of one million tons, such a plant can now be built for little more than 400 million yuan; for 60 million yuan we can now build a nitrogenous fertilizer plant with an annual capacity of 50,000 tons of synthetic ammonium, in the past such a plant would have cost 130 million yuan. The time needed for building a capital construction project, too, is much shorter now than in the past.

The upsurge in agriculture last winter and this spring gave a vigorous push to the new industrial upsurge of this year. The rapid development of industry in turn has prompted an even swifter growth of agriculture.

In agriculture, the most striking leap took place in the campaign of the co-operative farmers to build irrigation works. From last October to April this year, the irrigated acreage throughout the country increased by 350 million mou, that is, 80 million mou more than the total added during the eight years since liberation and 110 million mou more than the total acreage brought under irrigation in the thousands of years before liberation. At the same time, more than 200 million mou of low-lying and easily waterlogged farmland was transformed and irrigation facilities were improved on another 140 million mou of land.

The loss of water and soil was...
The current mighty leap forward in socialist construction is the product not only of the successful development of the anti-rightist struggle and the rectification campaign but also of a correct implementation of the Party’s general line—to build socialism by exerting our utmost efforts, and pressing ahead consistently to achieve greater, faster, better and more economical results.

Comrade Mao Tse-tung has often said that there are two methods of carrying on socialist transformation and construction: one will result in doing the work faster and better; the other slowly and not so well. Which method shall we adopt? This has been an issue. In his work On the Question of Agricultural Co-operation published in 1955, Comrade Mao Tse-tung provided a theoretical solution to the struggle between these two methods regarding the socialist revolution in the ownership of the means of production. Furthermore, this struggle was decided in practice by the upsurge in socialist transformation which took place between the autumn of 1955 and the spring of 1956. There was also a conflict between the two methods in connection with the socialist revolution on the political and ideological fronts, and this too was worked out theoretically by Comrade Mao Tse-tung in his article On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People published last year, and was resolved in practice by the rectification campaign and anti-rightist struggle which began last year. In connection with socialist construction too, the Central Committee of the Party and Comrade Mao Tse-tung have always taken a clear-cut stand, insisting that the method of working faster and better be adopted and the other method, of working slowly and not so well, be rejected. However, on this question some comrades still cling to such outdated ideas as “keeping to the right is better than keeping to the left,” “it’s better to go slower than faster” or “it’s better to take small steps than to go striding forward.” The struggle between the two methods in dealing with this question was not fully decided until the launching of the rectification campaign and the anti-rightist struggle.

The fact is that the growth of the social productive forces calls for a socialist revolution and the spiritual emancipation of the people; the victory of this revolution and emancipation in turn spurs a forward leap in the social productive forces; and this in turn impels a progressive change in the socialist relations of production and an advance in man’s ideology. In their ceaseless struggle to transform nature, the people are continuously transforming society and themselves.

Karl Marx prophesied that the proletarian revolution would usher us into a great epoch when “twenty years are concentrated in a day.” If in past revolutionary struggles we experienced such great times, then is not our present socialist construction another great time again? Here one can see how the courageous and hard-working Chinese people, under the leadership of the great Chinese Communist Party and its leader Comrade Mao Tse-tung, have poured forth their history-making strength and wisdom in endless measure.

II

*CHINESE WEIGHTS and MEASURES at a GLANCE*

1 mou = 0.06 hectare or 0.1647 acre
1 tan (picul) = 0.05 ton or 0.984 hundredweight
1 chin (catty) = 0.5 kilogramme or 1.1023 pounds

*Rats, flies, mosquitoes and grain-destroying sparrows.—Ed.*
As early as March 1949, the Seventh Central Committee of the Party pointed out in its resolution adopted at its Second Plenary Session: “China’s economic heritage is backward but the Chinese people are brave and industrious, and with the victory of the Chinese people’s revolution, the establishment of the Chinese People’s Republic, the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, and the help of the proletariat in other countries throughout the world, and primarily the help of the Soviet Union, economic construction in China will be carried on not slowly but probably at a considerable speed. We can already count the days when China will attain prosperity. There are no grounds whatsoever for being pessimistic about China’s economic revival.” In mapping out the First Five-Year Plan for Development of the National Economy, the Central Committee of the Party refuted all fallacious views favouring the slowing down of economic construction. The rate of development of the national economy envisaged in the First Five-Year Plan was unprecedented in China’s history. Nevertheless, the Central Committee of the Party believed that the Plan not only could be fulfilled, but could probably be fulfilled ahead of schedule and overfulfilled. As a matter of fact, in the winter of 1955 when it was apparent that a decisive victory of the socialist revolution in the ownership of the means of production was to be won very shortly and when a mass upsurge in production and construction was beginning to take place, the “norms” set in the First Five-Year Plan should have been revised upward. Comrade Mao Tse-tung issued a timely call for a speedier tempo than that envisaged in the First Five-Year Plan. In December 1955, he wrote in the preface to the book Socialist Uprising in China’s Countryside:

The problem facing the entire Party and the nation is no longer one of combating rightist conservative ideas about the speed of the socialist transformation of agriculture. That problem has already been solved. Nor is it a problem of the speed of transformation of capitalist industry and commerce, by entire trades, into state-private enterprises. That problem too has been solved. In the first half of 1956 we must discuss the speed of the socialist transformation of handicrafts. But that problem will easily be solved too. The problem today is none of these, but concerns other fields. It affects agricultural production; industrial production (including state, joint state-private and co-operative industries); handicraft production; the scale and speed of capital construction in industry, communications and transport; the co-ordination of commerce with other branches of the economy; and the co-ordination of activities in science, culture, education, public health, and so on, with various economic undertakings. In all these fields there is an under-estimation of the situation which must be criticized and corrected if these activities are to keep pace with the development of the situation as a whole. People’s thinking must adapt itself to changed conditions. Of course no one should go off into wild flights of fancy, or make plans unwarranted by the objective situation, or insist on attempting the impossible. The problem today is that rightist conservatism is still causing trouble in many fields and preventing work in these fields from keeping pace with the development of the objective situation. The present problem is that many people consider impossible things which could be done if they exerted themselves. It is absolutely necessary, therefore, to keep on criticizing rightist conservative ideas which actually exist.

Comrade Mao Tse-tung subsequently summed up the ideas expounded in this preface in the slogan of building socialism by achieving “greater, faster, better and more economical results.” He pointed out that the urgent task confronting the entire Party was to overcome rightist conservative ideas which actually existed. He called on all members of the Party to be promoters of progress and not of retrogression in construction, in order to push forward vigorously the country’s industrial and agricultural production and construction.

On the proposal of Comrade Mao Tse-tung, the Party in January 1956 put before the people a “Draft Programme for Agricultural Development, 1956 to 1967.” This is a programme for developing socialist agriculture by achieving “greater, faster, better and more economical results.” Not only did it set great goals for rural work throughout the country but it gave a correct orientation for development of the entire work of socialist construction.

In April of the same year, at an enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party, Comrade Mao Tse-tung made a report on “Ten Sets of Relationships” in which he called the whole Party’s attention to the correct handling of the relationships:

1 — between industry and agriculture and between heavy and light industries;
2 — between coastal industries and inland industries;
3 — between economic construction and national defence;
4 — between the state, the co-operatives and the individual;
5 — between the central and local authorities;
6 — between the Han people and the national minorities;
7 — between the Party and non-Party people;
8 — between revolution and counter-revolution;
9 — between right and wrong inside and outside the Party, and
10 — international relations.

In this report, Comrade Mao Tse-tung outlined a series of important policies in amplification of the general line of building socialism by achieving “greater, faster, better and more economical results.” Under items 1 and 5, he set forth the principle of developing industry and agriculture simultaneously while giving priority to heavy industry, and the principle of combining centralization of powers with decentralization. Under items 2 and 3, he pointed to the necessity of making full use of the industrial bases in the coastal areas and amassing ample funds for economic construction. He pointed out under item 4 the necessity of handling correctly the relations between the individual and the collective, between the part and the whole, and between consumption and accumulation. The remaining items centred mainly around the view of correctly handling contradictions among the people, a view which was later elaborated. The general idea of the report was to mobilize all positive factors and available forces for building China into a modern, prosperous and mighty socialist state in the shortest possible time. It was on the basis of the guiding lines and policies laid
down by Comrade Mao Tse-tung on handling the ten sets of relationships that the Central Committee of the Party drew up its political report for the First Session of the Eighth National Congress.

These guiding lines and policies formulated by Comrade Mao Tse-tung have played a tremendous role in our work. In 1956, every phase of China's economy and culture made a mighty leap forward. In that year, industrial output shot up 31 per cent, capital construction 62 per cent, and agricultural output 4.9 per cent despite severe natural calamities. Thus, within a space of four years, we reached ahead of schedule the targets set in the First Five-Year Plan for total value of industrial output, and total output of food crops and communications and transport; in capital construction, we also created favourable conditions for the overfulfilment of the First Five-Year Plan.

There were individual defects in our work during the leap forward in 1956. These consisted mainly in a certain strain in supplying the market due to the taking on of an excessive number of new workers and staff and excessive increases in certain categories of wages. These defects paled before the tremendous achievements made at the time and the problems arising from these defects were solved after a few months of efforts by the people throughout the country in a campaign launched at the call of the Party to increase production and practical economy. However, some comrades at the time magnified these defects and under-estimated the great achievements attained, and hence regarded the leap forward of 1956 as a "reckless advance." In a flurry of opposition to this so-called "reckless advance," some people even had misgivings about the principle of "achieving greater, faster, better, and more economical results" and the 40-Article Programme for Agricultural Development. This dampened the initiative of the masses and hampered progress on the production front in 1957, and particularly on the agricultural front. But the Party soon corrected this error. The Third Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Party held in September last year reaffirmed the need to adhere to the principle of achieving "greater, faster, better and more economical results," in building socialism. Following that, the Central Committee made public a revised version of the Draft Programme for Agricultural Development, and Comrade Mao Tse-tung issued a militant call to overtake and surpass Britain in the output of iron and steel and other major industrial products in 15 years. Such correct guidance by the Central Committee, combined with the initiative of the masses evoked by the rectification campaign and the anti-rightist struggle, gave rise to the all-round forward leap which is currently developing on an even larger scale in our socialist construction. Many of those comrades who expressed misgivings about the principle of building socialism by achieving "greater, faster, better and more economical results," have learnt a lesson from all this. But some of them have not yet learnt anything. They say: "We'll settle accounts with you after the autumn harvest." Well, let them wait to settle accounts. They will lose out in the end!

The development is U-shaped, i.e., high at the beginning and the end, but low in the middle. Didn't we see very clearly how things developed on the produc-

The Party and the masses have learnt a lesson from this U-shaped development.

Now the people everywhere are full of confidence in the forward leap in production; they are determined to further speed up socialist construction. They are eager to remove the obstacles placed in their way by technical and cultural backwardness. In view of basic victory of the socialist revolution already achieved on the economic, political and ideological fronts, the Central Committee of the Party and Comrade Mao Tse-tung consider that the time is ripe to set new revolutionary tasks before the Party and the people, that now is the time to call for a technical revolution and, along with it, a cultural revolution.

Marx, Engels and Lenin often pointed out that the watchword of the working class should be "uninterrupted revolution." In putting forward new revolutionary tasks in good time, so that there is no halfway halt in the revolutionary advance of the people, the revolutionary fervour of the masses will not subside with interruptions of the revolution, and Party and state functionaries will not rest content with the success won and grow arrogant or apathetic, the Central Committee of the Communist Party and Comrade Mao Tse-tung have always guided the Chinese revolution by this Marxist-Leninist theory of uninterrupted revolution. Already on the eve of the victory of the democratic revolution, the Seventh Central Committee of the Party, in a resolution adopted in March 1949 at its Second Plenary Session, clearly put forward the task of "transforming the new-democratic state into a socialist state." After the founding of the People's Republic of China and immediately following the completion of land reform, the Central Committee, in December 1951, pointed out the road to collective farming through the mutual aid and co-operative movement, and in 1953 carried out extensive publicity and education among the people for the socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts and private industry and commerce. After the socialist revolution in the ownership of the means of production had been basically won, the Central Committee launched the socialist revolution on the ideological and political fronts. All this has enabled the revolution to advance at the opportune moment from one stage to another, scoring one victory after another.

The issuance of the call for the technical and cultural revolutions means that our constantly developing revolution must now advance to a new stage. The broad masses of workers, peasants and intellectuals have given an immediate and enthusiastic response to this timely call of the Party. In fact, the masses have already swung into action. In many places, the great march to overcome our technical and cultural backwardness has already started with vigour and vitality.

As we have noted above, the Party's general line for socialist construction, which has gradually taken shape during the past eight years of construction, has proved its correctness at every step in the course of practical
work. While this line still needs to be tested further in future practice, to be developed and perfected, we believe that the correctness of its basic orientation and its major principles should and can be regarded as established.

In the light of the practical experience gained in the people's struggle and of the development of Comrade Mao Tse-tung's thinking in the past few years, the Central Committee of the Party is of the opinion that the following are the basic points of our general line, which is to build socialism by exerting our utmost efforts, and pressing ahead consistently to achieve greater, faster, better and more economical results:

To mobilize all positive factors and correctly handle contradictions among the people;

To consolidate and develop socialist ownership, i.e., ownership by the whole people and collective ownership, and consolidate the proletarian dictatorship and proletarian international solidarity;

To carry out the technical revolution and cultural revolution step by step, while completing the socialist revolution on the economic, political and ideological fronts;

To develop industry and agriculture simultaneously while giving priority to heavy industry;

With centralized leadership, over-all planning, proper division of labour and co-ordination, to develop national and local industries, and large, small and medium-sized enterprises simultaneously; and

By means of all this to build our country, in the shortest possible time, into a great socialist country with a modern industry, modern agriculture and modern science and culture.

Based on the requirements of this general line, what are the main tasks facing the Party and the people in the technical and cultural revolutions?

The main tasks of the technical revolution are as follows:

To put the national economy, including agriculture and handicrafts, systematically and in a planned way on a new technological basis, i.e., the technological basis of modern, large-scale production, so that machinery can be used wherever feasible and electrification is brought to all the cities and villages of the country;

To turn all big and medium-sized cities throughout the country into industrial cities; and to build up new industrial bases in those places where the necessary conditions exist, to enable all the county towns and many townships to have their own industries, and to increase the value of industrial output of all the provinces and autonomous regions and even most of the special administrative regions and counties so that it exceeds the value of their agricultural output;

To set up a transport network and post and telecommunications services equipped mainly with modern facilities, reaching every part of the country; and

While introducing as far as possible the world's up-to-date techniques, to launch a wide-spread mass movement in the cities and villages throughout the country to improve tools and introduce technical innovations so that semi-mechanized or fully mechanized operations can be properly combined with the necessary hand work.

To meet the requirements of the technical revolution, we must at the same time carry through a cultural revolution, promoting culture, education and public health in the interest of economic construction. The main tasks in this are as follows:

To wipe out illiteracy, to institute compulsory primary education and step by step to bring secondary schools to the townships in general, and higher educational institutions and scientific research bodies to the special administrative regions in general and to many counties;

To complete the work of devising written languages for the national minorities or improving those already in existence and to make energetic efforts to reform the written language used by the Han people;

To wipe out the "four pests," improve sanitary conditions, promote sports, eliminate the principal diseases, break down superstitions, reform customs and change habits, and invigorate the national spirit;

To promote cultural and recreational activities among the masses and develop socialist literature and arts;

To train new intellectuals and remould the old intellectuals in order to establish a gigantic force of tens of millions of working-class intellectuals, consisting of technicians, who will account for the greatest number, professors, teachers, scientists, journalists, writers, artists and Marxist theoreticians.

By vigorously carrying out the Party's general line for socialist construction and bringing about a technical revolution and a cultural revolution, we shall achieve an enormous development of our social productive forces and a great increase in our labour productivity. This will enable our industry to catch up with and surpass Britain within 15 years or less in the output of iron and steel and other major industrial products, enable our agriculture, on the basis of carrying out the National Programme for Agricultural Development ahead of schedule, to surpass quickly the agricultural achievements of the capitalist countries, and our science and technology, on the basis of carrying out the twelve-year programme for the development of science, to catch up with the world's most advanced levels in the shortest possible time.

The speed of construction has been the most important question confronting us since the victory of the socialist revolution. The aim of our revolution is to expand the social productive forces as quickly as possible. Our country's economy has been very backward, and there are imperialist countries abroad; only by speeding up construction to the utmost can we, within the shortest possible period, consolidate our socialist state and raise the people's standards of living. The speedy building of socialism in a big country like ours, with a population of more than 600 million, will greatly enhance the supremacy already possessed by the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union, promote mutual aid and co-operation between the countries in the socialist camp and between all the forces of peace throughout the world, and help to defend world peace.
Some people do not recognize the importance of increasing the speed of construction; they do not approve of the policy of consistently achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results, and they have raised various objections.

Some say that speeding up construction makes people feel “tense,” and so it’s better to slow down the tempo. But are things not going to get tense if the speed of construction is slowed down? Surely one should be able to see that a really terrible tense situation would exist if more than 600 million people had to live in poverty and cultural backwardness for a prolonged period, had to exert their utmost efforts just to eke out a bare living, and were unable to resist natural calamities effectively, unable to put a quick stop to possible foreign aggression and utterly unable to master their own fate. It was to pull themselves out of such a situation, that the hundreds of millions of our people summoned up their energies to throw themselves, full of confidence, into the heat of work and struggle. This is simply normal revolutionary activity to which we should give our heartiest approval. This kind of “tension” is nothing to be afraid of.

It goes without saying that we should guide the workers and peasants to direct their efforts to improve their technique, tools, methods of work and labour organization so as to bring about a forward leap in production. We should see to it that the masses enjoy necessary rest as production surges ahead, so as to alternate hard battles with necessary rest and enable production and construction to advance in a rhythmic manner; in addition, we should pay attention to safety measures.

During this great movement in which hundreds of millions of people have been mobilized, it is inevitable that there should be some defects in our work even while great successes are being scored, and that, as we advance, we should meet with some difficulties — even great, unforeseeable difficulties. We should make provision for all this. The broad masses of our people who have forged a solid unity among themselves will certainly not be frightened by these defects and difficulties, and they will surely be able to overcome them in good time. Some people criticize us for “craving greatness and success,” for seeking “quick success and instant benefits.” What they say about us is right! And shouldn’t we crave greatness for our 600 million people and the success of socialism? Should we rather crave smallness and court failure, reject success and benefits, and rest content with lagging behind and doing nothing?

Some people wonder whether the implementation of the policy of consistently achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results won’t lead to waste. Of course, if this policy is followed out piecemeal and if we merely go in for quantity and speed and neglect quality and economy, or vice versa, then of course there will be waste. “Greater” and “faster” results are concerned with quantity and speed; “better” and “more economical” with quality and cost. They supplement and condition each other. Facts have proved that by implementing the policy of achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results in a comprehensive way, the initiative and potentialities of the people can be brought into fullest play, and the greatest economies can be effected in developing production and construction. Conversely, opposition to this policy and restriction of the initiative and potentialities of the people will certainly result in great wastes of manpower, money, materials and precious time.

Others are worried that implementation of this policy will throw the various branches of production off balance as well as financial revenue and expenditure. There is bound to be imbalance. Even if we do not carry out this policy, there will always be imbalance, because any balance is temporary and conditional, and hence relative. There is no absolute balance. Of course, in order to conform to the objective law of the proportionate development of socialist economy, a balance should be maintained between the various branches of our national economy over a certain period of time and to a certain extent. This is precisely the purpose of planning in a socialist state. The question is how that balance should be brought about: by getting the backward to catch up with the advanced, or by forcing the advanced to fall back in line with the backward? To overcome the imbalance between financial revenue and expenditure, the positive approach is to expand production and better exploit financial resources; the negative approach is to view things purely from the financial angle, and put a curb on the development of construction. Back in 1942 in his work Economic and Financial Questions During the Period of the Anti-Japanese War, Comrade Mao Tse-tung pointed out why the negative approach is wrong. “While a good or bad financial policy may affect the economy,” he wrote, “it is the economy as a whole that determines the financial situation. We will never overcome our financial difficulties unless we have a sound economy, or achieve an abundance of financial resources without developing the economy.” He wrote: “The conservative view which overlooks the development of the economy or fails to exploit financial resources better, but wants to overcome financial difficulties by cutting down on essential expenditures, cannot solve any questions at all.” Since the time of the Anti-Japanese War, our financial difficulties have all been solved successfully on the basis of this principle put forward by Comrade Mao Tse-tung. It is clear, therefore, that what we should guard against is not the occurrence of imbalance, but alarm when imbalance appears, and prudence to get the advance to fall back in line with the backward — a desire “to trim the toes to fit the shoe,” or “to give up food for fear of choking.”

Thus, none of the criticisms directed against the policy of increasing the speed of construction and of achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results, can hold water.

Why is it that, to increase the speed of construction, industry and agriculture must be developed simultaneously? This is because ours is a large agricultural country, and of our over 600 million people, more than 500 million are peasants who constitute a most powerful force both in the revolutionary struggle and construction. Only by relying on this powerful ally and giving full play to the peasants’ initiative and creativeness can the working class of our country achieve victory. The paramount importance of the peasantry as an ally is just the same in the period of construction as it was in the period of revolution. Whenever political mistakes were made they in-
Some comrades are worried that, though the development of agriculture can accumulate funds for industrialization, it will for the present at least divert some funds which could be used by the state for industrialization. The upsurges in agriculture in 1956 and 1958 have proved such worries unnecessary. So long as we know how to rely on this great force of our 500 million peasants, we can greatly expand the scope of agricultural construction even if there is no increase in state investments in agriculture. The state has invested 1,450 million yuan to harness the Hsiai River, and completed over 1,600 million cubic metres of masonry and earth work in the past eight years. But by depending mainly on the labour, money and material resources of the peasants themselves, in six months of the winter of 1957 and spring of 1958, more than 12,000 million cubic metres of masonry and earth work were completed in Honan and Anhwei Provinces alone.

Some people doubted whether agricultural production could expand very rapidly. They quoted authoritative works, chapter and verse, to prove that agriculture could only advance slowly and that, what is more, its growth could in no way be guaranteed. Some scholars even asserted that the rate of agricultural growth could not keep pace with the growth of population. They argued that as the population grows, consumption will increase and there won't be much of an increase in accumulation. From this they drew their pessimistic conclusions on the rate of growth of agriculture in our country, and, indeed, of the national economy as a whole. Underlying such ideas is an under-estimation of the organized revolution of the national economy as a whole. The facts in the past eight years, and in this year in particular, have fully proved this.

During the period of the First Five-Year Plan, we paid attention first of all to the development of industries run under the central authority and autonomous regions, over 2,000 counties and autonomous counties, over 80,000 special administrative regions and autonomous chou, over 180 special administrative regions and autonomous chou, over 2,000 counties and autonomous counties, over 80,000
towns and townships, over 100,000 handicrafts co-operatives and over 700,000 agricultural co-operatives in the country display full initiative in a proper way in developing industry. In that case, industrial development in our country will naturally be much faster than if it depended solely on a number of big enterprises run by the Central Government. This will inevitably result in: 1. quickening the pace of the nation’s industrialization; 2. quickening the pace of mechanization of agriculture; and 3. quickening the speed at which differences between city and countryside are reduced.

A big development of local industries, and of small and medium-sized enterprises, will give rise to many new problems which it is difficult for us to foresee at the moment. But here it must be especially emphasized that this growth of local industries and small and medium enterprises which we encourage must be placed under centralized leadership and over-all planning, with a proper division of labour and co-ordination of efforts; there must be no blind development nor development through free competition. To prevent or reduce any possible waste in resources and funds and idle stocks of products, the Central Government and local authorities at all levels must seriously improve the work of co-ordination and balance, firmly oppose capitalist ideas in management, and any tendency to localism or departmentalism. At the same time, whether in national or local industries, in giant enterprises or small and medium-sized enterprises, it is necessary to oppose resolutely any tendency to chase only after the latest technical equipment, while failing to make full use of all that is on hand; oppose any tendency to over-emphasize the role of experts to the disparagement of the great role that can be played by the workers and peasants in developing new production techniques. All such tendencies which lead away from reality and from the masses, no less than the tendency to resign oneself to backwardness and make no attempts to advance, are detrimental to the nation’s progress in construction.

The Party’s general line for socialist construction is the application and development of its mass line in socialist construction. We must fully combine centralized leadership with decentralized management and co-ordinate the resources of the Central Government with those of the local authorities, the resources of the state with those of the masses, the giant undertakings with small and medium-sized plants, the striving to raise the quality of work with popularization—all this is applicable not only to industry but also to other economic and cultural undertakings, and to the technical and cultural revolutions as a whole. All Party and state functionaries must acquire a deep and comprehensive understanding of the Party’s general line for socialist construction and follow this line in their work. As for scientific, technical, cultural and educational workers, they must be specially taught to adhere firmly to the principle of keeping in close contact with reality, production and the masses so that they can effectively serve the socialist cause of the proletariat and promote the growth of the social productive forces.

III

The tasks of the Party at present are, on the basis of the rectification campaign, to continue to handle contradictions among the people, systematically improve the work of the state, strengthen the work of Party organizations at all levels, and work unswervingly for the implementation of the general line for socialist construction.

As mentioned above, the rectification campaign which started in May 1957 has achieved great results. But, we would be making a big mistake to become dizzy with the successes already won and think that now everything is all right. We must not overlook the fact that the development of the campaign is not even. In some units, some places and among some people, it has not been carried out thoroughly enough, it has not got down to the roots of things. In some units, styles of work marked by bureaucracy, commandism, sectarianism and subjectivism have not been shaken; there are even cases where leading positions are still occupied by bourgeois rightists and rotten elements; and the initiative of the masses is still being hampered. Even in places where the campaign has been carried out fairly thoroughly, not all the problems brought up by the masses that must be solved have received satisfactory solutions. The leading organizations must undertake a thorough check-up, make energetic efforts to strengthen weaker units, give serious consideration to the suggestions of the masses, and persist in carrying through the rectification campaign to complete victory.
out the capitalist and feudal survivals of bygone days and building completely new socialist relations, not only in all our enterprises and co-operatives, but in all government and popular organizations, schools, and in every walk of life. All functionaries (and first of all those who are members of the Communist Party) must, irrespective of their position or seniority, get rid of their bureaucratic airs, behave like ordinary labouring people, treat their subordinates and the rank and file as real equals, and make them feel that you are one of them and that you have given your hearts to them, in a word, be at one with the masses. The leading personnel at all levels must go down to the lower levels of administration and out among the masses. The system under which leading personnel at the national, provincial, municipal and autonomous region levels spend one-third of their time each year at the lower levels of administration and among the masses must be carried through.

The rectification campaign must also be carried through to the end in the People's Liberation Army. The People's Liberation Army is the defender as well as builder of the cause of socialism. It has a glorious tradition of industry, bravery, hard work and plain living, and of forging close ties with the masses. Thanks to the rectification campaign, this glorious tradition has been further developed. The relations between the higher and lower ranks in the army, between officers and men and between the army and the people have become still closer and the leadership of Party committees of various levels over army units has been strengthened. Earnest efforts must be made to consolidate all these achievements of the rectification campaign. The Central Committee of the Party and the local Party committees must further strengthen their leadership over military work, pay attention to political work in the army, military training, and the work of the militia. They should look into these things several times a year. This will greatly help raise the political and military qualities of the army, thereby helping to strengthen our national defence, and the cause of liberating Taiwan and defending peace.

In those enterprises, offices, organizations, schools and army units where reforms have been carried out, the rectification campaign will soon enter the fourth stage when each individual studies documents, and undertakes self-criticism and self-examination so as to raise his own ideological level. During this stage, all cadres, and those who are Party members in particular, must seriously study the Party's policies and its style of work, sum up the gains derived from the rectification campaign, examine the shortcomings in their thinking and work, undertake criticism and self-criticism so as to raise their own level of political understanding, and further strengthen unity within the Party and unity between the Party and the masses. Leading cadres at the county level and above and those at the battalion level and above should pay special attention to studying the Party's general line for socialist construction and the Marxist-Leninist ways of thinking and doing things.

A positive attitude must be taken towards the rectification campaign among the national bourgeoisie, the bourgeois intelligentsia and the various democratic parties and groups; they must be given help in educating and remoulding themselves. A thorough-going rectifica-

Under all circumstances, a strict distinction must be drawn between the methods used to handle contradictions among the people and those used to handle contradictions between the enemy and ourselves. So far as ideological problems among the people are concerned, no matter whether it is a case of a few against the many, or of the many against a few, they must be tackled by means of persuasion and education, not by means of force and coercion. In the fields of culture and academic studies we must continue to carry out the policy of "letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend." This is a method, a scientific Marxist method, of promoting constant progress and advance in the sciences and arts. It is also a method of resolving contradictions among the people. As to the utterances and activities of those who aim to undermine socialism and restore capitalism, we have never sanctioned such utterances and activities, because they are not permitted under the socialist system. But we allow the anti-socialist poisonous weeds to grow and confront the people with contrasts, so that by way of comparison, the people can see clearly what they really are, and roused to
indignation, rally together to uproot them. In this way, the fighting ability of the masses will be tempered and it will open up bright prospects for the socialist blossoming of a hundred flowers. This policy has been publicly announced. It was followed in the past and will be followed in the future. The existence of poisonous weeds is an objective phenomena. They will keep cropping up ten thousand years hence. But the poisonous weeds which will emerge in the far distant future will not wear the stamp of class struggle as they do now. Since poisonous weeds exist objectively, if we did not allow them to grow as they are, they would have appeared in disguise, and poisoned the people in secret. We had better tell them openly: "Poisonous weeds are illegal, they've got to be uprooted when they grow. But we do not stop you from sprouting if you want to. Whoever wants to come out and fight, let them do so!" This policy has proved very effective. Large numbers of poisonous weeds furiously attacked the people, and were uprooted by them. Those which have not been uprooted have learnt nothing from those which have been eradicated; they still come out and fight. They will certainly come out if they are given the chance, and we shall have to uproot them again. To uproot poisonous weeds is a question between the enemy and ourselves. To let a hundred flowers blossom is a question among the people. These are two different kinds of contradictions and there are two different methods of handling them. The reactionary rightists of the bourgeoisie claimed to be one of the hundred socialist flowers. But that was simply a fraud. They can't be recognized as such.

IN improving the work of the state, the most important task at the moment is to find quick and correct solutions to the problem of combining centralization with decentralization. As I said before, this is at present a key problem in carrying out the Party's general line for socialist construction. Local authorities should be allowed greater scope so that construction in all fields throughout the country can develop along the line of achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results, and the Central Government departments can concentrate upon the things they should assume responsibility for. This principle was put forward by Comrade Mao Tse-tung back in April 1956 in his report on "Ten Sets of Relationships." In actual work, we commenced to carry out this principle, but until quite recently it was being carried out very slowly and not at all thoroughly. In accordance with the discussions at the Nanning and Chengtu conferences convoked by the Central Committee of the Party in the spring of this year, from now on, with the exception of some special, key enterprises or enterprises of an experimental nature, all enterprises formerly run and managed by the various ministries under the State Council will, as a rule, be handed over to the local authorities and placed under their management. Light industries will be handed over to the local authorities first; later, heavy industries will gradually be handed over. Authority to run other economic undertakings, as well as cultural, educational, political and judicial affairs will also be handed over to the local authorities. The central authorities must see to it that the initiative of the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions is brought into full play; on their part, the latter must see to it that the initiative of the special administrative regions, autonomous chou, counties, autonomous counties and townships is brought into full play.

With the improvement in the managerial system, the forward leap in production and construction and the raising of the political consciousness of the masses, existing rules and regulations governing economic and other work must be improved thoroughly and systematically. The experience of the rectification campaign shows that many of these rules and regulations are necessary and suitable, but that there are also a few which are wholly superfluous or even breed waste and conservatism, hamper the initiative of the local authorities and the masses and hinder the carrying out of the general line for socialist construction. Our task is thus to mobilize the masses to make an over-all examination of all existing rules and regulations in the light of the policy of building socialism by achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results by means of full and frank airing of views and great debates so that things may be dealt with in a discerning way after a serious study has been made of the opinions voiced by the masses. Those parts of existing rules and regulations which are necessary and justifiable should be preserved; the rest should be revoked or revised, or replaced by new ones suited to local conditions and current needs, which should be introduced to other places after an experimental phase. Improvement of rules and regulations is a work of great importance; the various regions and departments must devote a certain amount of time and manpower to it and, while doing so, concretely solve urgent problems so as to keep the high tide of production and construction rolling.

One of the important questions of the day which must claim our attention is the continued streamlining of state organs, enterprises and undertakings, improvement of organization and management of labour and the reform of irrational rules and regulations in those fields. Since being streamlined last year, many state-owned and joint state and private enterprises, building, transport and commercial enterprises, and other undertakings and state organs have overcome in great measure the overlapping and over-staffing which resulted from previous defects in the allocation of labour power and management of labour. But this problem has not yet been completely settled. There are even cases where workers and employees who have not done any work at all over long periods are still kept on the payroll. Such cases of waste of manpower and funds, which amount to expropriation of the fruits of other people's labour, are impermissible. We must, while improving the managerial system and rules and regulations, further streamline our organizations and use every possible rational means to raise the rate of utilization of labour power and labour productivity. We must promptly transfer redundant workers and employees to other jobs, so that not a single working day is wasted, and everyone who has some ability can be properly engaged in production or other useful work.

On condition that production is expanded and the living standards of the people are steadily improved, the proportion of funds in the national income going to
accumulation should be suitably increased both in state and collective economies so that we can build socialism with greater and faster results. State policies in regard to wages, subsidies, welfare, bonuses, prices, taxes and profits must take state, collective and individual interests into account. Certain reasonable differentials between the living standards of workers and peasants, between living standards in city and countryside, and between the wages for various trades, technical grades and localities are necessary, but unreasonable and excessive differences must be avoided. Measures suited to conditions in the rural and semi-rural regions must be worked out in regard to wages, labour insurance and welfare in enterprises run by the counties and administrative units below the county level; the measures now in force in big enterprises in big cities should not be mechanically applied here.

Both the rectification campaign and improvements in the work of the state are aimed at making the superstructure meet the needs of the economic base, and the relations of production meet the needs of the development of productive forces. Therefore, these efforts must, directly or indirectly, result in the development of production and construction and, first of all, in the successes of great forward leaps in production and construction this year. This year is the first year of the Second Five-Year Plan, the first of three years of hard struggle; it is also the first of the fifteen years in which we are to catch up with Britain. Our achievements this year will be an important gauge of the success of the rectification campaign and the general line for socialist construction, and everybody is watching. So, we must pay great attention to the work of this year and try to do it well. The important thing here is that the leadership must really be in the van of the masses, in the van of the movement, and not lag behind them. The masses are now very enthusiastic; this is the main thing we must rely on if we are to make all our undertakings advance rapidly. We must set great store by this enthusiasm, and never throw cold water on it. Leaders, however, must combine revolutionary enthusiasm with business-like sense. They must be able not only to put forward advanced targets but also to adopt effective measures in time to ensure the realization of the targets. They must not indulge in empty talk and bluff. The targets we put forward should be those that can be reached with hard work. Do not lightly publicize as plan that which is not really attainable, lest failure dampen the enthusiasm of the masses and delight the conservatives. Allowance should be made for difficulties and shortcomings and care should always be taken in the course of the work to uncover difficulties and shortcomings and, without exaggerating or minimizing them, and by working together with the masses overcome them by every possible means and in a realistic manner. If this is done, we shall surely achieve very great things in our work, unless exceptionally severe natural calamities or other accidents intervene.

The guarantee of success in all our work of socialist construction is the Party's correct leadership. The Central Committee of the Party and local Party committees at all levels must be the leading core of the government at all levels. In the past few years, the leadership of the Party concentrated its efforts mainly on the socialist revolution. While we shall continue to pay attention to this work, we now can and must concentrate greater efforts on socialist construction. Party committees at all levels must give the same resolute leadership to socialist construction and the technical and cultural revolutions as they have been giving the democratic and socialist revolutions. The mistaken tendency among some people both inside and outside the Party to think that the Party cannot lead construction work, or work in the fields of science and technology, culture and education must be thoroughly corrected.

In the period of socialist construction, the period of technical and cultural revolutions, the Party cadres must have a real understanding of their jobs and the necessary knowledge in science and technology to guide the work properly. All Party cadres must put themselves to work on "experimental plots," since this is a good method of combining political work with professional activities and enabling the cadres to keep in close touch with the masses. Naturally, while paying attention to technique and one's own speciality, one must never ignore politics. We must neither become shallow "politicians" who know nothing about their jobs, nor "practical men of business" who have lost their bearings. To be both "red" and "expert"—this is the way of progress for intellectuals and technicians throughout the country; this is also the way of progress for all Party cadres at all levels.

Ideological and political work is always the soul and guide of every kind of work. In every case, abandonment or neglect of ideological and political work by the Party will divorce us from the masses and lead us astray. In the past few years, among leading cadres in the field of construction, we have seen, on the one hand, the shortcomings of not being well versed in their jobs or not trying to learn about them, while, on the other hand, there has also been a tendency to ignore ideological and political work although they have learnt their jobs. It should be realized that machines are made and operated by men, and materials are produced only through the efforts of men. It is man that counts; the subjective initiative of the masses is a mighty driving force. To ignore this great driving force will run counter to Marxism-Leninism. Some people say that ideological and political work can produce neither grain nor coal or iron. This is like failing to see the wood for the trees. One may ask: have we not produced more grain, coal and iron by formulating and carrying out correct political lines, by correctly handling contradictions among the people, and by raising the socialist consciousness of the workers and arousing the enthusiasm of the masses, and are we not going to produce more and more by so doing?

Party committees at all levels must pay attention to ideological trends inside and outside the Party, strengthen ideological and political work, pay attention to theoretical problems, seriously study the line and policies of the Party and put a firm stop to the vulgar habit which has prevailed hitherto in many places and departments, of talking about professional matters only and ignoring
Marxism-Leninism is the theoretical foundation on which all the work of our Party is based. The whole Party must learn to apply Marxism-Leninism and dialectical materialism to practical work, and thoroughly oppose any tendency to doctrinaire and empiricism. Doctrinaire and empiricism are forms of subjectivism and metaphysics which are divorced from practice and from the masses; they hinder people from acquiring the ability to analyse and sum up experience, to distinguish between the essence and the outward appearance of things, between the main trend and side issues and thus make them prone to commit political mistakes. We must free ourselves completely from the shackles of doctrinaire and empiricism, and foster a lively and active growth of our minds and our work. We must respect the practical deeds of the masses, their revolutionary drive and creative spirit; and this means respect for materialism and dialectics. We must learn from Comrade Mao Tse-tung and from many other comrades who keep in close contact with the masses (including the many leaders of the Party at the central, provincial, special administrative regional, county and township levels and among the masses). We must follow their examples in invariably applying Marxism-Leninism, dialectics and materialism to practical work, in combining the universal truths of Marxism-Leninism with the actual practice of the Chinese revolution, and combining a serious and principled stand with a lively, creative spirit, in identifying themselves with the millions, seeing the correct direction, grasping the truth, and throwing themselves into the struggle for that truth, dauntlessly braving all difficulties.

We are now in a great period in the history of our country, the period of development by leaps and bounds. Our Party and our country now need a host of people who think, speak and act with courage and daring, who dare to topple the old idols, to make innovations and create new things, who dare to uphold the truth, conquer ever new positions for the truth and raise the banner of progress and revolution. Only by relying on such people can we lead the people of the whole country in making one forward leap after another and complete the great work of socialist construction by achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results.

For more than a hundred years our country suffered from the oppression of foreign aggressors which made us backward in many respects. Although China has been liberated and has made rapid advances in every field, the mentality of quite a few of our people still bears the imprint of the oppressed, their minds are still filled with all kinds of shibboleths, fears and feelings of inferiority. Instead of exerting their utmost efforts, they are apathetic, and instead of pressing ahead consistently, they are resigned to backwardness. The proletariat and the people's militants must rid themselves of this state of mind; they should cultivate the noble way of firmly believing in the truth, resolutely relying on the masses and being fearless of any authority. We must remember that modesty helps one to make progress whereas conceit makes one lag behind. But the practical modesty we advocate has nothing to do with any sense of inferiority. We have a population of more than 600 million and our Party has ties of flesh and blood with this vast population. By relying on this great force we can, or soon can do anything within the realms of human possibility. It is true that for the time being this population of 600 million and more is economically poor and culturally is like a clean sheet of white paper. But what does this matter to Marxist-Leninist revolutionaries? Comrade Mao Tse-tung has put it well: "In addition to other characteristics, our more than 600 million people are characterized by poverty and 'whiteness.' This appears to be a bad thing, but in fact it is a good thing. Poor people want to change, to work hard and make a revolution. A clean sheet of white paper has nothing written on it and is therefore well suited for writing the newest and most beautiful words on and for drawing the newest and most beautiful pictures." Isn't this a fact? Our 600 million and more people have already far surpassed the most advanced capitalist countries in the West in the speed of the upsurge of their revolutionary consciousness and of the victories of their revolutionary struggles and will definitely far surpass them too in the speed of economic and cultural growth. In history, it is always the newcomers who outstrip the old, always the new-born things, which for a time appear weak and small but represent what is progressive, that defeat the moribund things, which appear powerful but represent what is conservative. Within a very short historical period we shall certainly leave every capitalist country in the world far behind us. And so, shouldn't we have confidence in ourselves and discard everything that smacks of superstition, fear and feelings of inferiority?

The inevitable victory of our cause is also grounded in the fraternal aid of the countries in the socialist camp headed by the great Soviet Union—which is internationally the most important factor in our favour. We shall continue to draw on the advanced experience of the Soviet Union and other countries, continue to strengthen mutual assistance and cooperation with the other countries in the socialist camp and, shoulder to shoulder with our fraternal parties in all countries, raise still higher the banner of Marxism-Leninism and reinforce the militant solidarity of the international communist movement. We resolutely support the peace proposals of the Soviet Union, the efforts of the peoples of all lands to safeguard peace, and all national movements which oppose aggression, defend their sovereign rights and seek independence. The struggles of the people of all countries support our cause and through our work we in turn support the people of all countries.

Comrades! Let us, on the basis of the Party's general line for socialist construction, strengthen ceaselessly the unity of the entire Party and unity between the Party and all the people. Let us strengthen ceaselessly our solidarity with the Soviet Union and other countries in the socialist camp and with all the peoples of the world in the common cause of peace, democracy and socialism. Victory will surely be ours!
Resolution on the Moscow Meetings of Representatives of Communist and Workers’ Parties

Adopted on May 23, 1958, by the Second Session of the Eighth National Congress of the Communist Party of China

The Eighth National Congress of the Communist Party of China, at its Second Session, having heard the report delivered by Comrade Teng Hsiao-ping on the meeting of representatives of the Communist and Workers’ Parties of the socialist countries held in Moscow from November 14 to 16, 1957, and the meeting of representatives of 64 Communist and Workers’ Parties held from November 16 to 19, unanimously endorses the Declarations adopted by the two meetings and expresses satisfaction with the work of the delegation of the Communist Party of China headed by Comrade Mao Tse-tung during the two meetings.

The Moscow meetings of the Communist and Workers’ Parties of various countries and the two Declarations they adopted ushered in a new stage in the international communist movement of our time and were a very great inspiration to the labouring people and all forces for peace, democracy and progress throughout the world. The Communist Parties throughout the world have welcomed and given their support to the two Declarations. The Communist Party of the United States of America, after clearing out the revisionist John Gates, has also endorsed the stand taken by these Declarations. Only the League of Communists of Yugoslavia has not only openly assumed an attitude of opposition to the Declaration of the meeting of representatives of the Communist and Workers’ Parties of the socialist countries, but has also adopted an anti-Marxist-Leninist and out-and-out revisionist programme at its Seventh Congress, and set itself against the Declaration of the Moscow meeting. At their Congress, in an effort to defend their anti-Marxist-Leninist and out-and-out revisionist programme, Tito and other leaders of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia made a series of vicious attacks against the international communist movement and the socialist camp with the Soviet Union as its centre, whereas in regard to U.S. imperialism, that most ferocious enemy of the people in every part of the world, they were sycophantic and deeply grateful.

At present, the international communist movement has the important responsibility to adhere firmly to the viewpoints expressed in the Declaration of the meeting of representatives of the Communist and Workers’ Parties of the socialist countries, to defend the fundamental principles of Marxism–Leninism and oppose modern revisionism.

The Declaration of the meeting of representatives of the Communist and Workers’ Parties of the socialist countries sums up the experience of the international communist movement in the past century, especially in the past forty years; expounds the common principles which the Communist Parties of all countries must abide by in the socialist revolution and socialist construction; puts forward the basic policy of the Communist Parties in rallying the broad masses of the people to the struggle for the cause of peace, democracy and socialism; it lays the ideological and political foundation for solidarity among the Communist Parties and strengthens the unity of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union. It is an epoch-making document which is in the nature of a programme for the international communist movement.

Analysing the current international situation, the Declaration points out that “world development is determined by the course and results of the competition between two diametrically opposed social systems,” that “while socialism is on the upgrade, imperialism is heading towards decline,” that the colonial system is crumbling and that “capitalist economy is bound to encounter new deep slumps and crises.” It points out that the question of war or peaceful co-existence has become the basic issue in world politics, while the existence of imperialism is the source of aggressive wars. It points out that the aggressive imperialist circles of the United States have become the centre of world reaction, the most deadly enemy of the peoples. It says: “By this policy these anti-popular, aggressive imperialist forces are courting their own ruin, creating their own grave-diggers.” At the same time, the Declaration points out that the forces of peace have so grown that there is a real possibility of averting wars and that at the forefront of the forces of peace is the indestructible socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union. The Declaration says: “An alliance of these mighty forces can prevent war, but should the bellicose imperialist maniacs venture, regardless of anything, to unleash a war, imperialism will doom itself to destruction, for the peoples will not tolerate a system that brings them so much suffering and exacts so many sacrifices.”

The Peace Manifesto adopted at the meeting of representatives of 64 Communist and Workers’ Parties points out that the threat to peace and the security of the people comes from “the capitalist monopolies which have amassed unprecedented riches from the two world wars and the current arms drive.” It appeals to people of goodwill throughout the world: Organize and fight for peace!

The correctness of the appraisal of the international situation made in the Declaration of the meeting of representatives of the Communist and Workers’ Parties of the socialist countries is confirmed by the development of events. In the past six months, in the socialist camp, economic and cultural construction in the Soviet Union, China and many other brother countries has shown a
continuous upward trend. In Asia, Africa and Latin America, there has been a fresh advance in the national liberation movement waged against the imperialists and their lackeys, and in some countries fierce struggle is going on. Meanwhile, the imperialist countries have landed in a new, grave and deep economic crisis. This began first in the United States, where capitalism is most developed, and the economic crisis of the United States is now hitting the whole capitalist world. On the issue of peace or war, the Soviet Union, Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Rumania and other brother countries have put forward a series of peace proposals. The Soviet Union has stopped the testing of nuclear weapons before others; the Governments of the Korean Democratic People's Republic and of our own country jointly decided to withdraw the Chinese People’s Volunteers from Korea. These facts demonstrate to the people throughout the world the determination of the countries in the socialist camp to do all in their power to secure peace. Despite the desire for peace of the people of all countries, the aggressive bloc headed by the U.S. imperialists persists up to now in its refusal to stop nuclear tests, to end the cold war, to reduce armaments and to withdraw its troops from Korea, and it is doing all it can to delay the convening of a summit conference. The U.S. imperialists have been occupying our Taiwan. They have gone so far as to interfere openly in the internal affairs of Indonesia, aiding and abetting and supplying the insurgent clique in that country with materials and now they are interfering in the internal affairs of the Lebanon. We must be awake to the fact that U.S. imperialism and the imperialist bloc headed by it are still actively threatening war, preparing for new wars, stepping up their political, economic and cultural aggression against many countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, undermining the internal unity of these countries and even resorting to armed force to suppress national liberation movements. It is our task to rally the peace-loving forces of the whole world to safeguard peace and smash the war schemes of the aggressive imperialist bloc headed by the United States.

THE Declaration of the meeting of representatives of the Communist and Workers’ Parties of the socialist countries points out that in adhering to the principle of combining the universal truths of Marxism-Leninism with the concrete practice of revolution and construction in various countries, attention must be paid to overcoming revisionism and doctrinairism. The Declaration lays stress on the theoretical foundation of Marxism-Leninism—dialectical materialism—refutes metaphysics and idealism, and holds that “the application of dialectical materialism in practical work and the education of Party functionaries and the broad masses in Marxism-Leninism are urgent tasks of the Communist and Workers’ Parties.” To the question of what is the main danger now facing the international communist movement, the Declaration gives this clear-cut answer: “The main danger at present is revisionism, or, in other words, right-wing opportunism, which, as a manifestation of bourgeois ideology, paralyses the revolutionary energy of the working class and demands the preservation or restoration of capitalism.” The Declaration points out: “The existence of bourgeois influence is an internal source of revisionism, while surrender to imperialist pressure is its external source.”

Making a special note of the emergence of modern revisionism, the Declaration points out: “Modern revisionism seeks to smear the great teaching of Marxism-Leninism, declares that it is ‘outmoded’ and alleges that it has lost its significance for social progress. The revisionists try to exorcize the revolutionary spirit of Marxism, to undermine faith in socialism among the working class and the working people in general. They deny the historical necessity for a proletarian revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat during the period of transition from capitalism to socialism, deny the leading role of the Marxist-Leninist party, reject the principle of proletarian internationalism and call for rejection of the basic Leninist principles of Party organization and, above all, of democratic centralism and for transforming the Communist Party from a militant revolutionary organization into some kind of debating society.”

We Chinese Communists, like the Communists of other countries, note with pleasure that since the publication of the Declaration, fresh achievements have been made by the fraternal Parties in the countries of the socialist camp in socialist revolution and socialist construction, in ideological and political work and in unity and co-operation. New progress has also been made by the fraternal Parties in the capitalist countries in the struggle against revisionism and right-wing renegades. In the work of consolidating their own ranks, defending the Marxist-Leninist unity of the Party and increasing its militant strength, and in the work of establishing close ties with the workers, peasants and the rest of the broad masses of the labouring people.

It is clear that, to wage a joint struggle against imperialism for the common cause of the proletariat of the whole world, the unity and solidarity of the Communist Parties in all countries on the basis of Marxism-Leninism is of special importance. Brother Parties should strengthen their mutual contacts. All talk and action that go against this unity and solidarity are harmful, they must be resolutely opposed.

The truth of the judgment made in the Declaration that the main danger at present is revisionism, that is, right-wing opportunism, has also been confirmed by the facts. On a series of fundamental questions, the Programme of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia recently approved by its Seventh Congress betrays the principles of Marxism-Leninism, sets itself against the Declaration of the meeting of representatives of the Communist and Workers’ Parties of the socialist countries, and turns against the Peace Manifesto adopted by the meeting of representatives of 64 Communist and Workers’ Parties, which bears the signature of the representative of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia. Just as the Congress of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia has the right to adopt its programme, so the Communist Parties of other countries have the right, as well as the obligation, to criticize and repudiate this revisionist programme in their effort to preserve the purity of Marxism-Leninism.

This programme of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia asserts, on the one hand, that “the swelling wave of state-capitalist tendencies in the capitalist world is the most obvious proof that mankind is indomitably
moving into the era of socialism through a wide variety of different roads,” and that the state apparatus in the capitalist world is “a regulator in the sphere of labour and property relationships, of social rights and social services and other social relations,” which tends increasingly “to restrict the role of private capital” and “deprive the owners of private capital of certain independent functions in the economy and in the society.” On the other hand, the Programme of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia describes ownership by the whole people, that is, ownership by the state, in the socialist countries as “state capitalism,” and they hold that it is directly from the foundation of this so-called “state capitalism” that “bureaucracy and bureaucratic-statist deformities” are produced. In this way the Programme smears socialism and glorifies capitalism, smears the proletarian dictatorship and glorifies the bourgeois dictatorship.

The Programme of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia holds that “factors of socialism” are taking shape in the capitalist countries and that provided the working class “exercises incessant pressure” on the bourgeois state apparatus and strives to “win a decisive influence” in it, it will be possible to “secure the development of socialism.” Here, in an attempt to sap the revolutionary energy of the working class in capitalist countries, the Programme spreads the erroneous view that there is no need to carry out the proletarian revolution, no need to smash the capitalist state machine, no need to set up a proletarian dictatorship.

The leading group of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia claim to be standing outside the socialist camp and the imperialist camp. In fact this is not so; they have always directed the spearhead of their attack against the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union, but have not dared to touch U.S. imperialism in the least. They describe the two fundamentally different world economic-political systems, the socialist camp and the imperialist camp, as a “division of the world into two antagonist military-political blocs” and do their utmost to smear the socialist camp and glorify the imperialist camp. It should be pointed out that quite a number of countries, though they are not socialist countries, have adopted the policy of neutrality which opposes war and supports peace. This is of positive significance to the maintenance of world peace; it is opposed by the aggressive imperialist forces, but has the sympathy of the peace-loving peoples of all countries. On the other hand, the so-called position outside the blocs advocated by the leading group of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, which aims at disrupting the solidarity of the socialist countries, caters to the policy of the imperialists headed by the United States against communism, against the Soviet Union and the socialist camp. That is why it is applauded and rewarded by the U.S. imperialists.

The Programme of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia quotes some phrases of Marxism-Leninism just to disguise itself with a cloak of Marxism-Leninism and thus make it easier to deceive others. In method of thinking, the Programme substitutes for revolutionary materialistic dialectics a sophistry which turns the facts upside down and confuses right with wrong; politically, it substitutes the reactionary theory of the state standing above classes for the Marxist-Leninist theory of the state, and reactionary bourgeois nationalism for revolutionary proletarian internationalism; in political economy, it defends monopoly capital and obscures the fundamental differences between capitalism and socialism. The Yugoslav revisionists betray the Marxist-Leninist theories concerning the class struggle of the proletariat, the proletarian revolution and the proletarian dictatorship, and thus completely forsake the Marxist-Leninist doctrine about the political party of the proletariat. In a wild attempt to undermine and disintegrate the Communist Parties of various countries, they propagate a series of absurdities which deny the leading role of the Communist Party in socialist revolution and socialist construction, attack the Communist and Workers' Parties in the socialist countries, and slander the Communist Parties in the capitalist countries as “ceasing to act as a revolutionary creative factor and motive power of social development in their respective countries.”

This out-and-out revisionist programme is put forward for the purpose of splitting the international communist movement. It is propounded at the very time when the general crisis of capitalism is deepening and when the revisionist harangues of the right-wing socialists are daily losing their paralyzing effect on the working class and the labouring masses. That is why the service rendered by this Programme to imperialism, especially U.S. imperialism, is tantamount to “sending it a present of firewood in cold weather.”

The Eighth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party at its Second Session considers as basically correct and necessary the criticism made in 1948 by the Information Bureau of the Communist and Workers' Parties in its resolution “Concerning the Situation in the Communist Party of Yugoslavia” in regard to the fact that the Yugoslav Communist Party departed from the principles of Marxism-Leninism and took the wrong road of bourgeois nationalism, although there were defects and mistakes in the methods adopted at that time in dealing with this issue. Our Party agreed with and supported that criticism. The second resolution concerning the Yugoslav Communist Party adopted by the Information Bureau of the Communist and Workers' Parties in 1949, however, was incorrect and it was later withdrawn by the Communist Parties which took part in the Information Bureau meeting. Since 1954, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union headed by Comrade N. S. Khrushchov initiated improvement of relations with Yugoslavia and has adopted a series of measures to this end. This was entirely necessary and correct. This initiative of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union had the approval of all socialist countries and the Communist Parties of various countries. We also took similar steps to those of the Soviet Union and established relations between China and Yugoslavia and between the Chinese and Yugoslav Parties. Starting from the desire for unity, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and some other Communist Parties concerned made necessary self-criticism of past defects in their relations with Yugoslavia. In order to improve relations with the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, the Communist...
Parties of various countries have since then made their best efforts, waiting patiently for the leaders of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia to return to the stand of Marxism-Leninism. But the leaders of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia have completely ignored the well-intentioned efforts of the Communist Parties of various countries; they have failed to realize their own mistakes and have not made any self-criticism. Furthermore, they have continuously attacked and slandered the socialist countries and the Communist Parties of various countries, and have gone so far as to echo the attacks of the imperialists against the socialist camp and the international communist movement. They played the inglorious role of provocateur and interventionist in the counter-revolutionary uprising in Hungary. Their schemes failed only because the leading comrades of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party consistently maintained a principled and correct attitude during and after suppressing the counter-revolutionary uprising. And now, when the Moscow meetings have strengthened the solidarity of the Communist Parties of various countries, they display a stubborn anti-Marxist-Leninist standpoint in their Programme and intensive hostility towards the socialist countries and the Communist Parties of various countries. There is no doubt that by this stand and conduct, the Yugoslav leaders have alienated themselves from the ranks of the international communist movement. This is in no way in the interests of the true Communists of Yugoslavia and of the Yugoslav people.

The Eighth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party at its Second Session fully endorses the decision of the Party's Central Committee not to send a delegation, but only an observer to be present at the Seventh Congress of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia. It is the unanimous opinion of the Congress that a resolute struggle must be waged against the modern revisionism which has emerged in the international communist movement. It is the sacred duty of our Party towards the international working class to work, together with the fraternal Parties, for the complete defeat of modern revisionism politically and theoretically, and for the safeguarding of Marxism-Leninism and the unity of the international communist movement on the basis of Marxist-Leninist ideology.

The Eighth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, at its Second Session, expresses full confidence that the cause of peace, democracy and socialism will win through all obstacles to score fresh and still greater victories throughout the world.

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**CHINESE PRESS OPINION**

**New Initiative for Peace**

"These are practical actions of the socialist countries for peace and relaxation of tension. They will undoubtedly help reduce tension in Europe," declares *Renmin Ribao* (May 28) editorially, welcoming the decisions of the Moscow meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty countries to further reduce their armed forces, withdraw Soviet troops from Romania, reduce the number of Soviet troops stationed in Hungary and propose to NATO countries a treaty of non-aggression.

"The socialist countries are making these exertions for peace," the editorial stresses, "not because they fear the aggressive imperialist forces but because they are fully convinced of the justice of the cause of socialism and of their ability to defend peace. The current international situation shows that the east wind prevails over the west wind and the forces of peace far outrun the forces of war."

*Da Gong Bao* says editorially that the proposal for a non-aggression treaty is "an important test of the willingness of the NATO countries to answer the demand for peace of the peoples throughout the world and relax international tension."

**Moscow Economic Conference**

"An event of world-wide importance, testifying to the ever-growing unity of the socialist countries," is *Da Gong Bao's* assessment of the May 20-23 meeting of representatives of Communist and Workers' Parties of the Eight-Nation Economic Mutual Assistance Council in Moscow which delegates from the Chinese Communist Party attended by invitation.

"The socialist camp," continues *Da Gong Bao's* May 25 leader, "is confident that it does not have to rely on missiles, rockets and nuclear weapons to defeat the imperialist camp. Its victory will be achieved through peaceful economic competition. Seen from this angle, the Moscow meeting is a challenge to the capitalist world to compete in a peaceful economic race."

"This conference opened a new stage in comprehensive economic co-operation among the countries of the socialist camp," editorializes *Guangming Ribao* (May 25). It explains how this meeting will increase the prosperity of the socialist countries by expanding and improving economic co-operation between them and enabling them to specialize and co-ordinate their economic activities.

**Anti-Fascist Struggle in France**

"The fate of France rests in the hands of the French people. United in this struggle, they will certainly be able to disperse the dark clouds of fascism from the French political sky," declares a *Renmin Ribao* leader (May 30), commenting on the great anti-fascist demonstration staged by half a million Frenchmen in Paris on May 23.

"Democracy and peace in France are in danger," the editorial continues. "But this by no means implies that the fascist...
forces can trample over the people and dictate the political future of the country. The alignment of political forces in France today favours the democratic and not the fascist forces."

Recalling the telling blow dealt to the fascist forces in 1934 when they attempted a coup d'etat to establish fascist rule, the editorial says: "Today, the French people are much stronger than they were 24 years ago. The present international situation is also radically different from the past... The anti-fascist Second World War gave the world's peoples a deep understanding of the fact that fascism is a world-wide scourge and that the anti-fascist struggle of the French people is an important part of the struggle waged by progressive mankind in defence of democracy, peace and national independence. That is why they fully support the French struggle for democracy and peace."

"We are confident that the French people who won glory storming the Bastille, will never allow the fascists to throw them into another Bastille," the editorial concludes.

U.S. Plots in Lebanon

Under the title "Salute the Heroic People of Lebanon," a Renmin Ribao leader of May 30 commented on the three week-long situation of the Lebanese people against imperialism and its agents and the increasingly open U.S intervention in Lebanon.

"This U.S. intervention," the leader says, "not only aims to preserve the 'Eisenhower Doctrine,' and suppress the national independence movement, but also to seize this opportunity to create tension in the Near and Middle East. Feeling the pressure of economic crisis at home, certain reactionary circles in the United States are looking to war as a way out of their difficulties. The U.S. military authorities are talking more and more openly of late about a 'limited war.' "

"U.S. intervention and plots against Lebanon constitute a serious menace to peace... If Washington dares to intervene with military force in Lebanon, it will have to accept full responsibility for the crime of aggression and violating peace.

"The people of Lebanon are fighting to defend their national independence and peace... We Chinese, together with all peace-loving people of the world, take our stand by their side."
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