

OPENING SPEECH BY CHAIRMAN LIU SHAO-CHI

Following is the full text of a translation of the opening speech made by Chairman Liu Shao-chi on September 28, at the meeting to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. — Ed.

Dear Comrades and Friends:

The meeting to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China is now declared open. To our dear guests who have come from afar to attend our National Day ceremonies, to the leading comrades of our great ally, the Soviet Union, and of the other socialist countries, to our comrades the delegates of the Communist Parties of various countries, to friends from all countries in the world, let us express our sincerest thanks and warmest welcome.

Ten years ago, the people of all nationalities of our country, led by the Chinese Communist Party and Comrade Mao Tse-tung, achieved the great victory of the people's democratic revolution against imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism and founded the People's Republic of China, thereby opening in China's history the new era of socialism.

In these ten years we have speedily achieved the great victory of the socialist revolution, thus completely freeing the social productive forces of our country. Our socialist construction is developing at a high speed. In ten years our industrial output has increased more than elevenfold and our agricultural production by 150 per cent. There has been an all-round rise in the living standard of our people. Our education, culture, science and health service are flourishing.

All our achievements have been created by the diligent labour of the broad masses of our people. The Great Hall of the People, in which we are holding this meeting, is itself a most eloquent testimony of the great creative power of the people. We will avail ourselves of this opportunity to convey our highest greetings to the more than 14,000 building workers and technical personnel who built this hall in ten months and to the entire working people who, holding aloft the glorious banner of the Party's general line for socialist construction, have achieved great successes in the great leap forward and in the people's commune movement.

During the last ten years we have received fraternal aid from the great Soviet Union and other socialist countries, sympathy and support from the proletariat of various countries and from all peace-loving countries and peoples of the world. We are sincerely grateful for this great aid and support given to us by our international friends.

Ten years is a short time. In so far as the needs of our country and people are concerned, our achievements are quite small and the leap forward in our construction is just beginning. Gigantic tasks still face us. To accomplish them we must constantly consolidate and strengthen the great unity of the Chinese people and the great unity of the peoples of the world.

The great unity of the Chinese people is the basic condition for winning victory in our revolution and construction. Under the banner of socialism, the people of all nationalities of our country are closely united in the big family of the motherland. The mass of workers, peasants and revolutionary intellectuals have forged strong ties between them through years of struggle and they are united with all patriots. As long as our 650 million people rally still more closely around the Chinese Communist Party, dedicate ourselves heart and soul to the same cause and tackle our work courageously and with might and main, we will certainly be able to overcome all difficulties and achieve our great goal.

The great unity of the world's peoples is the basic condition for the world's attaining peace and progress; it is also the international condition under which the cause of socialism triumphs in our country. We shall always unite with the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist camp. We shall always unite with the working people, the democratic and progressive forces, and the Communist Parties of various countries. We shall always unite with all people's governments in the world who stand for the preservation of peace, strive for national independence and oppose the policy of aggression and war.

We hold that in order to safeguard peace all states whatever their social systems should coexist peacefully and carry on peaceful competition in accordance with the five principles. Meanwhile, to safeguard peace we must curb aggression. To this day the U.S.A.

still occupies our territory Taiwan, and this the Chinese people absolutely cannot tolerate. We Chinese people are determined to liberate our territory Taiwan, Penghu, Quemoy and Matsu.

The countries of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union have always worked for the easing of international tension and for lasting world peace. Thanks to the efforts of the peace-loving countries and peoples the world over, the desire for peace is striking a deeper chord in the hearts of the people with each passing day. During the past decade, our 650 million Chinese people have always stood in the foremost position in defence of peace in Asia and the world and in the future we will continue to fight, hand in hand with all peace forces in the world, for the cause of peace and for mutual friendship among the peoples of all lands.

The world situation is favourable to the people engaged in safeguarding peace and fighting for independence and progress, favourable to the enhancement of the cause of peaceful construction of the socialist states and favourable to the enhancement of the cause of peaceful construction of the Chinese people.

May the entire people, under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and Comrade Mao Tse-tung, under the ever-victorious banner of Marxism-Leninism, and under the guiding light of the Party's general line for socialist construction, march forward bravely from victory to ever greater victory!

Long live the great unity of the Chinese people!

Long live the great unity of all the peoples of the world!

Long live the People's Republic of China!