

Delegation visits China

A delegation from the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist) visited the People's Republic of China recently at the invitation of the Communist Party of China.

The CPA (M-L) chairman, Bruce Cornwall, and vice-chair, Maureen Davies, were warmly received by representatives of the Chinese Communist Party.

The delegation had the opportunity of visiting Beijing and several provincial cities and country areas for exchanges at many levels from the factory floor and farms to the national leadership.

During the visit the delegation gained insights into the workings of democracy on the factory floor, workers electing the management of plants, deciding the breakdown of income of factories, determining the factories' expenditure and development in concert with state plans. Delegation members were introduced to the Chinese people's vigilance about the ideological and economic consequences of dealing with foreign monopolies in the New Economic Zones, the way the leadership of collectives is maintained while some peasants are working under individual contracts, and the active participation of workers and peasants in the management of factories and farms, in the social life of the cities and countryside and in running the country.

The delegation also saw active participation and a high level of conscious activity by party units in ideological development and practical steps taken about Marxist theory to strengthen the hold of Marxism and the practice of the mass line.

Every visitor to China can see that the people are well fed, well clothed and that they have televisions and stereos. Many are buying washing machines and fridges. Some in country areas are buying vehicles. The people's living standards certainly appear to be steadily rising over time.

The delegation was in China only for a short period. One has to say that the observations of outsiders cannot be based on the wide experience of China accumulated by the Chinese Communists, despite the fact that the discussions and insights shared with the delegation were extensive.

With that proviso, to sum up the delegation's impressions, they are that things in China are generally good. There are problems which generally speaking from the outside it would appear are being tackled. It seems that, if the efforts to overcome problems and the steps currently being taken are persisted with and carried right through, there are strong grounds for confidence in the future of China, socialism in China and the Chinese Communist Party.

The visit of the delegation continued the strong relations between Australian and Chinese Communists on the basis of our common striving to master the principles of Marxism.

The CPA (M-L) welcomes such opportunities for exchanges and gaining greater insight into the experience of Chinese Communists.