

The Rise of Reaction in Wuhan

By SZ-TOH-LI

THREE months ago Wuhan was still the centre, the heart of nationalist-revolutionary China. Wuhan was the only centre that could boast the support of the masses, the toiling masses of the workers and peasants—the decisive factor in every revolutionary movement.

Three months ago Wuhan could easily be distinguished from Canton, where Li Chi Hsin, the reactionary tupan inaugurated his bloody dictatorship and appointed himself with the best blood of the Cantonese proletariat and peasantry. Three months ago Wuhan could also be distinguished from the military dictatorship of Chiang Kai-shek who came to the fore as the champion of the big bourgeoisie and the feudal elements of China, who were willing to compromise as easily with the Northern militarists as with the imperialist powers.

SZ-TOH-LI of the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Central Bureau has furnished The DAILY WORKER with four articles describing the betrayal of the liberation movement by the Wuhan leaders and the horrible butcheries and suppression which followed their surrender to Chiang Kai-shek and the other militarists.

By documentary evidence the writer shows that the Wuhan "moderates" took the same attitude toward the labor movement and the peasant organizations as did imperialists and their militarist allies.

Written the first of August, the general predictions made by the writer have been confirmed fully by subsequent events.

THREE months ago the voice and authority of the Wuhan Government commanded the fear if not the respect of even the most venomous enemies of the Chinese Revolution.

At home the reaction dared not raise its head; abroad the imperialist powers were already beginning to reconcile themselves to the idea of the permanence and stability of the Nationalist Government.

Three months ago the Wuhan Gov-

ernment still enjoyed the unqualified support and solidarity of the international proletariat and of the exploited peoples throughout the world.

THE First Workers' Republic of the Soviet Union occupying one sixth of the globe and representing a mighty revolutionary nation of 140 million workers and peasants, lent every ounce of their phenomenal energy and revolutionary fervor in support of the Chinese Revolution and

of the Wuhan Government.

Three months ago the workers, peasants, soldiers and students, and even the merchants were taught by the propagandists of the Kuomintang that the Chinese revolution constituted an integral part of the World Revolution.

WUHAN, as the heir of Red Canton, promised fairly to become the second Mecca of the World Revolution. Labor delegations and trade

union representatives from the imperialist and colonial countries came to revolutionary China to see for themselves what profound changes were taking place in awakening, giant China.

The Wuhan Government, as formerly Canton, became an asylum for the oppressed and persecuted of all the colonial and semi-colonial countries: Hindus, Koreans, Javanese, Filipinos, Formosans, etc.

THREE months ago the first International Workers' Delegation, composed of representatives of the working class of the three major imperialist countries, were still on the territory of the Wuhan Government, acquainting themselves with the work and progress of the revolutionary forces of the new China, especially with the condition of the toiling masses and their organizations, The Trades and Peasants' Unions.

(Continued on Page Three)

The Rise of Reaction in Wuhan

(Continued from page 1)

This the International Workers' Delegation could then do freely, for the Trades and Peasants' Unions were free and strong and thriving without any hindrance on the part of the reactionary forces.

The social revolution was beginning to shoot its roots deeply into the soil freshly tilled by the political revolution.

The agrarian revolution was beginning to sweep certain sections of Nationalist territory with its mighty waves.

THREE months ago, representatives of over fourteen million trade unionists of China, Korea, Java, U. S. S. R., England, U. S. A. and France met in Wuhan at the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Conference, whose first word was spoken in condemnation of imperialist invasion of China, and whose first appeal was to the workers of the Pacific and of the whole world to come to the active support of the Chinese Revolution.

As with the International Workers' Delegation, so at the Pan-Pacific Trade Union Conference, representatives of the Kuomintang and of the Nationalist Government made grandiloquent declarations about the decisive role played in the revolution by the Chinese proletariat, the peasantry and the Trade Unions; they declared solemnly that never, NEVER would the Nationalist Government deceive or betray the workers and peasants.

SHORTLY after the Pan-Pacific Conference, there was convened, also in Wuhan, the Fourth Trade Union Congress of the All-China Labor Federation.

Representatives from all parts of the country, even from provinces still in the hands of the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western militarists and reactionaries, gathered in Hankow, reported on the condition of the workers in the various sections of the country, and breathing inspiration from the revolutionary atmosphere of Wuhan and from the revolutionary experience and militancy of the Chinese proletariat and its leadership, they jointly adopted momentous decisions which were to acid-test their own strength and the revolutionary character of the Nationalist Government.

HERE too, eloquent representatives of the Nationalist Government and of the Kuomintang assured the delegates that the two main moving forces of the revolution were the workers and peasants, and that the Nationalist Government would and could never betray the interests of these two classes which constituted the mainstay of the Chinese Revolution.

* * *

Today.

TODAY the Wuhan Government is no longer revolutionary. It is completely in the hands of what may be called the Nationalist Militarists. No ingenious confusion on the part of Wong Ching-wei or any one else can deceive us. Today the Wuhan Government cannot by any stretch of the imagination be distinguished from

that of Li Chi-hsin or that of Chiang Kai-shek.

HOW could it be? The trade unions have all been raided and rummaged in true Chang Tso-lin fashion by Nationalist troops under omnipotent reactionary generals. Not a single trade union is open today in the Wuhan cities.

The trade union leaders are either under arrest (if not executed) or have been forced to flee. Martial law is the order of the day. Strikes are forbidden and trade union organizers are outlawed.

Every movement for the improvement of the condition of the workers is branded as Communist and is punishable by death.

THE trades and peasants' unions in the Hunan, Hupeh and Kiangsi provinces have been destroyed and many leaders and active workers executed. Reaction reigns supreme and has become brazenly daring.

WUHAN today is stifled with posters and proclamations issued and distributed by the reactionaries, calling for the complete destruction of the trade unions.

The leaders of the All-China Labor Federation and the Hupeh General Labor Union are being hunted down like criminals. Proclamations by the Government, the Military Council and the counter-revolutionary garrison commander offer big rewards for the denunciation and arrest of labor leaders and strike agitators.

ONLY the other day the Chairman and two secretaries of the Wharf Coolies' Union were arrested by garrison troops on the charge that they were instigating the workers to a general strike.

Executions of workers and active trade unionists take place daily in Wuhan. Many of the most active arsenal workers of Hanyang have been executed.

The "People's Tribune" of August 5, carries the following news item: "Wang Fang-shin, a reactionary, was executed by order of Wuhan Garrison Headquarters on Wednesday (Aug. 3). He was discovered to have plotted for a general strike. . ."

THE "Hankow Herald" of the same date reports that on Aug. 3, about ten former workers of the British Cigarette Co., being officials of the BCC Workers' Union, were arrested and handed over to garrison headquarters, charged with instigating local labor to a general strike. (They have probably met with the same fate.)

The "People's Tribune" of Aug. 11, reports that twenty-five "communists" including the chairman of the Kiukiang General Labor Union were executed in that city by order of the Nationalist Government.

DOES all this not recall the days of Sun Chuan-Fang in Shanghai or of Wu Pei-fu in Hankow? . . . The cynicism of the Wuhan counter-revolutionaries surpasses the morbid bestiality of a Mussolini. When the Italian Fascist Generalissimo murders trade unionists and revolutionaries, he at least does not charge the victims with being reactionaries and

counter-revolutionaries. The Wuhan executioners, on the contrary, murder the trade union leaders and revolutionary workers on the charge that they are reactionaries(!). This is of course intended to deceive the working masses. But the workers will not be deceived. They know their leaders and will avenge them in no uncertain manner.

(To be continued.)



For the Tenth Anniversary Celebrations

AS in all parts of the world, workers in the United States will be celebrating the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the world's first workers' government. Celebrate this great day in your own way. Read about Russia—talk to your fellow-worker. Give him a book or pamphlet from this list on all phases of Russian life:



- ...RUSSIAN TRADE UNIONS —.05
- ...RUSSIAN TRADE UNIONS IN 1923 —.05
- ...ROLE OF LABOR UNIONS IN THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION —.05
- ...GLIMPSES OF SOVIET RUSSIA —.10
- ...RUSSIA TURNS EAST —.10
- ...MARRIAGE LAWS OF SOVIET RUSSIA —.10
- ...CONSTITUTION, LABOR LAWS, ETC. —.10
- ...SOVIETS AT WORK —.10
- ...RUSSIAN WORKERS AND WORKSHOPS IN 1924 —.25
- ...RUSSIA'S PATH TO COMMUNISM —.25
- ...COMMERCIAL HANDBOOK OF THE U. S. S. R. —.30
- ...MY FLIGHT FROM SIBERIA —.50
- ...EDUCATION IN SOVIET RUSSIA —.50
- ...INDUSTRIAL REVIVAL IN SOVIET RUSSIA —.50
- ...RUSSELL-NEARING DEBATE ON RUSSIA —.50
- ...RUSSIA TODAY (Report of the British Trade Union Delegation)