

Revisionism Greases the Skids

USCPFA Slides Toward Oblivion

The U.S.-China People's Friendship Association (USCPFA) once had the inspiring task of building friendship and understanding for a revolutionary China that represented a light toward a brighter future for mankind. Today it has the unenviable job of apologist, travel agency and minor league business agent for the bunch of revisionist chieftains currently serving up China to the drooling jaws of the U.S. imperialists. At their national convention in Detroit on Labor Day weekend, they seemed to be straining to convince themselves and the U.S. capitalists that they were still the best outfit for this job.

It's been one year since the turmoil in the USCPFA, caused by the overthrow of working-class rule in China, came to a head. At last year's convention, many quit this organization after the Revolutionary Communist Party (the Revolutionary Union, which preceded the RCP, was instrumental in the formation of the earliest Friendship Associations back in 1971) and supporters launched a sharp political struggle, pointing out that USCPFA was degenerating into a cheering section for the re-enslavement of the Chinese people to capitalism by Teng Hsiao-ping, Hua Kuo-feng and Co.

This year puts some new light on last

year's arguments. At the San Francisco convention last September, quite a few USCPFA leaders tried, feebly, to claim that China's line and policies today were really Mao's revolutionary policies. They said that the so-called "gang of four," who were overthrown for upholding Mao's line, were actually against Mao. China's current leaders were advertised as the real Maoists.

Well, USCPFA, where are these arguments now? While Mao's name is occasionally tossed around for a cover, the real story is coming out naked. The head of security for this year's convention was a CPML'er, and the CPML is "pro-China" and still claims to uphold Mao Tsetung. But when some RCP supporters went into the convention to investigate the scene, this person followed them around muttering "damn Maoists"!

The official Chinese government

leader at the convention, Wang Bingnan, said very little about this question. Far more interesting were the remarks of Dr. Paul Lin, a Chinese American who lived in China. Although Lin was billed as a speaker for USCPFA, his speech was so much an apology for the Chinese revisionists that he could have been a dummy sitting on Wang's lap, saying the "naughty things" Wang wouldn't dare say. While Wang has put out to the press the transparent lie that Mao's line is now being carried out "better than ever," Lin openly attacked Mao. "Why didn't Mao remove the Four? This causes one to question Mao's ability in his later years." Under this banner of "later years," the revisionists are attacking everything Mao stood for in the socialist revolution.

Lin also bragged about how the current rulers are destroying China's socialist economy, planned to meet the needs of the people first, and replacing it with an anarchistic capitalist economy based on profit. "In Nanking they are experimenting with allocating human resources by leaving regulation to the market," he said. "The best qualified gets the job. Economic security for those who are qualified. It's wrong to have security for no reason." China, where the workers really were the masters, is now dog-eat-dog all the way.

In an obvious reference to the

peasants who have been protesting their impoverishment resulting from the dislocations that capitalism has brought to agriculture, Lin said, "Freeloaders create dissension." He also admitted that aside from "seeking profit," "there is no other mechanism at this time for making an enterprise profitable." So much for the claim that China has not embarked on a speedway to capitalism!

USCPFA—A Sinking Enterprise

Despite the fancy digs in Detroit for this convention and the high-ranking Chinese guests and such luminaries as councilwoman May Ann Mahassey, a mouthpiece for Mayor Coleman Young, this meeting was about half the size of the one in San Francisco last year. At its high point it drew only 500 people for the banquet and main program. The *Revolutionary Worker* talked to one delegate who described how her chapter in California which had been large and active last year was now virtually non-functional.

Revisionist China generates a lot less interest and excitement than revolutionary China. But beyond this, the very reason for the existence of the USCPFA is in question. A position paper called "USCPFA Post-Normalization" distributed at the convention said, "Some feel that now that the goal of normalization has been met, and interchange between China and the U.S. is going on at all levels and through other organizations, our special role will be greatly diminished, perhaps even unnecessary." In other words, now that *Time* magazine has given Teng Hsiao-ping the Man of the Year award and is only too happy to

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Running for Revolution

85 years ago Labor Day was officially declared a holiday in the United States in direct opposition to the international revolutionary working class holiday May Day. It was meant to be a day when the capitalists' wage slaves

They had heard of the Party, had seen the fundraising posters around town and were very interested in what was going on. We talked about the Mao Defendants case, the \$1 million drive and why it is necessary, the new *Revolu-*

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promote China's capitalist "modernization," why is there a need for a special organization to promote this?

However, the paper points out that USCPFA must still "safeguard the permanence of this friendship," warning that "a possible major reversal of U.S. policy" could still occur. Could they be envisioning a possible shift to a Sino-Soviet alliance as the ever-pragmatic Teng and Co. decide to join what looks like the stronger threat to them in the countdown to World War 3?

So with a desperate tone, this proposal clings to the never-say-die position for the USCPFA. In a puny parody of the Chinese revisionists' capitalist "modernization" plan, they say, "We should make 1980 a USCPFA year of modernization." This venture, fittingly, also seems headed for the rocks. Despite the Association's grandiose plans, it is rapidly moving from being bourgeois to just plain irrelevant. Their problem is clear: now that they are promoting friendship with a newly bourgeois China, and on a bourgeois basis, they're competing with the big

boys—the U.S. capitalists—and USCPFA is out of its league.

Right now the main function of this organization is promoting and organizing tours to China, a role that will inevitably be taken over by more "professional" capitalist organizations like Pan American, which has recently been welcomed into the hotel and travel business inside China.

Still, the USCPFA is proud of its part in tying China more tightly to the U.S. imperialists' cultural and economic domination. The "post-normalization" paper boasts, "Members of USCPFA assisted in sending a group from the California Farm Bureau to China and USCPFA members helped send the Norman Lear Television and Motion Picture Group to China which among other results led to a relationship between CBS and China..." This "relationship" promises to eclipse any minor promotion the USCPFA can do.

But according to another paper at the convention, the USCPFA should be prepared to "jump into the mainstream," even if they do get swamped there. Perhaps a fine example is the following proposal, "USCPFA can join the other groups in the U.S.

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of the 20th century the typical Jew was who are helping to provide expertise in the areas of science and technology and *management.*" (our emphasis—*RW*) And the USCPFA newsletter is presently promoting the fact that the reactionary Dalai Lama of Tibet, who led a revolt against the Chinese revolution, is speaking in the U.S.

Wang Bingnan Denounced

The deathly boredom of this convention was punctured by one high point. On the night of the convention's major speech and banquet, the RCP and supporters were outside agitating about the Mao Tsetung Defendants and the joint attacks on them by the U.S. and Chinese bourgeoisie.

The convention and the city of Detroit were honoring Wang Bingnan, the revisionist scoutmaster heading the delegation of the Chinese organization for friendship with foreign countries which has been touring the U.S. to promote the new capitalists in China. Wang Bingnan has also announced to the press that groups like the RCP might benefit from the "campaign of disinfection" begun in China after the "gang of four" was overthrown.

In spite of tight security, a few RCP

members and supporters had managed to slip into the banquet hall. After a program of tired speeches, everyone awoke as the Maoists jumped up to denounce Wang and his attacks on U.S. revolutionaries. Ten feet away from him, with Red Books flashing, they loudly called him a traitor, chanting, "Free the Mao Tsetung Defendants, Stop the Railroad of Bob Avakian." "Mao Tsetung did not fail, revolution will prevail" rang throughout the whole ballroom before 25 security thugs ejected the protesters, furious that the Friendship Association—once a vigorous and healthy organization, had been once more exposed for the bankrupt business operation it has become. ■

Correction

August 31, 1979 *Revolutionary Worker*, page 11. In the article, "China Official Urges 'Raid' on U.S. Revolution," the second full sentence in column two should begin: **Coming at a time when Bob Avakian and 16 others are facing 241 years in jail for opposing Teng Hsiao-ping's visit to the U.S. last January...**