Comrades and Friends:

Representatives of the Party, government and army organizations and of the workers, peasants, soldiers and people of other walks of life in the capital are holding a grand rally here today in warm celebration of Comrade Hua Kuo-feng's assuming the posts of Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Chairman of the Military Commission of the C.P.C. Central Committee, and in warm celebration of the great victory won by our Party in shattering the scheme of the anti-Party clique of Wang Hung-wen, Chang Chun-chiao, Chiang Ching and Yao Wen-yuan to usurp Party and state power. In the past few days, the whole Party, the whole army and the people of all nationalities throughout the country have been rejoicing from the bottom of their hearts, and the whole country has been a scene of jubilation. People in their hundreds of millions have taken to the streets and warmly celebrated this great victory of decisive significance won by the proletariat in repulsing the attacks of the bourgeoisie.

We lost our great leader and teacher Chairman Mao Tsetung one and a half months ago. The whole Party, the whole army and the people of all nationalities throughout the country were plunged into tremendous grief, and they were anxious about the destiny and future of the Party and the state, and anxious about whether the Central Committee of our Party could carry out Chairman Mao's behests, keep to the basic line and policies which Chairman Mao had formulated for our Party, and carry the proletarian revolutionary cause through to the end. The international proletariat and the revolutionary people of various countries, too, were concerned about this. Such anxiety and concern were not without foundation. At that time there was indeed a dark cloud in the sky over our country. While Chairman Mao was seriously ill and after he passed away, the anti-Party clique of Wang Hung-wen, Chang Chun-chiao, Chiang Ching and Yao Wen-yuan hastily seized the opportunity and attempted to usurp the supreme leadership of the Party and state. We were confronted with the real danger of our Party turning revisionist and our country changing its political colour. Our Party was in a moment of grave difficulty. In this life-and-death struggle between the two classes, the two roads and the two lines, our Party has emerged triumphant, the proletariat has emerged triumphant, and the people have emerged triumphant!

We firmly support the October 7, 1976 resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on the appointment of Comrade Hua Kuo-feng as Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Chairman of the Military Commission of the C.P.C. Central Committee. Comrade Hua Kuo-feng was selected by our great leader Chairman Mao himself as his successor. Chairman Mao personally proposed Comrade Hua Kuo-feng for the posts of First Vice-Chairman of the C.P.C. Central Committee and Premier of the State Council in April 1976. Then, on April 30, Chairman Mao wrote to Comrade Hua Kuo-feng in his own handwriting, "With you in charge, I'm at ease," which expressed his boundless trust in Comrade Hua Kuo-feng. At the critical moment of the Chinese revolution after Chairman Mao passed away, the Party Central Committee headed by
Comrade Hua Kuo-feng took resolute measures to expose the anti-Party clique of Wang Hung-wen, Chang Chun-chiao, Chiang Ching and Yao Wen-yuan, thus saving the revolution and the Party, consolidating the dictatorship of the proletariat in our country and enabling our Party, our army and the people of all nationalities in our country to continue their victorious advance along the socialist and communist course charted by Chairman Mao. The Party Central Committee headed by Comrade Hua Kuo-feng has won the wholehearted affection and warm support of the whole Party, the whole army and the people of all nationalities throughout the country. The course of events in the struggle shows what a wise decision Chairman Mao made. The cause of Chairman Mao has a worthy successor and our Party once again has a leader of its own in Chairman Hua Kuo-feng.

We warmly hail the great victory of our Party in defeating the anti-Party clique of Wang Hung-wen, Chang Chun-chiao, Chiang Ching and Yao Wen-yuan. This anti-Party clique refused to heed what Chairman Mao said, wantonly tampered with Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, opposed Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line, and practised revisionism in the guise of Marxism. They formed a "gang of four" and carried out sectarian activities to split the Party. They plotted and conspired tirelessly to overthrow a large number of leading Party, government and army comrades in the central organs and various localities and usurp Party and state leadership. During the period when Chairman Mao was seriously ill and after he passed away, they launched even more frantic attacks on the Party, in a hasty attempt to usurp the supreme leadership of the Party and state. They worshipped things foreign, fawned on foreigners and maintained illicit foreign relations, engaging in flagrant activities of capitalism and national betrayal. The essence of their line is outright betrayal of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought — internally, changing the proletarian nature of our Party, subverting the dictatorship of the proletariat in our country and restoring capitalism and, externally, renouncing the principles of proletarian internationalism and capitulating to imperialism. Chairman Mao pointed out: "You are making the socialist revolution, and yet don't know where the bourgeoisie is. It is right in the Communist Party — those in power taking the capitalist road. The capitalist-roaders are still on the capitalist road." The actions of the Wang-Chang-Chiang-Yao anti-Party clique prove that they are typical representatives of the bourgeoisie inside the Party, unrepentant capitalist-roaders still travelling on the capitalist road and a gang of bourgeois conspirators and careerists. Our Party's struggle against the Wang-Chang-Chiang-Yao anti-Party clique is a life-and-death struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, between socialism and capitalism, and between Marxism and revisionism. The anti-Party clique was only daydreaming when it attempted to split our Party. Having lost all popular sympathy, they were extremely isolated and feeble. The Party Central Committee headed by Comrade Hua Kuo-feng, carrying out Chairman Mao's behests, promptly and resolutely exposed the scheme of the Wang-Chang-Chiang-Yao anti-Party clique to usurp Party and state power. This shows that our Party is worthy of its reputation as a Party founded, tempered and nurtured by Chairman Mao himself, as a politically mature Marxist-Leninist Party, and as a great, glorious and correct Party. The victory of the struggle against the Wang-Chang-Chiang-Yao anti-Party clique is a tremendous victory for the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and for Mao Tsetung Thought. The victory of this struggle is of great immediate importance and far-reaching historic significance to us in upholding the Party's basic line and policies formulated by Chairman Mao for the entire historical period of socialism and carrying the proletarian revolutionary cause through to the end, in combating and preventing revisionism, consolidating the dictatorship of the proletariat in our country, preventing capitalist restoration and building socialism, and in upholding the principles of proletarian internationalism, firmly implementing Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and policies in foreign affairs, and uniting with the international proletariat and the revolutionary people of various countries, particularly the people of the third world countries, for common struggle against imperialism, revisionism and reaction and, in particular, against the hegemonism of the two superpowers — the Soviet Union and the United States.

We must rally most closely round the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, carry out Chairman Mao's behests, hold aloft the great red banner of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, adhere to the Party's basic line, persevere in continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat and start a new upsurge in studying works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and by Chairman Mao. We must thoroughly expose and repudiate the anti-Party clique of Wang Hung-wen, Chang Chun-chiao, Chiang Ching and Yao Wen-yuan, continue to criticize Teng Hsiao-ping and repulse the Right deviationist attempt to reverse correct verdicts, consolidate and develop the achievements of the...
Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and consolidate and develop the great unity of the people of all nationalities under the leadership of the working class and based on the worker-peasant alliance. We must take class struggle as the key link, grasp revolution, promote production and other work and preparedness against war, and continue to develop the excellent situation. Though there will still be difficulties and twists and turns on our road forward, we firmly believe that the future is bright. Under the leadership of the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, we will certainly be able to unite with all those forces that can be united with, bring all positive factors into play and do still better in our socialist revolution and socialist construction. Unite to win still greater victories!

Long live the great, glorious and correct Communist Party of China!

Long live invincible Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought!

Peking Review, No. 44