Programme for Consolidation of Dictatorship of the Proletariat

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THIRD WORLD CHRONICLE

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Statement by Spokesman of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

A statement by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China was published on January 11, 1974. The statement declared:

Not long ago, the Saigon authorities in south Viet Nam made a brazen announcement putting more than ten islands of China's Nansha Islands, including Namwei and Tai ping, under the administration of south Viet Nam's Phuoc Tuy Province. This is a wanton infringement on China's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Like the Hsiahsia, Chunchsa and Tungsa Islands, the Nansha Islands have always been China's territory. In recent years, the Saigon authorities have intensified their encroachment upon some of the islands of the Nansha and Hsiahsia Islands, noisily claimed sovereignty over them on many occasions and even put up so-called "sovereignty markers" on them. Now the Saigon authorities have further openly incorporated more than ten islands, including Namwei and Taiping, into their bounds. This constitutes a new step designed for permanent seizure of China's Nansha Islands. This action of the Saigon authorities cannot but arouse the indignation of the Chinese Government and people.

The Government of the People's Republic of China hereby reiterates that the Nansha, Hsiahsia, Chunchsa and Tungsa Islands are all part of China's territory. The People's Republic of China has indisputable sovereignty over these islands. The natural resources in the sea areas around them also belong to China. The decision of the Saigon authorities to incorporate Namwei, Taiping and other islands of the Nansha Islands into south Viet Nam is illegal and null and void. The Chinese Government will never tolerate any infringement on China's territorial integrity and sovereignty by the Saigon authorities.

30,000 Worker-Peasant-Soldier College Students Graduate

On January 14, the Peking Municipal Revolutionary Committee called a grand rally to mark the graduation of the first group of worker-peasant-soldier college students. The graduates and the workers, peasants and soldiers attending the rally, totalling more than 10,000, warmly greeted this solid fruit of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and the victory of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line.

Close to 30,000 college students, the first group selected from workers, peasants and soldiers in 1970, graduated last year in various parts of the country and have begun to return to their posts.

During the Cultural Revolution, colleges and universities scrapped the old enrolment system and, in accordance with Chairman Mao's directive, enrolled students from the ranks of workers, peasants and soldiers with practical experience.

These students have brought about profound changes in the universities and colleges. As soon as they arrived, they put forward this slogan: "Into the colleges, run the colleges and transform them with Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought."

Guided by the Party's basic line during their three years at college, they conscientiously studied works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin as well as Chairman Mao's works, took an active part in the movement to criticize Lin Piao and rectify the style of work, tempered themselves and raised their political consciousness.

Under the leadership of university Party organizations, this fresh force plunged into the revolution in education together with the revolutionary teachers and staff. They firmly followed Chairman Mao's "May 7" Directive, combatted the pernicious influence of the old educational system that made the students divorced from proletarian politics, from productive labour and from the workers and peasants, and closely combined education with the three great revolutionary movements — class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment. "Open classroom" teaching that links education with society and is conducted in various forms has been put into practice, and a new system combining education with productive labour and scientific research has been established. Efforts have been made to remodel the world outlook of teachers and raise their political consciousness, and old teaching material and methods have been changed. All this has brought about increasingly profound changes to the schools.

During their years in college, these 1973 graduates put correct political orientation in the first place and made class struggle their main subject. They retained the fine qualities of plain living and hard struggle characteristic of the workers and peasants and paid attention to resisting corruption by bourgeois ideas and worked hard to remodel their world outlook.

The more than 400 worker-peasant-soldier students who graduated from the Shenyang Medical College last year persevered in serving the workers, peasants and soldiers during their years at college. They tried acupuncture on their own bodies and tasted new medicines in order to find new methods of treatment. They donated

(Continued on p. 13.)
Programme for Consolidation of Dictatorship of the Proletariat

— Notes on studying On the People's Democratic Dictatorship

by Yu Tung

THE question of the dictatorship of the proletariat is the basic content of the proletarian revolution. Throughout the entire historical period of socialism, the upholding and consolidation of the proletarian dictatorship is an indispensable condition for carrying through the socialist revolution, for the prevention of capitalist restoration and for the transition to communism.

Indispensable Condition for the Proletariat to Fulfil Its Historical Mission

On the eve of the founding of the People's Republic of China, Chairman Mao published On the People's Democratic Dictatorship, a programmatic work on the theory and policies of proletarian dictatorship. (See Selected Works of Mao Tsetung, Vol. IV, p. 411.) In line with Marxist-Leninist theory on the state, this work clearly points out that, after the victory of the Chinese people's revolution, the only road to socialism and communism is setting up the people's democratic dictatorship, i.e., the establishment of the state system of the proletarian dictatorship. Since the founding of New China, the historical progress of the socialist revolution and socialist construction in our country, especially the struggle to smash the two anti-Party cliques headed by Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, has fully testified to the correctness of the theory and policies Chairman Mao expounded in this work.

China's state system of the proletarian dictatorship is far superior to any capitalist state system. It is on the basis of this system that the Chinese people have abolished private ownership of the means of production and replaced it with public ownership of the means of production, thus opening up broad vistas for the development of the social productive forces. With the carrying out of the extensive and deep-going socialist revolution on the political and ideological fronts, and especially after going through the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, the proletariat's position in the realm of the superstructure has been strengthened, the great unity of the people of all nationalities in the country has been consolidated daily, our country's international prestige has been rising steadily and we have friends all over the world. In short, it is by relying on the proletarian dictatorship that our people have smashed the repeated attacks of the reactionary classes and reactionaries at home, prevented aggression and subversion by imperialism and social-imperialism, and won great victory in socialist revolution and socialist construction. Once poor and backward, China has become a socialist country with initial prosperity. A brighter future is ahead of us.

In his work, Chairman Mao has summed up the historical experience gained by the Chinese people's revolution in more than a hundred years, and especially the 28 years' historical experience of the new-democratic revolution carried out by the Chinese people under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. Thoroughly refuting the illusion of setting up a bourgeois republic in China, Chairman Mao has explicitly pointed out: "To sum up our experience and concentrate it into one point, it is: the people's democratic dictatorship under the leadership of the working class (through the Communist Party) and based upon the alliance of workers and peasants. This dictatorship must unite as one with the international revolutionary forces. This is our formula, our principal experience, our main programme." Chairman Mao's celebrated formula is a brilliant embodiment of the integration of Marxism-Leninism with the practice of the Chinese revolution. It points out to the proletariat how to defeat the bourgeois after the seizure of political power and advance on the bright road of socialism and communism.

According to the world outlook of the proletariat, the historical mission of the proletariat is the overthrow of bourgeois rule, abolition of classes and class differences, and the final realization of communism when mankind will enter the realm of Great Harmony. To fulfil this historical mission, the proletariat must work hard to create conditions, and "the leadership of the Communist Party and the state power of the people's dictatorship are such conditions." This is a Marxist-Leninist truth. Since the state is the product of the irreconcilability of class antagonisms, the state power of the proletarian dictatorship cannot and should not be abolished before the extinction of classes, but should be greatly strengthened. In refuting the absurdities
that we should abolish the state apparatus right now, Chairman Mao pointed out: "Yes, we do, but not right now; we cannot do it yet. Why? Because imperialism still exists, because domestic reaction still exists, because classes still exist in our country. Our present task is to strengthen the people's state apparatus — mainly the people's army, the people's police and the people's courts — in order to consolidate national defence and protect the people's interests. Given this condition, China can develop steadily, under the leadership of the working class and the Communist Party, from an agricultural into an industrial country and from a new-democratic into a socialist and communist society, can abolish classes and realize the Great Harmony." This directive has penetratingly expounded the importance and necessity to strengthen the proletarian dictatorship.

**Uphold and Consolidate the Proletarian Dictatorship**

After the socialist revolution in the ownership of the means of production was basically completed in China, Chairman Mao summed up the experience of the struggles between the two classes, two roads and two lines at home, took into consideration the positive and negative experience of the international communist movement and published On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People. This work has further enriched and developed the theory of the proletarian dictatorship. And for the first time in Marxist theory and practice it explicitly points out that after the basic completion of the socialist transformation of ownership of the means of production, there are still classes, class contradictions and class struggle and the proletariat must continue the revolution not only on the economic front but carry the socialist revolution on the political and ideological fronts through to the end. Chairman Mao has penetratingly analysed the basic contradictions in socialist society and made known the objective law of class struggle in the period of socialism, thus putting forth in a more comprehensive way the Party’s basic line in the entire historical period of socialism. This basic line has pointed out the orientation for upholding and consolidating the proletarian dictatorship. The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution initiated and led by Chairman Mao is a great political revolution waged by the proletariat against the bourgeoisie and all other exploiting classes under the proletarian dictatorship. This great revolution has smashed the two bourgeois headquarters headed by Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao, the two ringleaders who had long hidden themselves in the Party, shattered their schemes to turn the proletarian dictatorship into a bourgeois dictatorship, further expanded the proletariat's position in all realms of the superstructure and greatly strengthened and consolidated the proletarian dictatorship. As Chairman Mao has pointed out: "The current Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution is absolutely necessary and most timely for consolidating the dictatorship of the proletariat, preventing capitalist restoration and building socialism."

January 18, 1974

The great victories of the Cultural Revolution and of the movement to criticize Lin Piao and rectify the style of work by no means signify the end of the struggles between the two classes, two roads and two lines. The struggles will continue to be protracted, complicated and acute throughout the entire historical period of socialism. The bourgeoisie and all other exploiting classes will never give up their futile attempts and efforts for a restoration, nor will imperialism and social-imperialism give up aggression and subversion. Under these circumstances, we must continue to uphold and strengthen the proletarian dictatorship, and words and deeds that tend to relax or weaken the proletarian dictatorship are erroneous.

**Dictatorship Over Class Enemies**

The function of the proletarian dictatorship is, firstly, to suppress the domestic reactionary classes and reactionaries as well as elements opposing socialist transformation and socialist construction. Secondly, its function is to protect our country from aggression and subversion by external enemies. Like food and clothing, the proletarian dictatorship is something a victorious people cannot do without even for a moment. Without it, the proletariat will lose the political power it has seized, the reactionaries will stage a come-back and disaster will befall the people.

"Revolutionary dictatorship and counter-revolutionary dictatorship are by nature opposites, but the former was learned from the latter. Such learning is very important." The proletariat has learnt this at great cost. The Paris Commune was the first great attempt to establish the proletarian dictatorship. The chief mistake that led to its failure was "benevolence" to the class enemy and the fact that the commune failed to display the full power of the proletarian dictatorship. In consequence, the reactionary bourgeoisie won a respite to regroup its forces and launch a counter-attack, strangling the revolutionary political power and wantonly massacring the revolutionary people. This was a lesson learnt in blood. It educated the proletariat and revolutionary people all over the world that the proletariat must use revolutionary violence to smash the old state machinery, establish the dictatorship of the proletariat and give full play to its authority so as to relentlessly suppress resistance by the class enemies.

The state machinery, whatever its form, is a tool of the ruling class to suppress the ruled class. For the ruled, it is violence, and not "benevolence." Chairman Mao has said: "We definitely do not apply a policy of benevolence to the reactionaries and towards the reactionary activities of the reactionary classes. Our policy of benevolence is applied only within the ranks of the people, not beyond them to the reactionaries or to the reactionary activities of reactionary classes." The "benevolence" vaunted by the reactionary ruling class is entirely deceitful. The reason why the reactionaries must cover up the class nature of their political power is that the exploiters and the counter-revolutionaries are at all times and in all places in the minority. Their
dictatorship is irrational. In reality, since the emergence of classes with different interests in human society and the coming into being of state political power, there has been no such thing as supra-class “benevolence.”

The proletariat’s revolutionary dictatorship over the enemy is bound to lead to frantic hatred by the class enemies at home and abroad. They attack the proletarian dictatorship as “dictatorial,” “despotism” and “totalitarian.” The renegade and traitor Lin Piao also wildly attacked it as “dictatorial” and “autocratic.” Indeed, this is absolutely true so far as the power of the people’s government to suppress the reactionaries is concerned. The more wildly the reactionaries attack us, the more it proves that we have done the right thing and the more we should persist in our dictatorship over them.

Dictatorship by any class finds violence applied in its rule. We should analyse violence: there is revolutionary violence and counter-revolutionary violence. Instead of opposing the revolutionary violence which conforms to the direction of historical development, Marxists acclaim it. Acting in co-ordination with Lin Piao, the Soviet revisionist renegade clique also cursed our proletarian dictatorship in a vain attempt to restore the dictatorship of the big landlords and the big bourgeoisie in China. Chairman Mao has said: “The foreign reactionaries who accuse us of practising ‘dictatorship’ or ‘totalitarianism’ are the very persons who practise it. They practise the dictatorship or totalitarianism of one class, the bourgeoisie, over the proletariat and the rest of the people.” The Soviet revisionist renegade clique is just a bunch of such reactionaries. After usurping the Party and state power in the Soviet Union, this clique abolished the proletarian dictatorship and practised the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, a German fascistic type dictatorship, a Hitler-type dictatorship. Its “benevolence” means suppression of the revolution of the proletariat and other working people in the Soviet Union and setting up concentration camps and “asylums” all over the country. From the present reality of the Soviet Union, we can see more clearly the ultra-Rightist nature of Lin Piao’s counter-revolutionary revisionist line, and thereby heighten our consciousness to consolidate the proletarian dictatorship.

Broadest Democracy for the People

The proletarian dictatorship is state power led by the proletariat. Who is to exercise this dictatorship? Naturally the proletariat and the people under its leadership. Chairman Mao has said: “The people’s democratic dictatorship is based on the alliance of the working class, the peasantry and the urban petty bourgeoisie, and mainly on the alliance of the workers and the peasants, because these two classes comprise 80 to 90 per cent of China’s population. These two classes are the main force in overthrowing imperialism and the Kuomintang reactionaries. The transition from New Democracy to socialism also depends mainly upon their alliance.” Only by continuously strengthening and consolidating the worker-peasant alliance can the proletariat carry out effective proletarian dictatorship. At the same time, it must unite all other classes and strata which are in favour of, support and take part in socialist revolution and socialist construction, and unite all forces that can be united with. Only by rallying the vast majority of people round it and fully relying on them to exercise the power of dictatorship, can the proletariat isolate and attack a handful of class enemies to the maximum extent and consolidate the proletarian dictatorship.

Dictatorship is enforced against the enemy. Only democracy, and not dictatorship, is practised within the ranks of the people. The proletarian dictatorship is able to defeat powerful enemies at home and abroad and shoulder the great historical mission of building socialism and realizing communism because it provides the masses of the people with democracy — not found in any capitalist country — in the broadest sense and brings into full play the creativeness and initiative of hundreds of millions of people. The formula “unity, criticism, unity” often used by the masses of the people under the Party’s leadership to disclose and solve contradictions is the concrete expression of this democracy in the broadest sense. In his work On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People, Chairman Mao has pointed out: This formula means “starting from the desire for unity, resolving contradictions through criticism or struggle and arriving at a new unity on a new basis. In our experience this is the correct method of resolving contradictions among the people.” He has also said: “Our task now is to continue to extend and make still better use of this method throughout the ranks of the people; we want all our factories, co-operatives, business establishments, schools, government offices and public organizations, in a word, all our six hundred million people, to use it in resolving contradictions among ourselves.” Experience gained in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution has forcefully proved that the method pointed out by Chairman Mao is a correct one in handling contradictions among the people correctly and in strengthening revolutionary unity among the people. Great unity in the broadest sense among the people can be realized by correctly distinguishing and handling the two different types of contradictions and solving the contradictions among the people by democratic methods and not by coercion. Unite for one purpose, that is, the consolidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Proletarian democracy and proletarian centralism are two aspects which supplement each other. Chairman Mao has said: “Within the ranks of the people, we cannot do without freedom, nor can we do without discipline; we cannot do without democracy, nor can we do without centralism. This unity of democracy and centralism, of freedom and discipline, constitutes our democratic centralism. Under this system, the people enjoy extensive democracy and freedom, but at the same time they have to keep within the bounds of socialist discipline.”

(On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People.) Without centralism on the basis of democracy,
the proletariat cannot practise effective leadership, nor can the cause of the proletarian dictatorship be pushed forward. All revolutionary comrades and people safeguard the unity of the state and the solidarity of the people as well as socialist discipline as they cherish the apple of their eye.

In On the People’s Democratic Dictatorship, Chairman Mao has said: “Only when the people have such a state [people’s state] can they educate and remodel themselves by democratic methods on a country-wide scale, with everyone taking part, and shake off the influence of domestic and foreign reactionaries.” Under the leadership of their own state power, the people constantly educate themselves, heighten their consciousness, rid themselves of outdated habits and ideas and guard against being led astray by the reactionaries. This is essential for the consolidation and strengthening of the proletarian dictatorship, and for carrying the socialist revolution to the end. We should make full use of the superior conditions provided by the proletarian state system and pay attention to doing a good job of educating the people in this respect.

The present deep-going movement to criticize Lin Piao and rectify the style of work is an acute two-line struggle in which the Lin Piao anti-Party clique is thoroughly exposed and criticized, and this movement is also an education for the people in the ideological and political line that is carried out on a country-wide scale with everyone taking part. Through this education, the broad masses and cadres have greatly heightened their consciousness of class struggle and the struggle between the two lines, thereby promoting the vigorous development of our socialist construction in all fields.

(Abridged translation of an article in “Hongqi,” No. 12, 1973. Subheads are ours.)

World in Great Disorder: Excellent Situation

1974 has begun. Recalling the past and forecasting the future show that 1974, like 1973, will be another year of great disorder in the world.

This great disorder is one in which imperialism, modern revisionism and reactionaries of various countries have been thrown into confusion. It reflects an excellent situation in which countries want independence, nations want liberation and the people want revolution.

In this great disorder the face of the old world is changing and a new world is coming into being.

(I)

Some people have tried hard to present a false picture, describing 1973 as a year of peace, as a “turning-point” from tension to detente and co-operation. Despite their efforts, however, historical reality shows that the world is in fact in great disorder.

Indochina is still in turbulence; guns still roar in Cambodia; in October the Middle East war broke out once again; the fight by the African people against colonialism and racism became even fiercer. In 1973, as in every other of the 20-odd postwar years, the sound of guns did not cease, and the flames of war did not die out.

The Third World has risen in revolt against the two superpowers. The non-aligned countries, at their fourth summit conference, held fast to their opposition to imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism. Nearly 80 Asian, African and Latin American countries have joined forces in the fight to safeguard the 200-nautical-mile territorial seas and rights to coastal economic zones. The struggles against aggression, subversion, interference, control and bullying have surged to a new high and gained momentum.

Western Europe, in its growing trend towards integration, is pushing for a more clearly defined identity and resistance to Soviet revisionist expansion.

Increasing contradictions between Soviet revisionism and its “community” members more than ever have upset this self-appointed “patriarch” of the “big community.”

The rivalry for hegemony between the United States and the Soviet Union has become more and more intense. Last June in Washington, 13 agreements were signed between them at one stroke. But no sooner had Washington cleared away the celebratory champagne glasses than the two parties embarked on an even fiercer round in the nuclear arms race and in the fight for global hegemony.

In the capitalist world, the political, economic and social crises, inflation and other malignances inherent in the capitalist system have all worsened. Further aggravating the disorder today is the oil crisis. In the
capitalist world, Christmas and New Year's Day passed in the "dark and cold."

In the capitalist world, to protect their fundamental living rights and oppose rising prices, the workers have held massive strikes and demonstrations spearheaded against monopoly capital's exploitation and rule. People of various nationalities in the Soviet Union have resorted to go-slows, strikes, demonstrations, insurrections and other actions to resist Soviet revisionism's social-fascist rule. Thousands upon thousands of rebels have been crowded into "mental institutions," concentration camps and prisons. However, the fiercer the suppression, the stronger the resistance.

In Thailand the raging tide of the people's and student movement broke up the rule of the Thanom-Prapthas clique, and in south Korea the mass struggle spurred by the youth and women against tyranny has just begun.

From South Asia to Latin America one military coup after another has taken place.

In truth, is there in the world any day in which one can say tranquility reigns?

(II)

In its outward appearance, the intricate and complicated international class struggle seems confusing. In judging whether the world situation is one of "detente" or one of upheaval, what should be considered—the superficial phenomena or the essence?

In his political report to the Tenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Premier Chou En-lai pointed out that great disorder on the earth
"aptly depicts how the basic world contradictions as analysed by Lenin show themselves today."

The world today is still in the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution. It is the various basic contradictions of this era that constitute the essence. Whether these contradictions are eased and resolved or develop and intensify is the basic factor which determines whether the world is in a state of detente or upheaval. What then is the situation today? These contradictions are not easing; they are becoming even more acute. This is particularly true of the contradictions between the oppressed nations and peoples on the one hand and imperialism and social-imperialism on the other, and of the contradictions among imperialist and social-imperialist countries. The two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, seek and contend for hegemony everywhere, from Europe to the Middle East and from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean. This has resulted in turbulence in the world and aroused strong resistance among peoples everywhere. This is the main cause of the present international turmoil.
In the picture of "a peaceful world" drawn by Moscow, however, all these basic contradictions have been blocked out and only a muddle of superficial phenomena piled up in their stead. Moscow has done this by playing up the handshakes and clinking of glasses between the heads of the two superpowers over the signing of the list of "agreements," the convening of the "European Security Conference" and the "disarmament conference." They noisily announced "reconciliation" between the United States and the Soviet Union, stating that the world has been brought "closer to durable, lasting peace" and now "the world can relax for a while."

But are the two superpowers really "reconciled"?

U.S.-Soviet talks on the "limitation" of nuclear weapons produced the Moscow agreement in May 1972, and the Washington agreement last June. In fact, the more they talk about limitations, the more nuclear weapons they develop. The U.S.-Soviet "agreement on prevention of nuclear war" was boastfully described by Brezhnev as an agreement of "utmost importance." But within six months a series of hard facts proved the agreement to be a mere scrap of paper. The Soviet revisionists are "making a feast to the east while attacking in the west." In the U.S.-Soviet rivalry for hegemony, Europe remains the key area. The "European Security Conference" and the "Conference on Reduction of Forces in Central Europe" are the arenas of a life-and-death struggle in which each side seeks to undermine the other. It is now clear that the longer the "security conference," the greater the insecurity; the longer the "disarmament conference," the sharper the armaments race.

Both superpowers cast a covetous eye on the oil of the Middle East and its strategic position. Proceeding from their own interests, they jointly concocted last October a "ceasefire" proposal to once again impose upon the Arab people the shackles of "no war, no peace." This was still another attempt to stamp out the raging flames of struggle by the Arab countries to recover their lost lands and by the Palestinian people to regain their right to national survival. The two superpowers engaged in fierce contention, one trying to use the situation to send troops to occupy the Middle East, the other immediately responding by putting its armed forces on a global alert. In this way they once again showed their true colours as deep-seated antagonists.

Lenin pointed out: "An essential feature of imperialism is the rivalry between several Great Powers in the striveing for hegemony." This is the essence of today's relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. Whether they cross swords or enter into "agreements" with each other, they all reveal is the different form of their contention for hegemony. Their so-called "detente" is a superficial phenomenon; it is the contention which is the essence. Momentary "interludes" may occur in the course of their contention, but such "interludes" help pave the way and win more time for the next round of contention which is bound to grow in scale.

No matter what forms they resort to in their rivalry for world domination, both the United States and the Soviet Union claim for themselves the laurels of "peace maker" while using olive branches to camouflage their war chariots. This is designed not only to hoodwink the people but also to lull the vigilance of the opponent. But the people of the world will not be easily deceived. They have become more awakened and vigilant. Full of confidence, they are pressing forward to fight new battles in 1974.

(III)

So long as the basic world contradictions continue to exist, there will be disorder on earth. The sharper the contradictions, the greater the disorder. When China defines the nature of the great disorder in the world, the Kremlin panjandrums fume with rage and accuse the Chinese of being anxious to see the world in disorder.

Great disorder in the world is an objective fact, independent of man's will. This is a reality that cannot be changed by whatever hue and cry Soviet revisionism raises.

Who are thrown into confusion by great disorder in the world? Imperialism, social-imperialism, old and new colonialism and reactionaries of various countries. The people themselves become further awakened and tempered in this disorder. This is what the Soviet revisionists and all the imperialists and reactionaries fear most.

In 1973, there were disorders in Indochina, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, Europe, the United States and the Soviet Union. The disorder in Indochina helped the people of the world see with utmost clarity the truth that a small nation can defeat a big one and that a weak nation can defeat a strong. The Vietnamese people forced U.S. imperialism to withdraw its aggressor troops from Viet Nam. The Lao people won a Vietsiane agreement. The patriotic armed forces and people of Cambodia through their resolute fight have brought about the prospect of victory and won the support of people the world over.

In the great disorder in the Middle East, the Arab people have proved by deeds that the situation of "no war, no peace" imposed upon them by the two superpowers can be broken and that the Israeli aggressors are not invincible. The true features of Soviet revisionist social-imperialism were further exposed in the great disorder.

The entire Third World has strengthened its unity in the struggle against the hegemonism and power politics of the superpowers and is playing an ever greater role in the international arena. The old order in which the two superpowers were dominant has been shattered, and they find it more and more difficult to turn a deaf ear on the voice raised by the Third World. The European countries too are closing ranks to oppose
hegemonism. Their vigilance against the expansionist ambitions of Soviet revisionism has steadily increased.

To the two superpowers all this is "terrible" but for the people of the world it is "fine"!

There are times when the superpowers need to stress maintaining the status quo in order to preserve their hegemonic rule, consolidate their spheres of influence and safeguard their vested interests. Of late, the Soviet revisionists have advocated time and again "the immutability of postwar borders." Do you, Japan, want the return of the four northern islands? Sorry, "the borders are immutable" and you'd better accept in silence! Eastern Europe is my sphere of influence and there too "the borders are immutable." No admittance to outsiders!

When, however, they stretch out their hands for places belonging to others, they readily spout the theory of "limited sovereignty" and where it suits them they do not hesitate to use every possible means to break the status quo: subverting the governments of other countries, inflaming disputes among nations, dismembering the territory of another country or even dispatching troops to occupy a sovereign state!

Contention between the superpowers for hegemony has accelerated the exposure of their reactionary features. The more sharply they contend, the more thoroughly they reveal themselves, and the quicker their collapse will come. 1973 was a year in which dollar imperialism found the going tougher and declined like a sun setting beyond the western hills. For the Soviet revisionist expansionists, it was a year in which their ambition as expansionists, which far exceeds their power, was totally exposed and their difficulties at home and abroad mounted sharply. To the people, such an exposure can be of real use and benefit.

It is understandable that some people in Europe, one of the scenes of two world war calamities, should want to see a detente. However, the character of the era remains unchanged, as do the nature of imperialism and social-imperialism and the objective law governing the development of various fundamental contradictions. The great disorder in the world will continue. Today, the people of the world desire a genuine detente and not a false one. A genuine detente can be won only in the struggle against imperialism and social-imperialism.

"The wind sweeping through the tower heralds a rising storm in the mountains." As the world steps into 1974, contradictions continue to sharpen and the stormy revolutionary struggle of the peoples of the globe become fiercer. The new year will be a year of still greater disorder.

In this turbulent world, the people in their fight are, like stormy petrels flying high in the sky, harbingers of a rising storm. In this great disorder they have nothing to lose but their chains; they have a new world to win!

(A commentary by Hsinhua Correspondent, January 9)

Worker-Peasant-Soldier Forum

Awakening and Growth of the Third World

by Li Chang-mao*

A look at the world shows great disorder. This disorder is fine! It confuses the enemies and divides them, while arousing and tempering the people. Throughout the globe it is a situation of "the wind sweeping through the tower heralds a rising storm in the mountains." The storm is approaching for the wind is blowing strongly. Such a situation is inspiring.

The Third World is a new thing in the international political arena. Since World War II, the world situation has changed, as has done the balance of forces. The people of Asian, African and Latin American countries who long suffered from imperialist and colonialist oppression have awakened and stood up. Oppressed nations one after another have become independent. Steadily growing in the course of their struggles, they have formed the Third World—a powerful new emerg- ing force—which is playing an ever more significant role in international affairs. As the political report delivered by Comrade Chou En-lai to the Tenth Congress of our Party points out: "The awakening and growth of the Third World is a major event in contemporary international relations."

Soviet Revisionism's True Features Exposed

All rotten, reactionary forces inevitably try to block history's advance. The national-liberation movement in Asia, Africa and Latin America in the post-

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war years surged forward like a mighty torrent, smashing the imperialist colonialist system to pieces. But the imperialists’ ambitions did not die. In trying to rule supreme over the world, U.S. imperialism, as everyone knows, was badly beaten on the battlefields in Korea and Viet Nam. After degenerating into social-imperialism, the Soviet Union, in contending for world hegemony with U.S. imperialism, wormed its way into every place whenever possible and carried out aggression, threatened and interfered in other countries’ internal affairs, subverted governments, seized bases, and plundered the resources of other countries, trying to be the overlord. All this can only arouse strong resistance from the Third World and other countries.

People must go through a process of proceeding from the superficial to the profound on the basis of practice in gaining more and more understanding of anything. The people of the Third World countries had obtained some knowledge about U.S. imperialism long ago, but in the case of Soviet revisionism which is “socialism in words, imperialism in deeds” they only gradually got to know its true features as its various disguises were exposed. One obvious example is that while claiming to be the “friend” of the Arab people, Soviet revisionism sent manpower to Israel to help the Zionists in aggression and expansion against the Arab countries. Some newspapers in Arab countries have rightly said that “even if we were extremely stupid, we cannot believe that friends who send enemies to us are true friends.” By their actions, the Soviet revisionists repeatedly give the people of Third World countries lessons and serve as a teacher by negative example. The people of the Third World countries are seeing more and more clearly that Soviet revisionist social-imperialism, like “a tiger wearing a rosary pretends to be kind-hearted,” is really an insidious enemy.

Unity in Struggle

In their actual struggle, the people of the Third World have recognized the reactionary character of the two hegemonic powers—the United States and the Soviet Union—as well as their inherent weaknesses. U.S. imperialism was unable to subjugate the heroic Vietnamese people with its hundreds of thousands of aggressor troops, nor could its fiendish air raids halt the valiant Cambodian people in their punitive war against the traitorous Lon Nol clique. The Soviet revisionists interfered in Egypt and their experts were kicked out; they carried out subversion in some Asian, African and Latin American countries and had many of their diplomats thrown out. The superpowers appear to be colossuses but in reality they are not to be feared. They couldn’t do much when many small and medium-sized countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America stood up to them.

Even more encouraging is that the Third World countries are uniting on an ever broader scale in the struggle to oppose the superpowers’ hegemonism and power politics. When the naval fleets of the two superpowers barged into the Mediterranean, the littoral states rose up as one to oppose them and demand that the sea be turned into a “sea of peace.” When their fleets burst into the Indian Ocean, the countries in the region united and called for the establishment of a “zone of peace” in that ocean. When the superpowers used nuclear threats and blackmail, the Latin American countries united to demand the setting up of a “nuclear-free zone” in Latin America. Last year’s 4th Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries strongly condemned racism, Zionism, colonialism, imperialism and expansionism. In the October Middle East war the people and armed forces of Egypt, Syria and Palestine heroically fought against the Israeli aggressors. All this mirrors the new awakening of the Asian, African and Latin American people. The two hegemonic powers are running into brick walls everywhere today and are becoming more and more isolated. The Third World countries, on the other hand, are becoming more united in the course of struggle and their fighting strength is growing greater.

Everything undergoes a metabolic change. New emerging forces have the greatest vitality and they inevitably vanquish those that are rotten. The Third World, as a new emerging force, is full of life and vitality, like trees and shrubs in the spring. The two hegemonic powers represent the rotten forces, and the old Chinese verse “Flowers fall off, do what one may” well describes their plight. This is the law governing the development of history and is independent of man’s will.

China belongs to the Third World. In the past we suffered long from imperialist and colonialist aggression and oppression and today, together with the people of other Third World countries, we are struggling against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism. The political report to our Party’s Tenth National Congress clearly says: “Our Party must uphold proletarian internationalism, uphold the Party’s consistent policies, strengthen our unity with the proletariat and the oppressed people and nations of the whole world and with all countries subjected to imperialist aggression, subversion, interference, control or bullying and form the broadest united front against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, and in particular, against the hegemonism of the two superpowers—the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.” This is an important task our people face at present. We the working class of China will, together with the people of the whole country, struggle steadfastly to carry out this task.

The future is bright; the road is tortuous. The Third World countries have heavy responsibilities and a long road to travel. There will be many difficulties and obstacles in the struggle against the two superpowers’ hegemonism and power politics. However, so long as the people of the Third World countries, together with those everywhere else in the world, heighten their vigilance, strengthen their unity and persevere in struggle, they are bound to win new and still greater victories.
ABOUT a week ago the notorious Pak Jung Hi clique, on the pretext of “guaranteeing state security” and “maintaining and developing the revitalized system,” flagrantly declared “emergency measures,” threatening to arrest any south Korean opposing the constitution of the “republic of Korea.” This is a criminal act by the Pak clique to intensify its suppression of the south Korean people’s struggle for democracy and freedom. It is another serious challenge to the entire Korean people’s just cause of striving for independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland.

It is known to all that this traitorous clique has relied on bayonets to maintain its reactionary rule. Since taking power, it has enforced more than 2,000 fascist laws of all kinds by which it has persecuted at will the patriotic people of various strata in south Korea and exercised an out-and-out fascist tyranny. Recently, it went even further and adopted new tactics by declaring “emergency measures” which gave the green light to wanton arrests. This once again exposes the ferocity of the reactionary regime as an enemy of the people. It also shows the increasing instability of its rule which is being pounded by the waves of the south Korean people’s patriotic struggle.

The struggle by student youth and patriotic people of various strata in south Korea against the reactionary rule of the Pak authorities and for reunification of the fatherland has gained momentum in the last two months or so. The “one million signature campaign” for a new, democratic constitution initiated by 30 noted social and religious figures in south Korea late in December has, in particular, won more and more extensive support. People from art and literature and publication circles and opposition parties in south Korea also held meetings or issued statements in Seoul to condemn the Pak clique’s fascist rule and support the campaign. The surging waves of struggle have rocked the little regime in Seoul. Scared stiff by opposition from all sides, Pak Jung Hi and his kind have tried to stamp out the flames of the patriotic people’s struggle by resorting to even more brutal measures.

However, the Pak clique’s frantic and desperate attempt is futile and will only add fuel to the flames of the people’s struggle. Like all other fascist laws made by the Pak clique, its “emergency measures” can never intimidate the awakening south Korean people; instead they will arouse them to even stronger indignation and more powerful resistance.

President Kim Il Sung, the great leader of the Korean people, points out: Fascist repression by the U.S. imperialists and their hirelings in south Korea only leads to the growing awareness and further tempering of the south Korean people and to the strengthening of the revolutionary forces that will eventually bury the colonial system of the U.S. imperialists. No matter how Pak and his ilk step up fascist repression, the south Korean people’s just struggle for democracy, freedom, and the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland will continue to develop till the end of the Pak clique’s fascist dictatorship rule and the realization of the reunification of the fatherland. The more this clique goes against the tide of history, the quicker will be its doom.

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(Continued from p. 3.)

Shanghai’s Futan University helped many factories and people’s communes run study classes in Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought. On more than 140 occasions they gave special tutoring and wrote a dozen articles summing up the experience of the masses in the three great revolutionary movements.

Most of the first batch of worker-peasant-soldier graduates from the hydraulic engineering department of Tsinghua University, after three years of training, can now design fairly complicated small and medium-sized water conservancy projects, and some of them are quite outstanding.

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Last year was an extremely turbulent year for the capitalist world’s economy. One violent wave after another—repeated monetary and financial crises, runaway inflation and the oil shortage resulting from the fourth Middle East war—crashed down on the already shaky capitalist economies, causing chaos in the whole Western world.

Monetary Crises

From the beginning of last year, furious squalls in the international monetary markets repeatedly aggravated the dollar crises. Under the blows of currency speculation and rushes to buy gold, the U.S. Government was forced to devalue the dollar for the second time within 14 months on February 22. But this second devaluation was still unable to stabilize the bedevilled monetary markets. With currency speculation going from bad to worse, the major capitalist countries in the West were compelled to close their foreign exchange markets twice in 20 days. In the end, after a series of emergency consultations, the monetary authorities in various Western countries finally decided to cut their countries’ fixed parity rates of exchange with the dollar and to let their currencies float together or independently. This resulted in the collapse of the capitalist international monetary system established after World War II with the U.S. dollar as the hub through which all other currencies in the world maintained a fixed parity with each other.

After the fixed parity system was dumped, the parity between capitalist countries’ currencies fluctuated even more and monetary markets in the West continued to be unstable.

With the dollar’s second devaluation, the official price for gold rose from 38 dollars an ounce to 42.22 dollars. By mid-May, however, the price for an ounce of gold on the free bullion markets in the West topped 100 dollars. Between June and July, the price in the free markets had soared to nearly 130 dollars an ounce.

At the same time as the sharp fall in the U.S. dollar’s parity, the British pound and the Italian lira were also caught in the dilemma of growing weakness. In early March, when the dollar crisis was extremely grave, the nine West European Common Market countries decided to let their currencies jointly float, but the pound and the lira, being too weak to join, had to float independently. Since then, these two currencies have been in a most critical position.

With the recent oil shortage in the West European countries, the economic future looks even bleaker. A gold rush has already happened in London, Zurich and other places. Besides the big drop in the pound’s parity and a decline in that of the Dutch guilder, the F.R.G. mark and the Japanese yen, all of which were always on the rise, have also started showing signs of instability.

The Western countries held a meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, in June to discuss ways and means to solve the monetary crisis and to establish a new monetary system for the capitalist world. But as there were deep-seated clashes of interest and differences, the meeting ended with no results at all.

Inflation

To ease their economic crises, the major capitalist countries all adopted deficit financing—increasing government spending, expanding credits and artificially creating fictitious prosperity by so-called “economic growth.” The result was that runaway inflation swept the capitalist world, which in turn further aggravated the monetary crisis.

A report by the West’s Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development gave the rates of inflation up to the end of October 1973 as: Japan, 14.4 per cent; Britain, 9.9 per cent; France, 8.1 per cent; the United States, 7.9 per cent; and the Federal Republic of Germany, 6.6 per cent. The speed and scale of inflation in these countries had seldom been seen in the 20-odd postwar years.

A direct result of inflation was soaring prices, with wholesale prices climbing faster than retail prices and the price of foodstuffs and raw materials going higher than other general commodities so that prices of all commodities rose steadily with undiminished force.
Inflation and steep price hikes directly affected the people's lives, lowered their purchasing power, sharpened the contradictions between production and marketing and hence created conditions for a new economic crisis.

In an effort to check inflation, the United States, Britain, France, Italy, the Netherlands and other countries have since 1972 resorted to such emergency measures as freezing wages, prices, rents and profits in varying degrees and at various stages. At the same time, all the capitalist countries have rushed to raise bank rates steeply, hoping that it would check credit and reduce the money in circulation. Some countries like Britain and Italy did this also to curb the outflow of short-term capital and to prop up the position of their currencies. At present, the central banks of various countries have nearly all gradually raised their interest rates to the highest in history: 13 per cent in Britain; 11 per cent in France; 9 per cent in Japan; and 7 per cent in the F.R.G. The U.S. Federal Reserve Bank raised its discount rates a dozen or more times from January to mid-August, from 4 per cent at the end of 1972 to 7.5 per cent. All the various big commercial banks' favourable interest rates for loans to big clients with the best credit hit a record peak of 9.75 per cent.

The major capitalist countries' scramble to raise interest rates brought alarming rises in rates on credit loans for purchases of daily necessities and short-term loans which greatly added to the burden on the people and put a squeeze on market demand. On the other hand, the higher interest rate rise inevitably raises the cost of production, thus reducing the amount of fixed investments by enterprises which in turn will increase unemployment and result in a sharp fall in economic activity.

Under the twin pressures of monetary crisis and inflation, Western economic circles have predicted since the middle of last year that 1974 will see an end to the fictitious prosperity in the major capitalist countries and the outbreak of a new economic crisis.

Oil Shortage

Following the fourth Middle East war last October, the Arab countries and some oil-producing countries decided to cut down oil production, raise oil prices and carry out an embargo against those countries that support Israel. These measures violently shook the Western world's economy and threw it into chaos.

The Middle East and North Africa produce 41 per cent of the world's total oil and more than 90 per cent of their output is exported to Western Europe, Japan and the United States. In 1972, oil from the Middle East and North Africa made up more than 80 per cent of West European and Japanese oil imports and 33 per cent for the United States. Reduction of the oil supply may paralyse the economy and this has caused widespread fear in the West.

This fear first made itself known when stocks dropped drastically in all major capitalist countries, a reflection of the capitalists' apprehension over economic prospects. On November 19, the U.S. Dow Jones industrial average for 30 kinds of stock showed a record drop for 11 years with the biggest in oil, automobile and chemical companies. By December, the stock indices of various countries, compared to their peak periods, showed that Italy had dropped 50 per cent, Britain and the F.R.G. were down about 40 per cent, and the United States, Japan and France were down 25 per cent.

International oil monopoly companies took the opportunity to sharply raise the price of their oil products and get a steep rise in profits which caused an all-round hike in costs of production and transport, etc. This in turn led to further price increases and even more serious inflation. The U.S. November consumer price index rose by 0.8 per cent, meaning that the rate of increase for the year would be 9.8 per cent, which was an increase of 8.4 per cent over the previous year. It was reported that in November last year consumer prices in Japan went up 14.8 per cent as compared to 1972; the price of 1,200 commodities went up from 20 to 50 per cent, an increase of 11 times in the varieties of goods and an increase of 6 times in prices compared to previous years. Inflation in the West European countries sharpened all round. Consumer prices in Britain in November rose 10.4 per cent compared to the year before while they went up 7.4 per cent in the F.R.G.

The “energy crisis” caused by the oil shortage has compelled the United States, Japan and many West European countries to restrict the consumption of oil, electricity and other energy sources. The broad masses of people are experiencing a very hard winter due to the lack of oil and electricity for heating purposes.

Bleak Prospects

It is generally held in the West that 1973 was a turbulent year for the Western world's economy and that prospects for 1974 are even bleaker.

At present, the energy crisis and rises in the oil price have seriously hit the economies of Western Europe and Japan which rely too much on oil imports, causing their currencies in the foreign exchange markets to fall steadily, the price of gold to sharply rise and the dollar to recover a bit. This has added to the turmoil and instability in the international money markets.

Economists and the press in the United States estimate that as a result of the energy shortage, the U.S. gross national product for 1974 will be down by 25,000 million to 30,000 million dollars, inflation and unemployment will be more serious with the rate of unemployment exceeding 6 per cent. Steel production may drop by 7 million to 12 million tons, and the petro-chemical, plastics, aluminium refining, copper refining, aircraft, automobile and chemical fertilizer industries will be badly hit. Agricultural production will be widely
affected by the shortage of chemical fertilizers and oil for farm machines. People in economic circles in the Western capitalist countries expect that the United States will probably have a new economic crisis in its hands this year.

Japanese economic circles predict that Japan’s actual rate of economic growth this year will be down by 5.2 per cent and prices will go up by at least 19.3 per cent. According to official Japanese estimates, Japanese production will be down by one-fifth or one-quarter, exports of many industrial products will be reduced, the scale of foreign trade will be cut down, and there will be a deterioration in Japan’s balance of payments and a drop in its foreign exchange reserves.

Likewise, the West European countries predict that their economic growth rates this year will drop while the rate of unemployment and inflation will rise. It has been said in Japan that if economic crises hit Japan, the United States and Western Europe simultaneously, the capitalist world will be caught in a serious recession.

Revolution and Development (III)

Conquering the “Evil Air”

by Our Correspondent Chiang Shan-hao

ON the eve of departing for the Szumao Region*, I was given a copy of a traveller’s notes published before liberation. There was a chapter about Szumao in 1944. One passage read:

“...What a city, ruined and abandoned! Parapets on the city wall are in bad repair ... choked with rushes ten feet high waving in the breeze ... A few dilapidated houses with broken tiles and walls, their doors sealed by dust or loosely fastened by a lock. Occasionally you see a door ajar, and if you care to push it open, you’d find one or two skeletons on the floor ... In the sky overhead crows caw and vultures scream.”

The centre of the region, Szumao Town is only an hour’s flight over mountains 3,000 metres high from the provincial capital Kunming. Situated on a tiny intermontane plain, it is close to the sub-tropical zone with luxuriant vegetation and large green patches of sturdy paddy. Inside the town is a newly paved road lined with two- and three-storeyed buildings, including a department store, a hotel, a cinema, a bank, a hospital and a school. Loaded lorries come and go along this pedestrian-crowded street.

The Brink of an Inferno

Szumao had long been a trading centre. Even horse-drawn caravans came here all the way from Tibet for the famous pu-erh tea. At the beginning of the century, the town had a population of about 40,000 and there were more than 30 villages on the outskirts.

Chang chi (“evil air”) plagued the town in 1919. People suddenly fell ill en masse; some had fits of chills and fever, and in the more serious cases, the sick went into a delirium and died in two or three days. Because of the abundant rainfall and great humidity, the fields and streets were shrouded in mist in the morning and at dusk. A pall of misty vapours sat over the many marshy areas that were overgrown with wild plants and infested with snakes and other reptiles. In the sunlight the mist sometimes took on different colouring. The whole scene was one of horror. People in the locality regarded the mist as the source of the scourge; it was popularly known as chang chi and was said to be the noxious breath emitted by goblins.

As time went by, things became worse and worse. Whole families died and neighbours had to bury the dead. Then the death toll grew so high that no one bothered to bury them. Most of the people fled the place to find refuge elsewhere. An inquiry at the time of liberation in 1949 showed that only 1,902 were left in the town; not a soul was to be found in about half the villages on the outskirts and the population in the other half was sparse.

The town was on the verge of extinction. A folk rhyme said: “If you haven’t seen someone for three days, he must be dead.” This meant that he must have died of a chang chi attack. Another

* A province is divided into several regions which are again divided into a number of counties.

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rhyme among people in the vicinity said: “Marry your wife off if you want to walk through Szumao,” which meant that the chances of going to Szumao and coming back alive were slim.

**Essence of the Matter**

What is chang chi? In simple language it is malaria in general and malignant malaria in particular. Incidentally, the origin of the word “malaria” is mal and aria, meaning “bad air.” It is not that old China, however scientifically backward, was incapable of diagnosing and treating malaria. The recollections of some old-timers in Szumao show where the trouble really was.

Why all the superstition about chang chi for so long? To fool the working people, the ruling class had for ages spread all kinds of myths about supernatural forces. Szumao in the past did not have newspapers, radio sets or films and the working people rarely had a chance to read books; dissemination of scientific knowledge was of course out of the question. This had helped the growth of superstition and in some cases superstitious practices even sounded plausible. For instance, when someone was attacked by chang chi and was urged to go to the mountains to “get away from the evil spirit,” he actually was “cured.” The fact is that when a man in fairly good health is infected with mild malaria, he can quickly recover since the low temperature, air pressure and other conditions high up are unfavourable to the growth of the parasite in human body.

Why was there no medical treatment? Actually there was a clinic run by the Kuomintang government. The doctors knew quite well that the trouble was not caused by chang chi, but by malaria. They had quinine and other drugs. In addition, there were also a few physicians practising in the locality. But it was a society where making money was the foremost and only tenet. One pill of greenish quinine at that time cost one silver dollar, which was beyond the reach of ordinary people. Sometimes, in desperation, they somehow managed to buy some medicine, but then it often turned out to be too late or the medicine was of inferior quality or even fake. People thus lost confidence in treatment.

But why didn’t the government at that time take proper measures to cope with the situation? Here, the very approach to the problem of chang chi clearly showed the class nature of the reactionary Kuomintang government, which acted on behalf of a handful of exploiters to suppress the toiling masses. The Kuomintang had a “county government” in Szumao whose only function, however, was to levy taxes, enlist men into military service and also to engage in the opium traffic (part of the region at that time grew much poppy). The county head who got rich in a couple of years would invariably seek a higher post through bribery. Another new county head would be appointed and he would repeat what his predecessor had done. If a county head was too busy to bother about the wild weeds growing knee-deep in the courtyard of the “magistrate building” which was the case in those days, how could he be expected to care about the well-being of the ordinary people?

Why then didn’t the people move somewhere else? Some did, but many stayed on because they couldn’t earn a living elsewhere either. As a folk saying put it: “When the paddy ripens, one finds oneself in bed sick.” Mosquitoes bred quickly in the harvest season and transmission of chang chi became most prevalent. But this was also when many peasants, despite the severe threat of infection, came down from the relatively
safe mountain areas to Szumao to work for the landlords. More often than not, they became sick in batches and quite a few died. Still, the people came every year to earn some money and grain for winter. They described this as “snatching food out of a tiger’s mouth.”

But why weren’t the landlords and officials malaria victims? They stayed home all the time and did not have to go to fields swarming with mosquitoes. At home, they had mosquito nets and mosquito-repellent incense to burn and, just in case, effective drugs. This explained why they seldom died of chang chi. There was also no need for them to leave the place. If they did, they would have no rents and taxes to collect.

Plainly enough, the chang chi problem was, in the last analysis, a social problem, a political problem.

People’s War

Szumao was liberated in 1949. The first thing the work teams sent by the Party did was to mobilize the people to round up the armed Kuomintang remnants and struggle against the local despot. The conditions for solving the chang chi problem were also created as the people got organized in the course of the revolutionary struggle. Under the guidance of Chairman Mao’s revolutionary line, the Party organization, the People’s Government and the Liberation Army immediately included this in the order of the day. To free the people from suffering and bring prosperity to the stricken areas, they were determined to do all they could to wipe out chang chi.

The People’s Government and the Liberation Army began sending in medical teams. These were not old-fashioned doctors who practised medicine for a living, but revolutionaries armed with the ideal of serving the people. With knapsacks on their backs, they came to Szumao on foot—there was no highway, still less an airline connecting it with the outside world. They swept away the weeds and grass on the streets, buried the corpses in the deserted houses and made emergency calls on the seriously sick. The first thing they told the people was that they had been sent by the Communist Party and Chairman Mao to give free medical service. They did everything they could to save dying patients, thereby building up public confidence in medical treatment.

Much investigation and research work had to be done. For instance, how many people had merozoites (daughter parasites) in their bodies? Which of the 19 different species of mosquitoes in the locality was the most dangerous carrier of malaria? Using a very simple glass tube, they stayed in the cattle sheds or broken-down farmhouses all night to catch countless mosquitoes for dissection and studying the life cycle of the parasites.

Many members of the medical teams worked so hard they lost weight; some became infected and a few comrades died for the cause. Entrusted by the Party and Chairman Mao, they were making preparations for a “people’s war” to wipe out malaria.

By 1953 the number of personnel working on the medical teams sent to Szumao from all parts of the country had increased to several hundred. The “war” was on. Thanks to the massive investigations and research work already done, the Party organization was able to work out the principles for the operations. Speaking on military affairs, Chairman Mao has said: “Destruction of the enemy is the primary object of war and self-preservation the secondary, because only by destroying the enemy in large numbers can one effectively preserve oneself.” This is also a guiding principle in the fight against malaria. To put it more concretely, one must not just wait for the patients to come for treatment, but must do the job of “two eliminations and one prevention.” The two eliminations were the elimination of all the parasites in the human bodies and the elimination of mosquito vectors. Prevention should be stressed at the same time; that is, precautionary measures should be taken against transmission of the disease to healthy people. This was exactly a manifestation of the important directive by Chairman Mao on medical work: “Put prevention first.”

The “enemy” was a serious menace. The incidence of malaria in Szumao in 1953 was 54.5 per cent, that of enlarged spleens caused by long years of malaria attacks (popularly known as the “big belly disease” because the hosts, men and women, old and young alike, all looked as if they were pregnant) was 66 per cent. In one of the villages with 100 inhabitants, only two did not have enlarged spleens. The mortality rate was as high as 13.62 per cent. Chang chi had become a problem not only in the town of Szumao with a population of only several thousand but also, to varying degrees, in the whole Szumao Region which had a population of 2 million. At that time malaria in Yunnan was a common disease in areas populated by one-third of its population. A problem which involved so large an area and so many people definitely could not be solved by the medical personnel alone, who were relatively small in number. “The revolutionary war is a war of the masses; it can be waged only by mobilizing the masses and relying on them.” This directive of Chairman Mao’s is also a guiding principle in eliminating malaria. Every street and every village was organized with its own malaria-fighting group and a leader chosen by popular recommendation. A massive propaganda campaign got under way. Members of these groups were first grounded in malaria prevention by the medical teams with the aid of diagrams and microscopes. They were also briefed on the social causes of the calamity. These people returned with the knowledge they had acquired and popularized it at various meetings. This ideological work was important since the people could not go into action on
their own before they had broken away from superstition and fatalism.

With the overwhelming majority mobilized, it was possible to have a quick general check-up and find out who were the hosts of the malarial parasites. This was followed by large-scale administration of medicine. At first, everyone was given medicine, including preventive medicine for those not infected. Members of the malaria-fighting groups brought medicine to every household. So that no one would forget to take the medicine, and to persuade those who were reluctant to take it, they acted according to the slogan: “Offer them a glass of water and see to it they take it.” The drugs and the service were free of charge. Meanwhile, all residents were mobilized to remove weeds and debris from breeding places, fill in bags and tree holes (rain-water collected there breeds mosquito larvae), spray insecticides over large areas, and raise ducks to eat up the larvae...

The “war” continued for six years. A large-scale “decisive battle” was fought amidst the nationwide Big Leap Forward in socialist construction in 1958. In Szumao Town, the incidence rate that year dropped to 0.037 per cent; from 72 observations made in two places where the insect density was highest, only 12 anopheles mosquitoes were found.

The objective of eliminating chang chi was thus realized in the main. All along since 1958 prevention work has been going on. The 1972 incidence rate was down to 0.029 per cent, mainly among visitors from other places.

There were, however, ups and downs over the years. Revolutionary struggle is so closely connected with malaria prevention that their interrelation can be represented almost by curves on a chart. In 1962, for instance, the incidence in Szumao Town suddenly shot up to 14 per 10,000. This was because, under the impact of Liu Shao-chi’s revisionist line, many epidemic-prevention organizations at the grass-roots level were dissolved on the pretext that they lacked proper equipment and the personnel did not have regular training. Those left intact were made to run on the basis of handling their own “profits and losses”; in other words, they could not get any more government financial support. This was diametrically opposed to the principle set down by Chairman Mao: “Put prevention first.” The aftermath manifested itself in the 1962 retrogression.

Resurrection and Growth

Like elsewhere in Yunnan, Szumao is going through a process of rapid development. The population has gone up to 50,000. I saw a rippling reservoir at the edge of the town. The misty chang chi vapour is now a thing of the past, water that once swamped the streets and fields having been diverted into reservoirs. I also saw one of the fairly large factories there, where diesel engines and machinery for processing tea leaves are being mass-produced. In the department stores a great variety of Szumao-made consumer goods including electric appliances were on sale.

I met a number of old residents there. Among them was 58-year-old Tao Kuei-haien, who became a widow when her husband and the rest of the family fell victim to malaria within a year of her marriage. She herself had had an enlarged spleen for many years. Cured and remarried after liberation, she had a daughter in 1958 who grew up healthy and is now in middle school.

At the stadium many sports fans were watching an exhibition by the Szumao juvenile gymnastics team which finished second in a recent provincial competition. Dozens of lively boys and girls performed on the horizontal and parallel bars. Old Szumao’s infant mortality rate was amazingly high. There are no statistics available, but one folk rhyme at that time serves to give the sad picture: “You see ‘expectant’ mothers (victims with enlarged spleens) all round, but no children on the playground.”

What has accounted for the resurrection of Szumao and its development? The revolution, in the first place; medical treatment next.
THAILAND

Protest Against C.I.A. Interference

Several thousand Thai students demonstrated on January 9 in protest against U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A.) interference in Thai internal affairs. They shouted slogans outside the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok condemning U.S. interference and demanded that the U.S. Ambassador to Thailand and C.I.A. personnel leave the country.

An AP report said that an American C.I.A. agent sent a phony letter to Thailand’s Prime Minister Sanya Dharmasakti purporting to be a communist offer for “a ceasefire in exchange for autonomy” in the liberated areas. The U.S. Embassy admitted that the spurious letter was sent by a C.I.A. agent.

The disclosed phony letter aroused strong indignation among Thai people from all walks of life.

A Thai social organization cabled the U.S. Senate to “call for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Thailand and for an end to C.I.A. activities in this country.”

Thai Foreign Minister Charunphan Isarangkulna Ayuthaya in a statement published on January 9 demanded that the U.S. C.I.A. stop further interference in Thai internal affairs and close its office in Sakon Nakhon.

PANAMA

Fight for Sovereignty

To mark the 10th anniversary of the popular patriotic and just struggle of January 9, 1964, several thousand Panamanian people held a mass meeting in Panama City and mass organizations issued statements and the press published commentaries on January 9.

The Panamanian people were called on to continue the struggle to recover sovereignty over the Canal Zone. Addressing the meeting on behalf of the government, Adolfo Ahumada, Member of the National Commission of the Legislature, said: “No one here surrenders or kneels down before the powerful!” and Panama’s just struggle “has received the support of all the peoples of the world and, above all, those of the Third World.”

The Panamanian people have resolutely fought for decades to abrogate the unequal 1903 U.S.-Panamanian treaty and to recover sovereignty over the Canal Zone.

At the end of last year all Panamanian middle schools included the study of Panama-U.S. relations in their curriculum in order to make education in Panama more responsive to the practical needs of the country and to its cause of liberation from colonialism in all its manifestations on Panamanian territory.

The 1964 struggle against U.S. aggression and for national sovereignty that shook the world swept across Panama from January 9 to 11. After this clap of thunder, the United States was forced to hold negotiations with Panama on concluding a new Panama Canal treaty. Negotiations were resumed from November 26 to December 2, 1973. The Panamanian Government has reiterated its position: abolition of the 1903 treaty and recovery of Panama’s full sovereignty and jurisdiction over the Canal and the Canal Zone.

PERU

U.S.-Owned Mining Corporation Taken Over

To protect Peruvian national interests against foreign plunder, the Peruvian Government on December 30 decreed the expropriation of a U.S.-owned mining company, Cerro De Pasco Corporation (C.P.C.). The government had earlier withdrawn concessions of the corporation’s Toro Mocho copper mine.

The decree was signed by Peruvian President Juan Velasco and all 15 cabinet ministers. It provided for the expropriation of all assets of the cor-

Many big placards in different languages calling for the recovery of sovereignty over the Canal Zone were posted in Panama City.
1973 — A Year of Great Disorder

The January issue of the Japanese monthly Mao Tse-tung Thought, in a preface, reviewed the excellent situation in 1973. It said: "1973 was indeed a year in which the world is in great disorder." There was absolutely no sign of stability, either in the West or in the East.

The preface said: "Amid the 'great disorder,' there were two vividly contrasted currents, the death of the decedent and the rise of the newly born. The world situation in the year eloquently proves that we are living in an era as defined by Lenin: 'Imperialism is the eve of the social revolution of the proletariat.'"

The preface pointed out that contention for hegemony by the United States and the Soviet Union, the two superpowers, is still going on. However, the existence and development of the socialist countries and the growth and mounting resistance of the Third World no longer allow them to divide and rule the world at will. The world historical trend that countries want independence, nations want liberation, and the people want revolution has become an irresistible current which nobody can withstand.

After pointing out the necessity of maintaining vigilance against U.S. imperialism and waging continuous struggle against it, the preface noted that new imperialism, namely, Soviet social-imperialism, today has a global expansionist ambition and is plundering resources throughout the world. "Wherever it appears, the Soviet Union reveals its predatory nature because of its arrogance. It has met with the opposition of the developing countries, aroused vigilance of the Western countries and failed to achieve the expected results. As a great military power, the Soviet Union is now living in constant fear because of an imminent economic crisis and the growing discontent among the Soviet people. It has become ever more isolated in the face of the awakening of the people of the Third World and their surging struggle."

The C.P.C. is the second major U.S. company taken over by the Peruvian Government. The first was the International Petroleum Corporation which was expropriated in 1972.

The Peruvian people in various parts of the country held meetings to express their strong support for the government decree. Under it, the Centomin-Peru was formally established on January 1 and took over the C.P.C. assets.

Two Superpowers

Nuclear Arms Race Intensifies

The United States cannot allow the Soviet Union to achieve strategic superiority in the Soviet-U.S. nuclear arms race, U.S. Secretary of Defence James Schlesinger stressed in his talk with newsmen on January 10. He advocated the need for the United States to carry out a vigorous nuclear weapon research and development programme and to forge ahead with nuclear strategic and tactical planning.

Since the Soviet Union began testing its inter-continental ballistic missiles (ICBM's) with multiple war-heads last autumn, Schlesinger has repeatedly and openly expressed his concern over intensified Soviet efforts to develop nuclear weapons. He told the newsmen once again that "the Soviets have had in recent years a highly vigorous research and development effort." The U.S.S.R. has four new ICBM's — three of which have been tested with multiple warheads. In addition, it is developing new nuclear submarine ballistic missiles. He emphasized that if the United States did not move ahead, the Soviet Union could, by 1980, achieve nuclear superiority that would be "impermissible to the United States," and the United States would fail to duplicate the Soviet programme at its peril.

In actual fact the nuclear arms race between the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, has never ceased. Schlesinger's remarks simply show that the race continues and is becoming sharper and sharper.

It was reported that the Soviet Union is stressing the technology to develop multiple war-heads in an attempt to seize strategic superiority and beat its opponent. The United States, however, is not in the least relaxing its efforts. Prior to the new year, the U.S. Defence Department announced it would begin trial-firing of an ICBM in January 1974. On January 4, a Defence Department official disclosed the U.S. plan to begin production within three years of a new family of missiles, namely "the cruise missile." Meanwhile, reports from Washington said the U.S. Government intends to raise military expenditures to nearly 90,000 million dollars for the next fiscal year beginning July 1, an increase of about 10,000 million dollars compared with the current fiscal year.
ON THE HOME FRONT

**Big Strides in Capital Construction**

China quickened its pace of capital construction in 1973. Ore-dressing and sintering capacity newly added last year was more than 80 per cent greater than the 1972 figure, while the capacity of iron-ore extraction was also greater than in 1972.

A large modern iron and steel complex designed, built and equipped by Chinese personnel was completed in the interior. It is now producing high-quality iron and steel.

Dozens of new big and medium-sized shaft mines went into operation last year. Nine provinces south of the Yangtze River, which used to depend on the north for coal supply, continued to mobilize the masses to find coal deposits and open up new mines. Coal output in these provinces last year was more than twice the amount in 1965, the year before the start of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.

In the petroleum industry, the productive capacity for crude oil and natural gas extraction was increased. The laying of long-distance oil and gas pipelines made more fuel and raw material available to industrial and transport departments.

China added more power-generating capacity last year than in any previous year. The first Chinese-made 300,000-kilowatt water-turbine generator is now in operation.

In the last few years, workers on the railway construction front defied inclement weather in mountainous areas and built several trunk lines to improve transport in the interior.

Designers made a practice of going to work-sites to improve their plans by integrating with the workers and incorporating new techniques. A large new coke oven, designed in Anshan and built at 8 to 10 per cent less cost, raises labour productivity by 25 to 30 per cent, as compared with ordinary coke ovens. It required 1,000 tons less refractory material and 1,000 tons less equipment to build and takes up one-third less floorspace.

In addition to building big and medium-sized projects as called for in the 1973 national plan, the various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions built a number of small projects. China’s countryside now has more than 50,000 small hydroelectric power stations. The number of small local chemical fertilizer plants, which account for 54 per cent of the state production plan, last year was 11 times the 1965 total. Most counties in China now have their own small iron and steel plants, machinery works, chemical fertilizer factories, coal mines and cement plants.

The quality of capital construction has shown steady improvement.

**Growing Number of New Faces in Sports**

Since the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution began, many up-and-coming sportsmen and women have come to the fore with fine performances in quite a number of sports events. This is a manifestation that China’s physical culture and sports is on the upswing.

On the basis of the vigorous development of mass sports activities, national competitions and invitation tournaments were held in 1973 in over 20 sports, including track and field, swimming, table tennis, badminton, basketball, volleyball, football, gymnastics, weightlifting, archery, shooting, speed skating, ice hockey, water polo, tennis, handball and wushu (traditional Chinese boxing and swordplay). In addition, there were junior national competitions in table tennis, track and field, swimming and gymnastics, national contests in basketball, volleyball and football for youths and the National Middle School Games. Over 70 per cent of the nearly 10,000 participants in all these competitions were junior or young sportsmen and women.

In track and field, swimming and speed skating competitions for juniors, 211 competitors set 67 national records in this category. Of the 18 new national swimming records, 13 were chalked up by teenagers. At the International Athletic Championships for Boys in Greece last year, Li Wei-nan, a Peking middle school student, won the first place in the discus throw and Fu Chien-wen from Sinkiang placed third in the 110-m. hurdles.

In table tennis, both national men’s singles champion Li Chen-shih and women’s singles runner-up Yu Chinchia are young players. Nineteen-year-old Lu Yuan-sheng came into the
Pakistan. Jute cultivation, which Pakistan started two years ago, is showing promise. Eight thousand acres of jute in Punjab and Sind Provinces last year grew well. The per-acre yield was 15 maunds (one maund equals about 40 kilograms). The Pakistan Government plans to be self-sufficient in jute by 1978.

Iran. A nuclear seismograph and a rescuing device, the achievements of Iranian inventor Ali Sekhavat, were introduced to a press conference in Teheran on December 18.

The seismograph is operated by a radioactive source. It is extraordinarily sensitive to mechanical shocks caused by earthquakes and draws an electric pulse for each one. The intensity and direction of the shock are indicated respectively by the height and direction of the pulse, which can be recorded on a recording device and connected to an alarm equipment by an analyzer and amplifier.

The rescuing device is used for people buried under earthquake and landslide debris.

Ali Sekhavat’s two inventions had been exhibited at the international fair of inventions and new technologies in Geneva last year. He received two gold medals and a prize.

Democratic Yemen. A Republic ordinance in connection with anti-littery and adult education was issued on December 15 by Salem Robaya Ali, Chairman of the Presidential Council of the People’s Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Under the ordinance, all civilians between the ages of 12 and 45 who have never been to school or have not reached the fourth grade in primary school are obliged to attend anti-literacy courses.

The ordinance outlines a plan to do away with illiteracy in five years starting last December 15.

Nigeria. A symposium on traditional medical therapy, the first of its kind in the country, took place from December 10 to 15 in Lagos. The symposium stressed the significance and necessity of the systematic study of Nigeria’s traditional methods of healing. More than 50 delegates read papers or delivered lectures on various aspects of Nigeria’s traditional medicine, including traditional treatment of diseases and pharmacological studies of Nigerian medicinal plants and herbs. An exhibition was held during the symposium to show traditional prescriptions and various plants and animal parts used in treating diseases.

Tunisia. The Ashtart oilfield in Sfax, East Tunisia, went into operation on December 7. Discovered in 1971, the field is one of Tunisia’s four principal oilfields and the country’s first offshore oilfield. Its total oil reserves are estimated at 36 million tons and initial production is expected to reach 1.2 million tons annually. In addition, 125,000 cubic metres of natural gas will be turned out daily.

Malagasy Republic. The Malagasy Government will take a 51 per cent share in foreign banks operating in the country. Malagasy Minister of Finance Albert-Marie Ramaroson announced recently. He said state trading and agricultural enterprises which have already been established would gradually take over from the colonial companies and other foreign firms which still control 85 per cent of the country’s economy.

Trans-Continental Railway in South America. The first train on the first trans-continental railway in South America completed its run along the whole route in mid-December last year. Starting from Chile’s port city of Antofagasta on the Pacific coast, the 4,400-kilometre-long railway runs eastward through Argentina and Bolivia and reaches Brazil’s port city of Santos on the Atlantic coast. The first train left Antofagasta November 29 and arrived in port Santos after a two-week run.

Put into operation by linking old rail lines, the railway is the combined effort of the four countries (Argentina, Chile, Bolivia and Brazil) through an agreement to promote trade among them.

Panama. Paddy yields went up 37.6 per cent in 1973 to more than 172.36 million kilogrammes. Panama already can export certain quantities of rice after meeting the domestic need of over 145 million kilogrammes. This is the result of the Panamanian Government and people paying attention to agricultural production in recent years.

Ecuador. The total value of Ecuador’s exports in the first ten months of 1973 amounted to 367.1 million U.S. dollars, 137.2 million more than in the same period of 1972. One-third of the total was oil.

Since the discovery of a large oilfield in the northeastern part of the country in 1967, Ecuador, mainly exporting banana for a long time, has increased its oil production by a big margin. Present daily output is 230,000 barrels of petroleum. Until it began oil exports in August 1972, the country exported only agricultural products. Exporting more than 67.164 million barrels last year, it became the second oil exporting country, next to Venezuela, in Latin America.

January 18, 1974
# Radio Peking

## English Language Transmissions

*effective only from Nov. to April
†effective only from May to Oct.

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