

## Fall of Lin Piao Came As a Shock

### Indian Maoists Criticize Peking

By Sharad Jhaveri

JAMNAGAR—A group of Naxalites who had been followers of the late Lin Piao have raised several questions about the role of the Chinese Communist party in Lin Piao's downfall. A report by this group charging that the "CPC owes an explanation," appeared in the November 16, 1974, issue of the leftist West Bengal weekly *Frontier*, which often publishes material on discussions within the Naxalite movement.

The pro-Lin Piao group refuses to view the downfall of Lin Piao as an internal question of the Chinese CP. It says that Lin's downfall has caused severe divisions among the Indian Naxalites, because the Communist party of India (Marxist-Leninist) had based its strategy of guerrilla warfare on the "people's war" thesis propounded by Lin.

The report said, "Because a succinct formulation of the role of guerrilla warfare in mobilising the masses against the enemy is not there in any of the Chairman's [Mao's] works, Charu Mazumdar naturally had to defend himself and his thesis on the authority of Lin Piao."

Until 1969, the dispatch pointed out, no Naxalites dared question Lin's authority. Charu Mazumdar had called on the CPI(ML) cadres to establish the authority of "Comrade Lin Piao" as the only means of establishing Mao Tsetung Thought on Indian soil. All was well so long as Lin Piao was firmly in the saddle. Authority flowed from the chairman through the vice-chairman to Charu Mazumdar.

Lin Piao's downfall was a severe shock to this Naxalite group. In an organization like the CPI(ML), engaged in armed actions isolated from the mass struggle and closely patterned on Mao's bureaucratized party, the influence of authority is quite strong.

In discussing the role of Lin Piao and Charu Mazumdar, the report said, "Authority is science, authority is the correct revolutionary politics and hence makes no mistake." It further stated that, "the history of the party of Lenin and that of the Chairman teaches us that the revolutionary party grows only around a single individual and that the correct politics has always been associated with the thinking of an individual."

This Naxalite group considered Lin Piao's emergence as Mao's successor the most significant outcome of the Chinese Cultural Revolution. It has therefore demanded from the Chinese CP more information about the "crimes" of Lin Piao.

The group also suspects that the issues behind Lin's downfall go deeper than the explanations given by the Chinese Maoists.

The report noted the sudden and continued silence of the Chinese CP and Peking Radio regarding the CPI(ML). "Since 1971 September till this day," it stated, "the CPC has not had a single word to say about Naxalbari or about the CPI(ML) or about the martyrdom of our beloved leader," Charu Mazumdar.

The report questions the policy of the Chinese CP in aiding the bourgeois regime in Sri Lanka to crush the JVP. It said that peaceful coexistence is subordinate to proletarian internationalism and that under no circumstances can the latter be sacrificed or ignored, even temporarily, in order to preserve the former.

The report charges the CPC with sacrificing proletarian internationalism. It asks, "How can one explain the fact that the CPC is less concerned about the fate of world revolution to-day than at any time before?"

The group thinks that "revisionists" have once again gained the leadership of the Chinese CP and criticizes the diplomacy of Chou En-lai.

The discussion among Indian Naxalites has not yet gone beyond the limits of Stalinist politics and practice. The Naxalites still do not realize that the manner of Lin Piao's elevation as Mao's successor and his sudden downfall is totally alien to the Leninist tradition and has nothing to do with real Marxism. Their utterly blind worship and reverence for authority prevents them from critically evaluating Lin Piao's thesis of "people's war" from a correct Marxist standpoint.

Nevertheless, this document is significant. It shows the extent to which many Naxalites have gone in questioning the credentials of the Chinese Communist party. □

### U.S. Unemployment Will Hit 11.5 Percent, Meany Says

AFL-CIO President George Meany predicted May 6 that the U.S. unemployment rate would reach 11.5 percent before the current slump "bottoms out." At present, unemployment is officially listed at 8.9 percent.