Marxism-Leninism was born in struggle. Marxism-Leninism arose because it accurately reflected the decisive role in social change, of changes and advances in the productive forces. Those advances in the productive forces necessarily compelled changes in the relations of production. Society had gone through epochs of primitive communism, slavery, feudalism and capitalism — each an advance on its predecessor.

Chairman Mao Tsetung became the greatest inheritor, defender and developer of Marxism-Leninism of our time. He was of a stature equal to that of Marx and Lenin. Within the Chinese Communist Party he led the struggle against a succession of ten sets of representatives of the bourgeoisie and commenced that against the 11th set of such representatives — the "gang of four." On a world scale, he initiated and led the great struggle against the modern revisionists headed by Khrushchov. This struggle was of the most momentous importance. At the very crisis of imperialism and on the eve of its worldwide defeat, Khrushchov jumped out within the communist movement to try to save imperialism and defeat the socialist revolution. Throughout the world communist movement, hitherto concealed representatives of the bourgeoisie jumped out in response to Khrushchov’s cue. A worldwide debate and struggle ensued.

In this part of the world, the battle occurred within the Communist Parties of Australia and New Zealand. In Australia, the leadership of Sharkey, Dixon, Aarons, revealed its bourgeois character and attacked Marxism-Leninism. However, within the Communist Party of Australia a solid core of proletarian revolutionaries, remained loyal to Marxism-Leninism. The revisionists Sharkey, Aarons, Dixon, split away. The ranks of Australian Communists were cleansed. Of course, this did not end the struggle for the purity of Marxism-Leninism. That continues to this day. Lesser representatives of the bourgeoisie have arisen and been defeated. This process will continue. The rise and fall of the bourgeois representatives called the "gang of four" has found its reflection in parties outside the Communist Party of China. Around it, a new form of revisionism is developing. A new international centre for this form of revisionism has arisen. This is because on a world scale, the proletarians produce and strengthen their Marxist-Leninist Party and the bourgeoisie makes more and more desperate efforts to get its representatives within the Communist Party to subvert that Party. This is nothing but the continuation of the process that commenced in Marx’s time. It will continue till the worldwide victory of communism.

At the time of the struggle against Khrushchov’s revisionism, the leadership of the Communist Party of New Zealand, headed by Comrade V.G. Wilcox, adhered to Marxism-Leninism, unlike the Sharkey, Dixon, Aarons leadership. The New Zealand Party, and in particular Comrade Wilcox, played an outstanding role in the international struggle and internally, the New Zealand Party rid itself of bourgeois elements. As a fraternal delegate to the critical Australian Party Central Committee of February 1962, Comrade Wilcox dissociated himself and the New Zealand Party from the revisionist line of Sharkey, Dixon, Aarons and
Co. His action was of international significance and a great encouragement and support for Australian Marxist-Leninists.

The particular phase of the struggle expressed in the struggle against Khrushchov revisionism resulted in a great strengthening of Marxism-Leninism. New Communist Parties and Marxist-Leninist groups arose.

New tasks arose, new opponents of Marxism-Leninism arose.

The Communist Party of Australia (M-L) and comrades like Comrade Wilcox adhered to Marxism-Leninism and the new development of it by Chairman Mao. Comrade Wilcox and leaders of the Communist Party of Australia (M-L) on one occasion jointly met Chairman Mao. The Australian Party leaders and Comrade Wilcox have long been comrades-in-arms. Together they have striven to uphold Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought. In the present new phase of the struggle against revisionism — Left in form, but Right in essence — new questions arise. Communists are compelled to define their attitudes to them.

Chairman Mao’s theory of the differentiation of the three worlds, the continuing of the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat, the estimate of Chairman Mao as a classic developer of Marxism-Leninism, are questions which have become touchstones in the struggle.

This whole question affects revolutionaries in Oceania. The three worlds theory elucidates the tasks for the countries of Oceania which are composed of countries of the second world (Australia and New Zealand) and of the third world, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Nauru, Fiji, Western Samoa, etc., and showed how they were menaced by the superpowers and particularly Soviet social-imperialism. It showed the main force as the third world and the fact that the second world countries could, on some issues, be united with in struggle against the superpowers.

Again, such proletarian revolutionaries as the Communist Party of Australia (M-L), Comrade Wilcox and others both inside and outside the Parties, upheld these great truths. Others deserted either outright or by muttering and mumbling or by silence or by failing to uphold Chairman Mao’s great statement “Practise Marxism and not revisionism; unite and don’t split; be open and aboveboard, and don’t intrigue and conspire.”

In the contemporary world, the struggle and contention between the superpowers acutely affects Oceania. The solidarity of all Marxist-Leninists of Oceania, which includes Australia and New Zealand, is of great importance. Both within and without the Parties, Marxist-Leninists have the job of uniting ever more closely in the great cause of national independence, national liberation and socialism. They will certainly defeat all those who in the name of communism oppose the revolutionary essence of communism either by silence, attempted suppression of comrades like Comrade Wilcox, lies, slanders, intrigues and conspiracies. The truth is certain to triumph. The handful of Australian supporters of the “gang of four” along with all such people, are nothing but bourgeois representatives. Engels said: “The development of the proletariat proceeds everywhere amidst internal struggles. . . . And when, like Marx and myself one has fought harder all one’s life long against the alleged socialists than against anyone else (for we only regarded the bourgeoisie as a class and hardly ever involved ourselves in conflicts with individual bourgeois), one cannot greatly grieve that the inevitable struggle has broken out....”