

Commemorate August 1, Army Day

Editorial by "Renmin Ribao," "Hongqi" and "Jiefangjun Bao"

THE Chinese People's Liberation Army founded and led by our great leader Chairman Mao and commanded by Vice-Chairman Lin has now passed through 44 glorious years in which it has grown in strength and advanced triumphantly in the storms of domestic and international class struggles and the inner-Party struggle between the two lines.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army is a powerful weapon of the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese people for seizing and consolidating political power. As soon as it was born it presented itself before the Chinese people as an army of a completely new type. It comes from the people and firmly relies on them. Growing from a small and weak force into big and strong, it carried on 22 years of revolutionary wars along an arduous and tortuous road and fought to create the people's regime. During the 22 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the army has carried forward its fine tradition of being a fighting force as well as a working force and a production force. Together with the people of the whole country, it has persevered in continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat, smashed aggression and subversion by imperialists, revisionists and reactionaries, won victories in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and built the motherland into a socialist country which has taken its first steps on the road of prosperity.

The People's Liberation Army is invincible because it is boundlessly loyal to the Party, the people, the great leader Chairman Mao and his proletarian revolutionary line. It arms itself with Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought — the theoretical basis guiding the Party's thinking — and consistently keeps to a firm and correct political orientation. It strictly observes the principle **the Party commands the gun, and the gun must never be allowed to command the Party** and places itself under the Party's absolute leadership, going where the Party directs and acting as Chairman Mao teaches. It takes wholehearted service to the people as its purpose and identifies its responsibility to the people with its responsibility to the leading organs of the Party. It has maintained remarkable unity in its own ranks as well as with those outside its ranks. And it has a conscious discipline, a strong sense of revolutionary vigilance, a heroic spirit to vanquish all enemies and the strategy and tactics for people's war.

It is an army which integrates patriotism with internationalism. There is vigorous revolutionary political work to ensure Party leadership over the army politically, ideologically and organizationally. History has fully testified to this truth: **We are the great People's Liberation Army, we are the troops led by the great Communist Party of China. Provided we constantly observe the directives of the Party, we are sure to win.**

We are now in a great new era of revolution. The world is changing, changing more and more favourably for the revolution and unfavourably for counter-revolution. Chairman Mao pointed out in his solemn statement of May 20, 1970: **"The danger of a new world war still exists, and the people of all countries must get prepared. But revolution is the main trend in the world today."**

A new high tide in the struggle against U.S. imperialism is sweeping the world. Asia with its more than one thousand million people is in revolt. Africa is seething. Latin America is in tumult too. The people of the United States have kindled the raging flames of a revolutionary movement. The revolutionary struggles waged by the people of North America, Europe and Oceania are surging ahead. The political consciousness of the world's people is much higher than a decade ago or even five years ago. The genuine Marxist-Leninist Parties and organizations in various countries are constantly developing and growing stronger in the course of struggle. The universal truth of Marxism-Leninism is being recognized, grasped and applied by more and more revolutionary people of the world. In carrying out military aggression and political deception, U.S. imperialism and its running dogs have educated the people by negative example and this has enabled the people to see both their ferocious features and inherent weakness. Through practical struggles, the people of various countries in the course of time have exploded superstitions about U.S. imperialism. They dare to challenge, resist and fight it, and they dare to take up arms and continuously use revolutionary wars to defeat the wars of aggression continuously launched by U.S. imperialism and its followers. The great victories won by the people of Viet Nam and the other Indochinese countries in their war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation have set a brilliant example of a weak nation defeating

a strong, and a small nation defeating a big. The militant unity of the people of various countries is growing rapidly and the international united front against U.S. imperialism is expanding constantly. The two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, are colluding and contending with each other; they are making redoubled efforts to extend their forces of aggression to the vast intermediate zone in an attempt to redivide the world, and this has made the people throughout the world rally together and attack them. There is a growing tendency for medium and small nations to get united in opposing the politics of hegemony pushed by the superpowers. People want to make revolution, nations want liberation and countries want independence — this has become the irresistible trend of history.

The star of U.S. imperialism is now declining just as the star of the British Empire did in the past. The overweening plan of U.S. imperialism for world hegemony has gone bankrupt and its policies of aggression and war are running up against a wall everywhere. The positions it occupies in the world are fast shrinking and its followers grow fewer and its opponents more. At home the United States is in the grip of political chaos, economic disorder and social unrest and the people are losing confidence in the government. Social-imperialism is sitting on a volcano and is also having a very hard time. Domestically it is faced with insuperable contradictions and widespread discontent. Internationally it is stretching its hands out everywhere and pushing its "theories" of "limited sovereignty," "international dictatorship" and "socialist community." This has exposed to the people of the world ever more clearly its expansionist and aggressive nature.

The enemy rots with every passing day, while for us things are getting better daily. Our revolutionary unity with the fraternal socialist countries has become stronger and our relations of friendship and co-operation with many Asian, African and Latin American countries have developed further. The friendly contacts between the Chinese people and the people of other countries, including the American people, are rapidly expanding. We have established diplomatic relations with more and more countries. The U.S. imperialist policy of blockading and isolating China has failed completely. Chairman Mao's revolutionary diplomatic line has won great victories. China's international prestige is increasing. We have friends all over the world.

The excellent international situation is the result of the development of the basic contradictions in the world today, of the continuous victories of the world's people in their protracted struggles against U.S. imperialism and its running dogs, and of the common

struggle waged by all the countries and people that are subjected to aggression, control, intervention or bullying by the two superpowers.

Chairman Mao says: **"All reactionary forces on the verge of extinction invariably conduct desperate struggles. They are bound to resort to military adventure and political deception in all their forms in order to save themselves from extinction."** Imperialism will never change its aggressive nature because it is defeated. Sometimes it has to change its tactics and play every kind of insidious trick, but in the final analysis it does so only to serve its policies of aggression and war. Although U.S. imperialism and social-imperialism talk about disarmament every day, they are actually engaged in arms expansion all the time. While carrying on nuclear blackmail, they are actively preparing to fight large-scale conventional war. Imperialism means war. So long as imperialism exists, the world will have no peace.

The whole Party, the whole army and the people throughout the country should concern themselves with affairs of state and international affairs, conscientiously study Chairman Mao's May 20 statement, his theses on international class struggle and his revolutionary diplomatic line and policies, and study the historical experience of our Party in carrying out tit-for-tat struggles against the class enemies at home and abroad, so as to follow Chairman Mao's great strategic plan closely and advance victoriously. We should adhere to Chairman Mao's great teachings **"Heighten our vigilance, defend the motherland"** and **"Be prepared against war, be prepared against natural disasters, and do everything for the people,"** firmly bear in mind that we must keep vigilant at all times and stand well prepared against aggression by imperialism and social-imperialism. The better the situation, the more prudent we should be. We should guard against any slackening of our vigilance and be ready to cope with surprise attacks by the enemy. **The People's Liberation Army is always a fighting force.** The commanders and fighters of the whole army must not at any time relax their fighting will. It is essential to strengthen ideological education in preparedness against war and conscientiously make such preparations. It is essential to continue strengthening the revolutionization and militancy of the army, carry on political-ideological work in a down-to-earth way and do a good job of military training so as to raise the fighting capabilities of the armed forces in an all-round way. Constant efforts should be made to do well in the work of "three supports and two militaries" (i.e., support the broad masses of the Left, support industry, support agriculture, military control and political and military training). The people's militia should be built energetically as a powerful force to strengthen national defence and step up socialist

economic construction. Preparedness against war is an important aspect and long-term task in carrying out the Party's basic line for the socialist period. So long as there is the threat of subversion and aggression by imperialism and social-imperialism, we should not for a single day forget to strengthen our preparedness against war or consolidate our national defence. Our preparedness against war is exclusively for the purpose of defence. **We will not attack unless we are attacked; if we are attacked, we will certainly counter-attack.** This is our consistent just stand.

Taiwan Province is an inalienable part of China's territory. The liberation of Taiwan is China's internal affair and brooks no foreign interference. We resolutely oppose "two Chinas," "one China, one Taiwan" and other such absurdities. We resolutely oppose the "Taiwan independence movement" and the fallacy that "the title to Taiwan remains to be settled." The United States must withdraw all its armed forces and military installations from Taiwan and the Taiwan Straits. We are determined to liberate Taiwan! We are confident that our patriotic compatriots in Taiwan will not allow any foreign forces of aggression to sever Taiwan from the rest of the territory of China.

Following the great leader Chairman Mao's teachings, the Chinese people will at all times be loyal to proletarian internationalism and unite with the proletariat and other revolutionary people the world over, fight shoulder to shoulder with them and win victory together. The foreign policy of our Party and Government is firm and unshakable. It is: To develop relations of friendship, mutual assistance and co-operation with socialist countries on the principle of proletarian internationalism; to support and assist the revolutionary struggles of all the oppressed people and nations; and to strive for peaceful coexistence with countries having different social systems on the basis of the Five Principles of mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence, and to oppose the imperialist policies of aggression and war. Thus we have done and so we shall continue to do. We will firmly fulfil our internationalist duties. Whoever opposes imperialism or makes revolution has our support. We resolutely support the heroic Albanian people in their just struggle against imperialism, revisionism and reactionaries. We resolutely support the heroic people of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia in carrying the war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation through to the end. The U.S. forces of aggression and their lackey troops must unconditionally withdraw from Viet Nam and the whole of Indochina, lock, stock and barrel. The U.S. armed forces must withdraw from the southern part of Korea, from Japan, from other parts of Asia and from all other places under their forcible

occupation. We resolutely support the heroic Korean people in their just struggle against U.S. imperialism and Japanese militarism and for the peaceful reunification of their fatherland. The Chinese people are determined to fight side by side with the people of Japan and other Asian countries against the revival of Japanese militarism by the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries. We firmly support the Palestinian and other Arab peoples in their struggle against the U.S.-Israeli aggressors. We firmly support the people of African countries in their struggle against aggression, subversion and intervention by colonialism and neo-colonialism and against racial discrimination. We firmly support the people of Cuba in their struggle against U.S. imperialist aggression and in defence of national independence. We firmly support the people of Latin American countries in their struggle to safeguard national independence, sovereignty and their rights over 200-nautical-mile territorial waters. We firmly support the people of Asian, African and Latin American countries in their struggle for national liberation. We firmly support the people of the United States in their just struggle against the U.S. Government's policies of aggression and war and racial discrimination. We firmly support the struggles of the working class and other revolutionary people of North America, Europe and Oceania. We firmly support the just struggles of all countries and people subjected to aggression, control, intervention or bullying by the two superpowers.

Under the guidance of the line of unity for victory formulated at the Ninth Party Congress, the people of the whole country have brought about a new high tide in the socialist revolution and socialist construction. We should make still greater efforts in the living study and application of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, criticize revisionism and rectify the style of work in a deep-going way, study the history of inner-Party struggle between the two lines and do a good job in conducting education in ideology and political line so as to carry out Chairman Mao's revolutionary line even more consciously. In the spirit of continuing the revolution, we should deepen the struggle-criticism-transformation on all fronts, **grasp revolution, promote production and other work and preparedness against war.** Army-men and civilians throughout the country must remain **modest, prudent and free from arrogance and rashness** in their style of work, **support the government and cherish the people, support the army and cherish the people,** strengthen army-government and army-civilian unity and, under the leadership of the Party Central Committee with Chairman Mao as its leader and Vice-Chairman Lin as its deputy leader, make determined efforts to fulfil the fighting tasks set by the Ninth Party Congress and the First and Second Plenary Sessions of the Ninth Central Committee of the Party and strive for still greater victories!

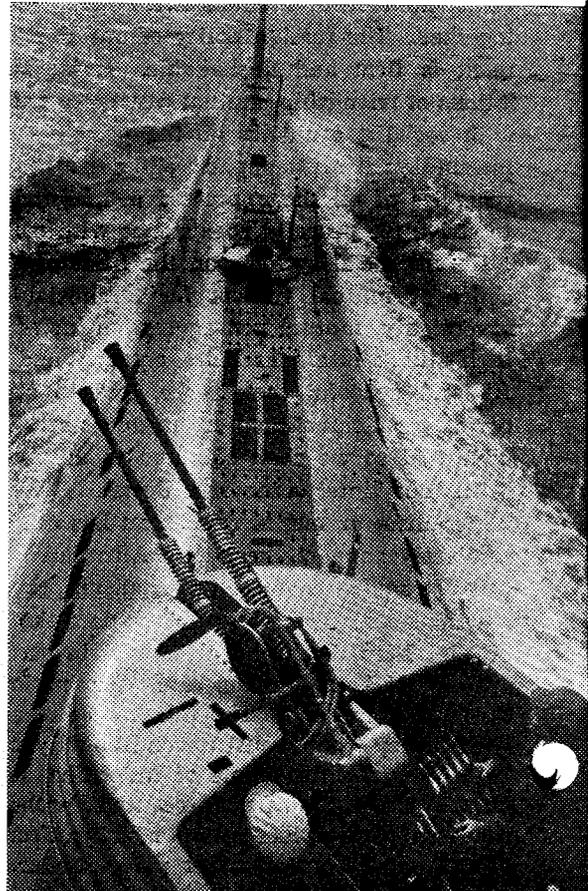
Heighten Our Vigilance, Defend the Motherland



Comrade Chen Chang-feng (second from the left), a Red Army soldier who followed Chairman Mao in the Long March and now Deputy Provincial Military Area, telling comrades of his experience in studying Marxist-Leninist and Chairman Mao's works

A submarine on a training cruise

Determined to liberate Taiwan, militiawomen at the Fukien front are training hard.

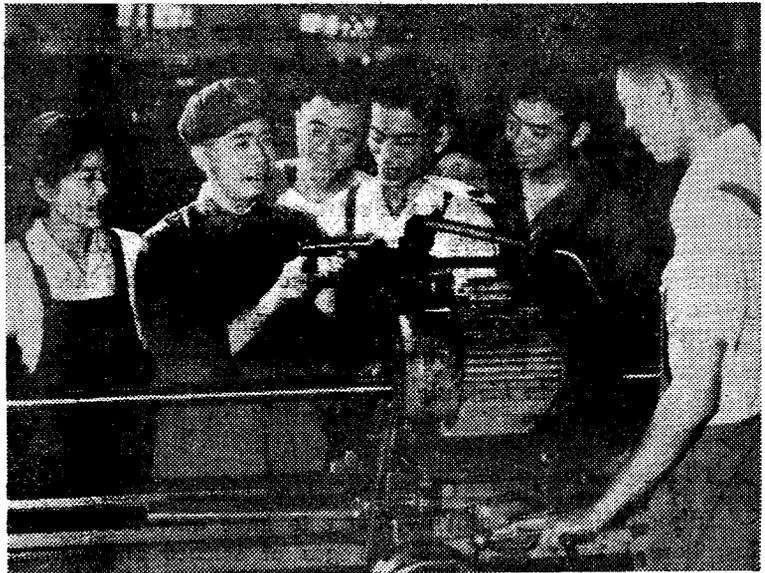




P.L.A. commanders and fighters on the march



Defending our motherland's air space



Comrade Liang Tsai-fa (second from the left), army representative in the Wuhan Heavy Machine Tool Plant, discussing a problem of technical innovation with the workers



P.L.A. commanders and fighters stationed in Tibet's Aili Area patrolling together with local militiamen of various nationalities