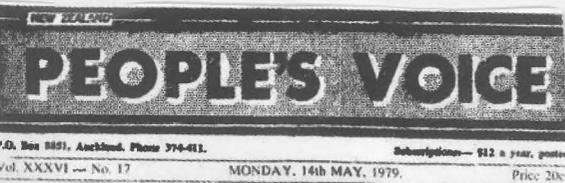

Communist Party of New Zealand

New Chinese Leaders Paving Way to Shelve Mao to Justify Their Policies

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Editor's Note: The following article appeared in the May 14 issue of People's Voice, the weekly organ of the Communist Party of New Zealand. It responds to accounts in the New Zealand press regarding the possible rehabilitation of Liu Shao-chi. The subheads appeared in the original article.

Over the recent past the Communist Party and the People's Voice have been consistently exposing the betrayal of socialism in China by its present leaders, headed by Deng Xiaoping and Hua Guofeng (Teng Hsiao-ping and Hua Kuo-feng).

This betrayal has been made evident to the world by China's honeymoon with US imperialism and the agreements made with scores of giant foreign monopolies for the exploitation of China's people and natural resources.

There are no doubt some people who still think that Deng Xiaoping and Co. are following the policies of Mao Tsetung, despite the evidence to the contrary. They shut their eyes to what everyone knows, for instance that under Mao, China kicked out the imperialist monopolies in 1949 and pursued a policy of self-reliance until Mao's death in 1976, when the present leading clique seized power, a policy now completely reversed.

"Rehabilitating" Mao's Arch-Foe

One of the clearest indications of how the new "leaders" are actually restoring all that Mao opposed comes from a news item in the NZ Herald of April 30, datelined Peking and headed: "What About You, Mr. Liu?"

According to "diplomatic sources" quoted in the item, the "rehabilitation is imminent of the main 'capitalist roader' in the Communist Party of China," Liu Shao-chi (now

spelt Liu Shaoqi). "It is no longer a question of if" says the news item, "merely a question of when he will be formally rehabilitated, although his reputation by implication already has been." The article also referred to Liu as "Chairman Mao's arch-foe," and to "hundreds of people purged or disgraced during China's Cultural Revolution" being "rehabilitated last week."

Once the People's Voice would have looked with suspicion on any capitalist press report on China. However, in view of the present "we love China now" attitude of US imperialism and its followers in NZ, including the Herald, we see no reason to doubt the correctness of the quoted item.

In Khrushchov's Footsteps

The process of "rehabilitation" has not just begun—it has been going on for months, during which thousands of counter-

revolutionaries, capitalists and landlords have been released from jail and given money and positions, just as was done by Khrushchov in Russia when he was restoring capitalism.

But on top of this, many former Party and state officials, who were disgraced as capitalist roaders and revisionists during the 1960s and before, have been restored to office. Let us mention a few of these "rehabilitations"; they include some who died in obscurity after their removal from office.

—Peng Teh-huai, a former Minister of Defence who wrote an open letter to the Party denouncing Mao and his policies and who was removed from his post in 1959 for revisionism.

—Peng Chen, a former top leader and Mayor of Peking closely associated with Liu Shaoqi, and who was dismissed for revisionism and attempting to block the development of the Cultural Revolution.

—Tao Chu, an appointee of Deng's who was removed during the Cultural Revolution for carrying on a line of denouncing everyone and everything, a line condemned by the central leadership and which Deng and Co. now try to assert was the line of the so-called "Gang of Four."

—Liu Shaoqi's wife, Wang Kuang-mei, one of those also in support of blocking the development of the Cultural Revolution.

These are only a few of the so-called "victims" who have recently been rehabilitated.

What the "rehabilitators" don't mention at any time is the fact that all expulsions and removals from posts of leading figures during the period were carried out by decisions of the central leadership which was headed by Mao himself!

The top figure among them all was undoubtedly Liu Shaoqi, who became known as "China's Khrushchov".

Why Liu Was Thrown Out

Liu was branded by the 9th Party Congress held in 1969 (under the chairmanship of Mao Tsetung) as a "hidden traitor, renegade and scab," expelled from the Party and removed from all posts.

He was shown to have established, with the connivance of the then Secretary-General of the Party, Deng Xiaoping, a privileged Party bureaucracy which lorded over the people, suppressed criticism, put technology before class struggle and politics, and was turning China towards a restoration of capitalism similar to that which Khrushchov and Co. had carried out in the Soviet Union.

The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (to give it its full title) was personally initiated and led throughout by Mao who rallied the Marxist-Leninists precisely in order to prevent such a thing happening in China. The unassailable fact was that "capitalist roaders" had virtually seized power in the Party and state, and could not be exposed and shifted from this power by the ordinary processes of inner-Party struggle, but only

through arousing the masses to a knowledge of what was happening and developing a mass movement to prevent it.

During the period of the 9th Congress Deng Xiaoping was also stripped of all Party and state posts, but not expelled.

Why the Revisionists Want to Rehabilitate Liu

Anyone with eyes to see can recognise now why Deng and the rest of the Chinese leaders want to "rehabilitate" Liu Shaoqi. It is because "rehabilitating" him would mean (they hope) putting the last nail in the coffin of the Cultural Revolution which exposed them and led to the disgrace of so many of them as revisionists, renegades and scabs.

Of course, concurrently, it would also mean completing the work of discrediting Mao Tsetung and his revolutionary policies by all means short of direct denunciation of the type Khrushchov carried out against Stalin—after his death.

In practice this work has been going on ever since the coup d'état of 1976 during which the revisionist clique of Deng and Hua usurped power.

The present leaders have disguised their attacks on Mao's policies by attacks on the so-called "Gang of Four", who came to the front during the mass struggles against the capitalist roaders in the 1960s and who were their principal opponents after Mao's death. The Four they attack are named: Jiang Qing (Mao Tsetung's wife Chiang Ching), Yao Wenyuan, Zhang Chunqiao (Chang Chun-chiao), and Wang Hungwen.

How the Trick is Turned

Let us illustrate from recent issues of the Peking Review how the work of discrediting Mao goes on.

In Peking Review No. 10 for March 9, there is an article entitled "A Reappraisal of Hai Rui Dismissed from Office." In this article it is said: "In the Cultural Revolution that followed, Jiang Qing (Chiang Ching) and company used the power they had seized and enforced a fascist dictatorship on the people, bringing disastrous losses to the whole Party and the whole nation." (Keep in mind those words, fascist dictatorship.)

In Peking Review No. 6, of 9-2-79, there is an article entitled "Commission for Inspection of Discipline Meets." It says: "Lin Biao (Lin Piao) and the 'gang of four' aggravated the situation when they threw overboard Party rules and regulations and replaced democratic centralism with fascist dictatorship." (Keep in mind those words, fascist dictatorship.)

In Peking Review No. 14 of 6-4-79, an article entitled "Social Sciences: A Hundred Schools of Thought Contend" says: "During the Great Cultural Revolution Lin Biao and the 'gang of four' crudely trampled the 'Two Hundreds' policy underfoot and imposed a fascist dictatorship on the intellectuals." (Keep in mind those words, fascist dictatorship.)

Now, China and the world well know that Mao personally led and directed the Cultural Revolution, and that he remained Chairman of the Party and head of the central leadership throughout, constantly directing the struggle against the bourgeois elements in the Party and state organisations.

What then is meant by the repeated declaration in the official publications of the present leadership that a "fascist dictatorship" was established? Everyone in China—if not outside—must know that this so-called fascist dictatorship could have had at its head only one person—Chairman Mao!

Thus, under the flimsiest of disguises, the present leaders of the Party and state in China are branding Mao as a fascist dictator. And, under the pretext of opposing the "gang of four," they have suppressed all Mao's writings after 1962 except for a few isolated remarks taken out of context. The suppressed material includes all the polemical writings of the Central Committee—drawn up under Mao's supervision—against Soviet revisionism; all Mao's writings during the Cultural Revolution; and all the documents of the 10th Party Congress, the last Congress before Mao's death.

Thus, the ground for the rehabilitation of Liu Shaoqi is being well prepared. In this connection, the previously quoted Herald news report said: "But the snag is that bringing Liu back raises awkward questions about Chairman Mao, and maybe they are not yet ready for them."

All this does, of course, present a puzzle to the local revisionist groupings such as Wilcox and company, "Struggle", and the Wellington Marxist-Leninist Organisation (Milo), and as well to the arch-revisionist E.F. Hill and his Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist).

So far they have all supported the Deng revisionists all along the line. Are they going now to support the claims that there was a fascist dictatorship in China from 1966, with the inescapable conclusion that Mao himself was a fascist dictator? And do they now support the "rehabilitation" of all Mao's former enemies, including Liu Shaoqi, thereby publicly placing themselves in total opposition to Mao?

Of course, having already swallowed without complaint the Chinese revisionists' prescription for turning the country into an imperialist superpower (the 3-worlds theory, the 'four modernisations', alliance with US imperialism, and full restoration of capitalism) what's a little thing like Liu's rehabilitation, or Mao being virtually labelled a fascist?

Still, while the leaders of these groups may have consciences supple enough to accommodate anything, their followers may have more than a few qualms. It will be interesting to see how many will refuse to be conned into denouncing Mao in the name of upholding Mao's ideas and policies, the position into which they are being inexorably pushed by the modern Chinese revisionist leaders. ■