

China's Rulers Begin Open Attack on Mao

The insects are coming out from under the rocks in China. After three years of thinly covering their reversals of Mao Tsetung's revolutionary line with some words about being his true upholders and continuers, the revisionists who have taken over in China are now coming out to openly attack him.

The special occasion was the October 1 thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. News has just begun to come out on these events as we go to press, and we will have more analysis next week, but the basic thrust is already clear from initial reports.

In a major speech summing up Party history, Yeh Chien-ying—the dottering third-ranking revisionist in China and himself probably a foot dragger on blasting Mao—was propped up to deliver the opening rounds of this attack. He said this was a “preliminary” summation, more would come later, but he did quite a wrecking job for openers.

Mao Tsetung's greatest single contribution to revolutionary practice was China's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution—a great mass movement aimed at preventing the restoration of capitalism in China as had happened in the Soviet Union. Only a short time

ago, the Chinese revisionists had gone through the motions of praising it, while reversing all of its accomplishments. Yeh Chien-ying himself, for example, said to the 11th Party Congress back in 1977 that Mao “went on to lead us, through fierce and complex struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie and through the unparalleled Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, in scoring tremendous victories in socialist revolution and construction.”

Now listen to Yeh's new speech:

“During the ten years of the Cultural Revolution which started in 1966 our country underwent a big struggle between revolution and counter-revolution. The starting point of launching the Cultural Revolution was to combat and prevent revisionism. A ruling pro-

letarian party must of course be vigilant at all times and avoid going the revisionist road of oppressing the people domestically and pursuing hegemony internationally. *The problem is when the Cultural Revolution was launched an unrealistic judgement was made in assessing the situation within the Party and the country. No precise explanation was made of what revisionism is, the principle of democratic centralism was deviated from, and wrong policies and methods of struggle were adopted.*”

And the result of this ten-year period of Chinese history according to Yeh? “. . . An appalling catastrophe to all our people (which) brought the most serious setback to our socialist cause since the founding of our country.”

Now for the \$64,000 question: What well-known Chinese revolutionary leader was the head of the Party during this period?

This hogwash passing off as “analysis” is almost identical to the attacks made on Mao by every other set of revisionists in the world today—from the Soviet Union to Albania.

While everyone in China and around the world knows just what he is saying, Yeh still only names Lin Piao and the “gang of four” as being the ones who had “counter-revolutionary objectives.” But how did Lin (who was a revisionist) and the so-called “gang” (who were carrying out Mao's line) accomplish all this? According to Yeh they “used” certain “mistakes.” When Yeh gets around to listing these mistakes he broadens the attack on Mao to go way back beyond the time of the Cultural Revolution:

“In 1957 it was necessary to beat back a handful of rightists. However, in the course of struggle a mistake was made in enlarging it. In 1958 in directing the economic work the objective laws were violated, deviating from the principle of thorough investigation and study, and testing out everything first, and made mistakes of ‘blind commandism,’ ‘over-exaggeration,’ and ‘communist wind.’ In 1959 within the Party the struggle against so-called right opportunism was inappropriately launched.”



Mao Tsetung applauds a mass rally of Red Guards during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.

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Mao

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Everyone in China knows it was Mao Tsetung who initiated and pushed for all this. It is clear that to these revisionists Mao made only one real mistake—he was a *communist*.

Not to be left out of the act, revisionist Chairman Hua Kuo-feng also gave a speech on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the People's Republic of China. In this speech, according to the *Christian Science Monitor*, Hua mentioned Mao's name exactly *zero* times. In 1977 it had been seven times; in 1978, three. Hua reportedly said that in 1949 the Chinese people had stood up—not even mentioning that Mao Tsetung was the author of that statement.

Mao Down, Liu Up

Mao is not the only Chinese figure getting re-evaluated these days. So is his major enemy—called “China's Khrush-

chev” during the Cultural Revolution—former president Liu Shao-chi. Two months earlier, Politburo member Yu Chiu-li, while receiving a delegation of the Japanese press, had broached the subject, “The Chinese people will not forget their past president Liu Shao-chi. We will re-evaluate his contributions on the basis of ‘seeking truth from facts.’ ”

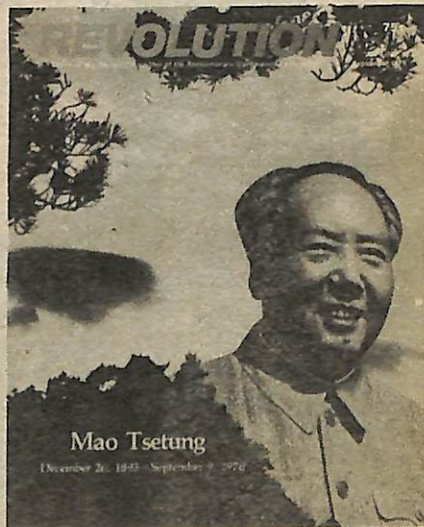
Now, according to the Chinese official news agency report of September 29, Yeh Chien-ying has “affirmed that the major documents of the 8th Party Congress (1956) are correct and considers their basic content still has important significance in guiding work today.” The “major documents” of the 8th Party Congress—attacked as revisionist during the Cultural Revolution—included the Political Report given by Liu Shao-chi and the report on the Constitution given by Teng Hsiao-ping. These documents preached the line constantly attacked by Mao as the dying out of class struggle. Yeh even quoted from them saying, “The 8th Party Congress correctly affirmed that

‘the several thousand-year history of class exploitation in our country is basically over’ from now on the main task is to go all out to develop the social productive forces.”

The *Washington Post* of October 3 also reported another “creative development” of Chinese revisionism. It reported that a photo exhibition had gone up in Peking of Party history which included three pictures of Liu Shao-chi. Two of these, apparently, gave Liu prominence equal to Mao. The Chinese news agency praised the exhibit, saying that it contained “a new evaluation of the role of leading figures who have made mistakes.” Truly a sword with a double edge. The article mentioned no names, so you can fill in the blank as “Liu Shao-chi” or Mao Tsetung!

With Liu Shao-chi now being restored to honor, about the only thing that hasn't *yet* been reversed in China is Mao's stand on the Soviet Union. We will be watching events closely as time marches on. ■

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