

# The Principal Contradiction In The World Today

## A Refutation of the CPI (M) Central Committee's Madurai Draft Resolution on the Issue of Contradictions

Chairman Mao has said: "...in studying any complex method in which there are two or more contradictions, we must devote every effort to finding its principal contradiction. Once this principal contradiction is grasped, all problems can be readily resolved." And: "There are many contradictions in the process of development of a complex thing, and *one* of them is necessarily the principal contradiction whose existence and development determines the existence and development of the other contradictions."

The Madurai Draft betrays the C. C.'s revisionist understanding of the nature of contradictions.

The neo-revisionists have failed to understand the importance of grasping the principal contradiction in the world today. The neo-revisionists have also failed to understand that the principal contradiction is not fixed or permanent; in a different situation the contradictions can change position. In the solving of any problem where there are two or more contradictions the vital and primary task is to distinguish clearly the principal contradiction from the other non-principal contradictions, because it is "the principal contradiction whose existence and development determines the existence and development of other contradictions."

What is the principal contradiction in the world today? The neo-revisionists have no answer to this question. A flood of sophistry covers up their ignorance of dialectics. There are four fundamental contradictions in the world today: the contradiction between the socialist camp and the imperialist camp; the contradiction between the proletariat and the

bourgeoisie in the capitalist countries; the contradiction between the oppressed nations and imperialism; and the contradictions among imperialist countries and among monopoly capitalist groups.

Of the four fundamental contradictions in the world today, only one can be the principal contradiction which will *determine* the existence and development of the others, although these four fundamental contradictions are inter-related and influence each other. The Soviet revisionists hold that the contradiction between the socialist camp and the imperialist camp is the sharpest of all the contradictions and, hence, the principal contradiction in the world today. They also hold that the contradiction between the socialist camp and the imperialist camp can be resolved by peaceful economic competition and peaceful co-existence. The other fundamental world contradictions will also automatically disappear with the disappearance of the contradiction between the camps of socialism and imperialism and a new "world without wars and all-round co-operation" will appear. They also maintain that through peaceful competition etc. imperialism will collapse of itself and hence there is neither necessity nor justification for the oppressed peoples to wage wars of liberation against imperialism.

The position of the neo-revisionists on the question of the principal contradiction in the world today is fundamentally the same and their sophistry and confused verbiage is only an attempt to disguise this position. They maintain that the contradiction between the socialist camp and the imperialist camp remains the principal or "central contradiction of our time" and, that in our epoch the international socialist system is becoming the decisive factor in determining the course of world development." At the same time they try to deceive the revolutionaries in the party by asserting that, "Notwithstanding the fact that it *is* so (*i.e.*, the central contradiction is the one between the socialist camp and the imperialist camp), the one (contradiction) between the imperialists and oppressed nations has got accentuated and assumed the acutest

form,...and the intensification of this contradiction is, of course, *influencing* the course of all other contradictions, their growth and development."

What a momentous discovery! This is, indeed, "turning dialectics into the meanest and basest sophistry", as Lenin had described the weighty pronouncements of the revisionists of the Second International.

It is obvious to us all that the *intensification* of any one of the four fundamental contradictions will *influence* the course, development and growth of all other contradictions. If the neo-revisionists of the C.C. were really to refute the standpoint of the Soviet revisionists they would have to assert unequivocally that the contradiction between the imperialists and the oppressed nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America, does not merely *influence* the growth and development of the other fundamental contradictions in the world today, but that it is the existence and development of this contradiction which determines the growth and development of the other fundamental contradictions. In short, this contradiction between the imperialists led by the U.S. and the revolutionary peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America is the principal contradiction in the world today. And, hence, it is the development of this contradiction that is determining the development of the struggle of the world's peoples against U.S. imperialism and the reactionaries of all countries.

Why is the contradiction between the revolutionary peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America and the imperialists headed by the U.S. the principal contradiction in the world today?

The victory of the Great Chinese Revolution brought about a fundamental change in the world balance of forces, in the struggle between world imperialism and the oppressed peoples. This victory "breached imperialism in the East" and gave a great impetus "to the national liberation struggles in Asia, Africa and Latin America which entered a new historical period."

After World War II, U. S. imperialism has become the biggest international exploiter. It is the main force of war

and aggression in the world today, and the most ferocious enemy of the peoples of all countries. The Soviet revisionists are U. S. imperialism's main ally in its scheme of domination and plunder of the world.

U. S. imperialism's main targets of exploitation and aggression are the colonial and semi-colonial countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Hence, the main arena of struggle against imperialism headed by the U. S. is in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the storm-centres of revolution today. The national liberation revolutions in these continents, whose focal point is the heroic war of liberation waged by the Vietnamese people against U. S. imperialist aggression, are the most important forces dealing direct and mortal blows at U. S. imperialism and its lackeys. Today the revolutionary peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, who form the vast majority of the world's population, are undermining the foundations of the rule of imperialism and colonialism by waging people's war under the guidance of Mao Tse-tung's thought.

Since World War II, advancing wave upon wave, the national liberation struggles of the peoples of China, Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cuba, Indonesia, Philippines, Burma, Thailand, Algeria, Tanzania, South Yemen and other countries, have developed into an irresistible and invincible revolutionary force which is sweeping U. S.-led imperialism into the dustbin of history.

The contradictions in the contemporary world are concentrated in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The contradiction between the oppressed peoples and the imperialists, between the peasantry and feudalism, between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, the contradictions among the imperialists themselves and between the imperialists and the socialist countries are all concentrated here. Therefore, as Comrade Lin Piao says, "in the final analysis, the whole cause of the world revolution hinges on the revolutionary struggles of Asian, African and Latin American countries who make up the overwhelming majority of the world's population." (*Long Live The Victory Of People's War*). Hence, it is the develop-

ment of the national liberation struggles of the oppressed peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America under the guidance of Mao Tse-tung's thought, which is determining the course of development of the world revolution today.

Materialist dialectics holds that, "The fundamental cause of development of a thing is not external but internal; it lies in the contradictoriness within the thing." (Mao Tse-tung, *On Contradiction*). Therefore, the fundamental cause of the collapse of imperialism must be found in the development of its internal contradictions. The development of the external contradiction i.e., the contradiction between the socialist camp and the imperialist camp, although it is very sharp, can only influence and bring about favourable conditions for the revolutionary struggles of the oppressed peoples. It is the development and intensification of the principal contradiction with the imperialist camp, i.e., the contradiction between the oppressed nations and the imperialists led by the U. S., which is the fundamental cause for the collapse of imperialism and the further development of the socialist camp.

The superiority of the socialist system and its achievements in construction can inspire but never replace the revolutionary struggles of the oppressed peoples and nations. The oppressed peoples can win liberation only through their own revolutionary struggle. The liberation of the masses is achieved by the masses themselves. This is a fundamental truth of Marxism-Leninism.

That is why, the contradiction between the oppressed nations and the U. S. imperialists cannot be resolved through the peaceful economic competition between the socialist and imperialist countries. This contradiction can only be resolved by the revolutionary struggles of the oppressed peoples, which must inevitably lead to the final collapse of imperialism.

Comrade Lin Piao has said:

"At present, the main battlefield of the fierce struggle between the people of the world on the one side and U. S. imperialism and its lackeys on the other is the vast area of Asia, Africa and Latin America. In the world as a whole, this

is the area where the people suffer worst from imperialist oppression and where imperialist rule is most vulnerable. Since World War II, revolutionary storms have been rising in this area, and today they have become the most important force directly pounding U. S. imperialism. The contradiction between the revolutionary peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America and the imperialists headed by the United States is the principal contradiction in the contemporary world. The development of this contradiction is promoting the struggle of the people of the whole world against U. S. imperialism and its lackeys." (*Long Live The Victory of People's War*)

Why are the neo-revisionists deliberately confusing the issue of the principal contradiction in the world today? Why do they side with the Soviet revisionists and maintain that the contradictions between the socialist camp and the imperialist camp is the central or the principal one in the world today?

The reason is that the neo-revisionists are opposed to people's war and revolution. They have no faith in the masses and are afraid of U. S. imperialism. That is why, they maintain that India is an "independent" and "newly liberated" country and praise the Indian "bureaucrat-comprador" bourgeoisie, the lackeys of U. S. imperialism, in a sly attempt to cover up the neo-colonialist aggression of U. S. imperialism against our country.

Finally, with this Madurai document, they hope to succeed in continuing to deceive the revolutionaries in the party, by pretending to side with the general line of the C.P.C. on certain issues while on the basic, fundamental issues they support and follow the line of Khrushchov revisionists, as the neo-revisionist standpoint on the issue of the fundamental contradictions in the world today clearly demonstrates.