Huge Increase in Distribution of Works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao’s Works

The powerful East wind of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution has brought about an unprecedented popularization of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought in China. In the decade since the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution started in 1966, bookshops in China have distributed 4,800 million copies of works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao’s works. This is eight times the total distributed in the 17 years prior to the start of the Great Cultural Revolution. Of these, 13 million copies are Selected Works of Marx and Engels and Selected Works of Lenin, equivalent to 71 times the number of copies distributed in the 17 years before the Great Cultural Revolution.

The total number of Selected Works of Mao Tsetung distributed was 225.8 million, or 21 times the total distributed in the preceding 17 years.

The vast increase in the number of works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao’s works distributed shows that the great call of Chairman Mao “Read and study conscientiously and have a good grasp of Marxism” has taken deep root in the hearts of the people and that the revolutionary tide “Practise Marxism, and not revisionism” is irresistible. This is a splendid achievement of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, a great victory for Chairman Mao’s revolutionary line and also a mortal blow dealt to the vain attempts by Liu Shao-chi, Lin Piao and the arch unrepentant capitalist-roader in the Party Teng Hsiao-ping to peddle revisionism and restore capitalism in China.

The printing and distribution of works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and by Chairman Mao in large numbers have taken place amidst acute struggles between the: “two classes and the two lines. Prior to the Great Cultural Revolution, the bourgeois headquarters of Liu Shao-chi which had control of the work of culture and propaganda frenetically opposed Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought and brazenly ordered that selected works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and the Selected Works of Mao Tsetung “should not be printed in large numbers.” Due to their stringent suppressive measures, the masses found it very difficult to buy the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao’s works. At the same time, however, they unrestrainedly published and distributed vast quantities of feudal, bourgeois and revisionist publications. The masses of workers, peasants and soldiers were extremely angry about this.

The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution smashed the counter-revolutionary dictatorship exercised by the bourgeois headquarters of Liu Shao-chi in the publication and distribution circles. This was followed later by the smashing of the criminal schemes of political swindlers like Lin Piao who tried to sabotage the publication and distribution of the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao’s works. A profound change took place in the work of printing and distribution. The number of works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao’s works printed, the speed of printing, the scope of distribution and the results obtained were all unprecedented in the history of publication and distribution in China. Regardless of these works were distributed in the countryside and cover tremendous distances to deliver in good time.

“We need Marxism in our struggle.” Hundreds of millions of revolutionary people avidly study Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought and consciously apply this powerful ideological weapon in waging a tit-for-tat struggle against the bourgeois inside and outside the Party. The revolutionary enthusiasm of the workers, peasants and soldiers in conscientiously reading and studying is a great encouragement and education to those engaged in distributing the books. Taking class struggle as the key link and upholding the Party’s basic line, they consciously put the distribution of these works in the first place. In order to strengthen this task in the rural areas, close to 100,000 supply and marketing co-ops in the countryside are also acting as book distributors. Under the unified leadership of the Party committees of their localities, the Hsinhua Book Store and these co-ops work closely together and, with the leading cadres taking the lead, they deliver the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao’s works into the hands of the workers, peasants and soldiers wherever they might be throughout the year.

In the great struggle to beat back the Right deviationist wind to reverse correct verdicts, the book distributors are fired with greater militancy. Defying fatigue and working continuously, they do their best to strengthen the distribution of the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao’s works to provide ideological weapons for the workers, peasants and soldiers to criticize Teng Hsiao-ping and beat back the Right deviationist wind of reversing correct verdicts. Book distributors in Sinkiang, Tibet and Inner Mongolia ‘cross vast tracts of grassland and cover tremendous distances to deliver in good time these works in national minority languages to the people in the frontier pasturaleands. In the mountainous regions of Yunnan, Kwelchow, Kwangsi and Szechuan staff members of the Hsinhua Book Store and the supply and marketing co-ops, with baskets of books on their backs,
scale mountains, ford swift streams to bring these works to the far-flung production teams. In the coastal areas of Chekiang, Fukien and Kwangtung the booksellers, braving the wind and waves in junks or motor boats, take these ideological weapons to criticize Teng Hsiao-ping to the fishermen and outposts on the islands. As they distribute these books the booksellers study Chairman Mao's important directives with the workers, peasants and soldiers and together criticize Teng Hsiao-ping's counter-revolutionary revisionist line and his reactionary crimes.

Singing Festival in Commemoration of Chairman Mao’s “Talks” in Yenan

In commemoration of the 34th anniversary of Chairman Mao’s Talks at the Yenan Forum on Literature and Art, a Singing Festival of the Capital’s Workers, Peasants and Soldiers Repulsing the Right Deviationist Wind and Praising the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution was held at the Capital Gymnasium on May 23 participated by 18,000 people.

Attending the festival were leading comrades of the Ministry of Culture, the Peking Municipal Party Committee, general departments of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army and the various arms and services of the P.L.A.

A warm revolutionary atmosphere and militant spirit prevailed at the gymnasium where a huge portrait of our great leader Chairman Mao hung in the centre over the rostrum, flanked by the slogans “Warmly hail the great victory in the struggle to repulse the Right deviationist wind to reverse correct verdicts!” and “Long live the great victory of Chairman Mao’s proletarian revolutionary line!”

The festival started with the singing of the magnificent song The East Is Red. When the gymnasium resounded with the singing of Chairman Mao’s two poems “Reascending Chingkangshen — to the tune of Shui Tiao Keh Tou” and “Two Birds: A Dialogue — to the tune of Nien Nu Chiao”, set to music, the audience was greatly inspired.

It was a festival singing the praises of the splendid victories of the Cultural Revolution as well as a rally criticizing Teng Hsiao-ping’s revisionist line. The more than 40 songs sung by the workers, peasants and soldiers fully expressed the revolutionary people’s indignation at Teng Hsiao-ping’s crime of trying to reverse correct verdicts and restore capitalism and demonstrated their love for the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.

This festival, sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and the Peking Municipal Revolutionary Committee, reflected the vigorous development of singing by the masses in the capital.

Singing festivals were also held in Shanghai, Tientsin, and other places on the same day.

Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew Ends Visit

Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and the Singaporean goodwill mission led by him left Kwangchow for home on May 23 after a two-week visit to China.

The Prime Minister and his party visited Tachai, Sian, Yenan, Shanghai, Wuhsi, Kweilin and Kwangchow from May 14 to 23. Speaking about his journey through China, Prime Minister Lee said in a toast in Kwangchow that his two weeks in China are very instructive and all members of the mission are deeply impressed by the hard work of the Chinese people. He would carry home to Singapore this great experience. The way China solves its problem self-reliantly will remain in their memories, he said. He also expressed the wish that the friendship between the peoples of Singapore and China and the mutual understanding between the two countries will be enhanced.

Earlier, before leaving Peking for a visit to other parts of China, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew gave a grand banquet on May 13.

Prime Minister Lee said in his toast: “During the three days of formal and informal talks, I have had personal experience of how the views of the Government of the People’s Republic of China are expounded on the international situation, the three worlds which China categorizes countries under, and the principles which guide the policies of the Government of the People’s Republic of China in dealing with the countries of Southeast Asia. You have classified Southeast Asian countries in the third world together with China, which you have modestly described as a developing socialist country.” He said: “The prospects for cordial relations between our two countries, though we have different economic and political systems, are good.”

In his toast at the banquet, Premier Hua Kuo-feng said: “The current visit to China by Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew at the head of the goodwill mission is a major event in the relations between China and Singapore. Chairman Mao has met and had a friendly conversation with Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew. In the last few days, our two sides held talks and had a sincere exchange of views on matters of common interest.” He pointed out: “This visit by Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew is of benefit to promoting the friendship between the peoples of China and Singapore and mutual understanding between our two countries.” He expressed the belief that through joint efforts the friendly relations between the two countries will continue to develop on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

Passing Away of Comrade Hong Won Gil Mourned

Chu Teh, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, and Premier Hua Kuo-feng on May 19 sent a message to President Kim II Sung and Premier Pak Sung Chul expressing deep condolences on the passing away of Comrade Hong Won Gil, Member of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea, Deputy to the Supreme People’s Assembly, Member of Central People’s Committee and Vice-Premier of the Administration Council of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.