

FIFTH NATIONAL PEOPLES' CONGRESS HELD

SOCIALISM ON

CHINA - THE MARCH

In late February a little over three thousand people met in China. They discussed how to mobilize nearly a quarter of humanity with one heart and mind to accomplish a common purpose. The purpose dwarfs some of the greatest feats of humanity. It makes the seven wonders of the world seem like trivial tasks. It is the goal of completely transforming the face of China from one of a poor and backward country, still marked by centuries of colonial bondage, into a "great and powerful socialist country with modern agriculture, industry, national defense and science and technology by the end of the century, that catches up and surpasses the most advanced countries in the world."

It was the Fifth National Peoples Congress of the Peoples Republic of China, the highest organ of the Chinese government. What gives these farmers, workers, students, technicians and Communist Party members the confidence to believe they can accomplish these goals? Particularly at a time when the capitalist world's finest economists, government officials, technocrats and journalists predict at best continued recession and at worst a new world depression? At a time when the Soviet Union can't alleviate grain shortages, when Western Europe can't employ millions of college educated youth and when the city of New York wonders if it can afford to prevent its bridges from collapsing? It is the confidence of living in socialist society. The confidence of knowing socialism to be a system that is far superior to capitalism.

Capitalism is a system geared to private profit and to the profits of a handful of monopolists at that. These drives for profit



COLLECTIVIZATION FREES THE PEASANTRY FROM BACKBREAKING LABOR.

define and fundamentally restrict the country's goals. Everything from education to growing apples is determined by the needs of the monopolists.

These needs are not based on or synonymous with the needs of society and its people. They are the needs of accumulating the greatest amount of money in the shortest amount of time, sacrificing quality, the lives of its producers (the workers), the effects on the environment and so on in the process. As a mere handful grow richer, the vast majority move closer to starvation. Society is divided into two great camps with nothing in common.

Based on the individual needs of each or

a group of monopolists, rather than the entire society, the result is anarchy. Millions of cars sit in lots unsold while decent housing is a scarcity. Cars no longer being profitable, auto workers are laid off by the thousands sending reverberations throughout the economy. Unemployment mounts, resulting in declining purchasing power and even greater layoffs. Friedrich Engels put it best: "Production and exchange gradually begins to move again. By degrees the pace quickens, it becomes a trot, the industrial trot passes into a gallop and the gallop in turn passes into the mad onrush of a complete industrial commercial credit and speculative steeple chase only to land again in the end after the most breakneck jumps in the ditch of a crash. And so on again and again."

But these are not the hallmarks of socialism. These are not the laws in operation. In China it is the needs of the working people that define the goals and tasks. Unlike a country where profit is king, priorities are determined according to social need. The iron band of profits no longer restrict production. In China, competition for profit does not reign supreme and as a result, plans can be drawn up to guide economic development, plans that can be constantly altered and improved as the need arises. Underlying it all, exploitation no longer exists. As a result, labor productivity is very high. The new socialist man recognizes that he is not producing so that others might live in luxury while he lives in misery, instead he is working for the good of all working people, and himself as part of that. This labor productivity is born out of common purpose and love for the new socialist life and not, as it is under capitalism, from the fear of the foreman's whip or the threat of losing his job.

The Chinese people are motivated to shoulder these tremendous tasks by a sense of urgency. It is viewed as a "race against time." They anticipate tremendous changes in the world in the next quarter of a century. In particular, they foresee a new world war on the horizon. Nearly a million Soviet troops are massed on the Chinese border. Add to that the millions of troops that stare eyeball to eyeball in Western Europe, the recent conflict in the Mideast, Ethiopia and the rest of Africa, it is clear that the two superpowers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, are increasingly at odds. Each country, driv-

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CHINA IS CHANGING THE FACE OF THE WORLD.

CHINA...

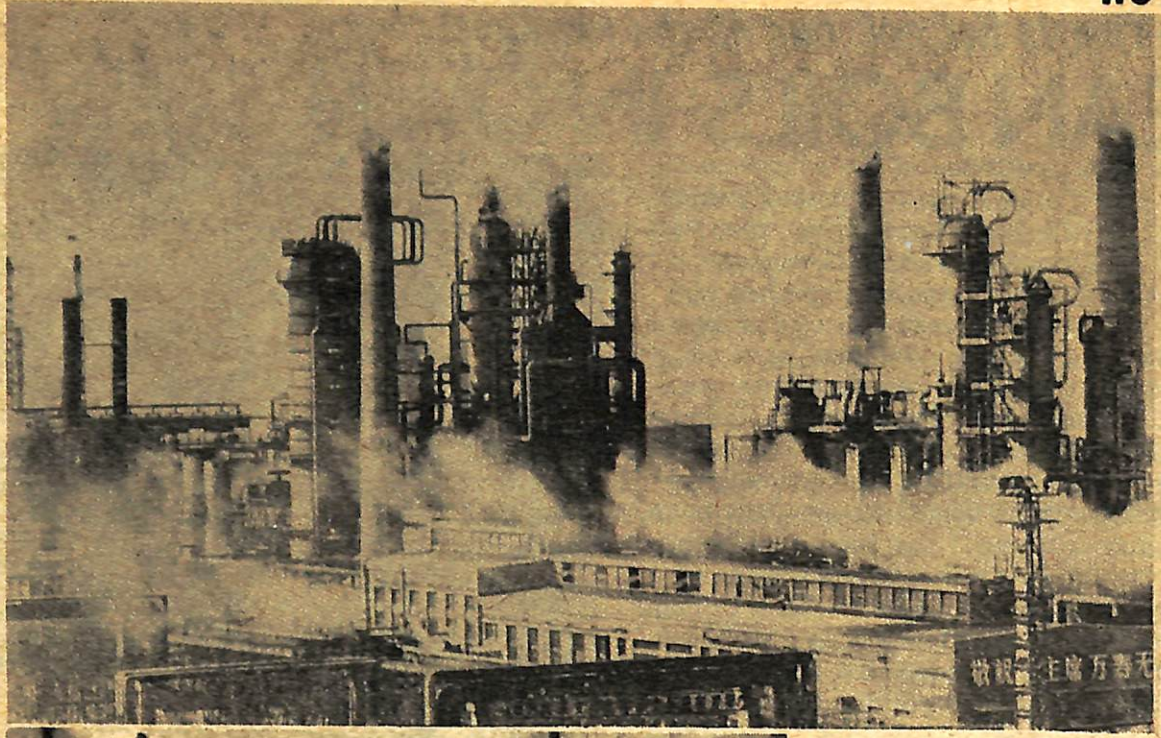
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en by profit, is engaged in unbridled competition for control of the world. This lays the basis for an eventual new world war. This war will leave no country unthreatened and no area untouched. China especially will be an important target. Both because of its wealth of natural resources, most important being its eight hundred million workers and peasants, and because as a socialist country, China is a glaring exposure of the bankruptcy, both in domestic and world affairs, of the capitalist system.

China has too often known the bitter taste of the conquered. Prior to liberation, China was an unending victim of imperialist aggression, from the Opium Wars to World War II. China is determined never to fall victim again. This demands building China into a powerful country, capable of defending itself.

But a new world war will also make revolution a question on the agenda in many countries around the world. As the capitalists drag the people to war, the misery and suffering increases tremendously. The senselessness of the system stands more and more exposed. And peoples' desire to be free from it once and for all becomes a powerful thing. China will be an inspiration to all who want revolution. And even more, China is determined to make great contributions to it.

For 29 years, the Chinese people have held state power. From a backward, starving, illiterate country, the Chinese have consciously transformed all spheres of their society. Most significant, the Chinese

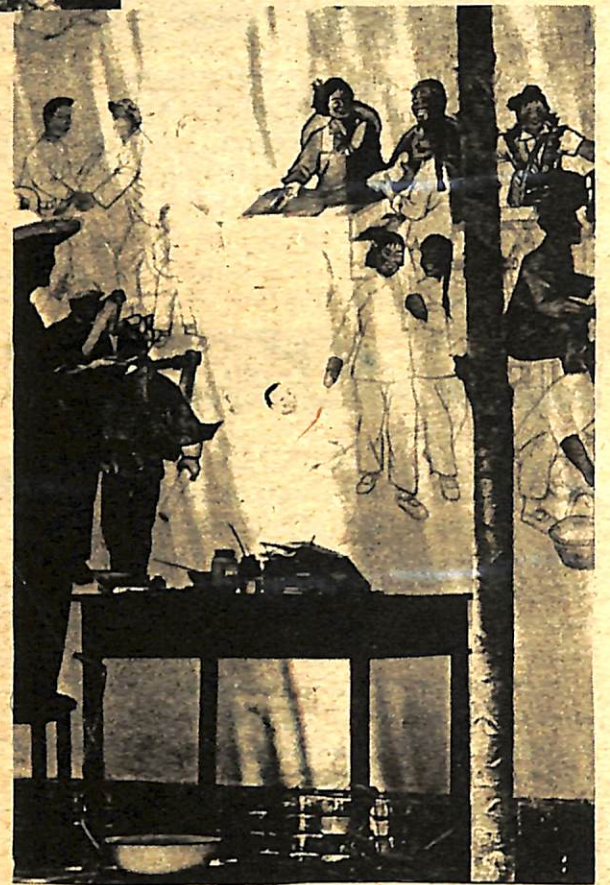


ABOVE: FOR THE FIRST TIME, CHINA IS BUILDING A MODERN INDUSTRY. LEFT: STARVATION IS GONE. CHINA PRODUCES ENOUGH TO FEED THE NATION. BELOW: "LET A HUNDRED FLOWERS BLOOM" IS THE POLICY IN CULTURE.

have begun to revolutionize agriculture, step by step, wiping out the vestiges of feudal oppression by establishing collective forms of agriculture. This was a crucial step, as 80% of China's population is peasants. From taking away the lands of the rich landowners and distributing it to the poorer peasants, the revolution has moved to higher and higher forms of public ownership. Instead of one peasant struggling for survival on his own little plot of land, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has led 600 million peasants to pool their labor, tools and lands together. For the first time in history, China's population has enough to eat. With only 7% of the world's arable land, China now feeds one-quarter of humanity. By pooling resources, collectivization has laid the basis to completely mechanize agriculture.

Similarly, working class rule in China has allowed, for the first time, the development of modern industry. While enormous strides are yet to be made, the working class has broken the shackles that held them to a colonized and feudal economy. In addition, the achievement of literacy across the country, has been coupled with the initial developments in socialist science and technology to serve the working class in building up the country.

These advances have allowed the working class to further consolidate its rule, and achieve higher levels of ownership by the people. All this has established a critical foundation for China's entire economic and technical levels to make a big leap in the next period, a leap where China can catch



up with and pass the most advanced levels of development in the world.

To become a powerful and modern socialist country, it is necessary to advance on a all fronts, and what is seen as most important at this time is the rapid development of the economy. The goal is to raise the economic and technological norms to approach, equal and surpass world level. This demands in the next ten years mechanizing eighty-five percent of the agriculture in a country where agriculture, and in particular, grain, is the foundation of the economy. It means developing light industry so that greater amounts of quality merchandise will be produced and the standard of living of the people will rise. At the same time, China envisages rapid development of heavy industry, including 120 large scale projects. In this way the basis for expansion on other fronts will increase.

To accomplish advances on the economic front, it is necessary, and a key task, to further increase China's technical ability. If technology fails to keep pace, plans for new factories, for terracing mountains to farmlands, discovering more resources, and challenging and conquering nature, will all remain hopes and dreams with no one cap-

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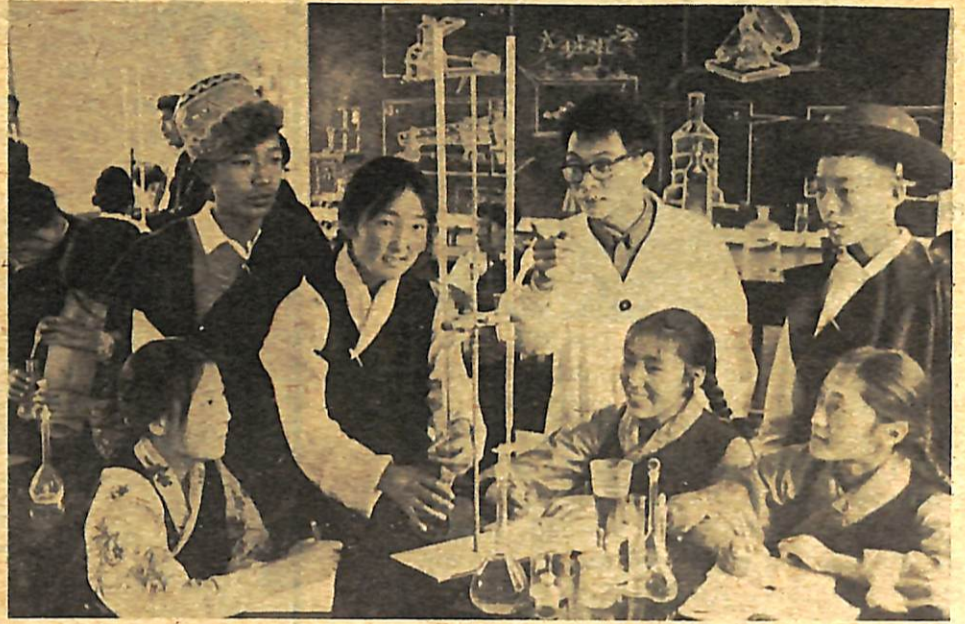


ABOVE: HUA KUO FENG, CHAIRMAN OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY.

LEFT: 3000 DELEGATES ATTEND THE 5th NATIONAL PEOPLES' CONGRESS.

CHINA...

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 able of bringing them to pass. An "army of working class intellectuals," who are both communist and capable of making new technological breakthroughs must be trained. As Chairman of the CCP, Hua Kuo Feng put it in his speech at the Congress, "The tremendous exuberance of the masses of workers, peasants, soldiers and intellectuals is becoming a mammoth force for storming the citadels of science, revitalizing education and creating a brilliant culture." This is a broad and encompassing task. It stretched from increasing the numbers and skill of legions of "bare foot doctors" to making eight years of education at least universal throughout the country. It includes achieving new heights in the conquering of science, and also new breadths in the development of culture.



LEFT: CHINA IS DEVELOPING A NEW GENERATION OF "WORKING CLASS INTELLECTUALS"
 ABOVE: TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS ARE KEY TO BUILDING A NEW CHINA.

At the same time, new plans and breakthroughs are all in the final analysis, to strengthen socialism, the rule and dictatorship of the working class. The Soviet Union continues to stand as a grim warning to the worlds' people and the Chinese in particular, that socialism can revert back to capitalism and that capitalist forces can again take command. Therefore, while building a strong economy and a prosperous and stable society does help to strengthen socialism, this does not automatically happen. These impressive plans can go a long way to further strengthen the material basis for socialism. New advances can take place in overcoming inequalities such as between mental and manual labor, inherited from capitalism. The political foundation of socialist rule, the worker-peasant alliance, can

be strengthened. New advances in the economy and technology will go a long way in making China better able to defend itself from aggression. But as the Chinese point out, time and again, this will only happen by recognizing that "class struggle" is the key link. That is to say, that around every question, every plan, a struggle will take place between two different forces, two different viewpoints on how to move forward.

In fact there was very sharp class struggle over the last few years, whose successful resolution made the new plans outlined by the Fifth National Peoples Congress possible. It was the struggle against the "gang of four," a handful of Party leaders whose outlook and policies left un-

Teachers didn't teach, students didn't learn, culture wasn't developed and factories didn't run. The Gang eliminated rules, state plans and production quotas. It was the Gang themselves who laid the basis for capitalist restoration and opened the door to black markets, careerists and profiteers who sought to take advantage of the disruption to promote themselves.

But it was almost two years ago that this "gang of four" were removed from power. The confidence and plans for the Fifth National Peoples Congress are a result of this political victory for the Chinese people. It represents new clarity and understanding in how to develop the class struggle as the guiding force and not separated from the day to day tasks of building socialism. As

checked would have restored capitalism in China. These capitalist roaders talked about class struggle more than anyone in China. But their view of class struggle amounted to simply quote-slinging against anyone who was actually getting down on the tasks of building socialism. They "put hats" on people who voiced criticisms, calling all enemies of the revolution. In the place of broad, open, free discussion, without fear of reprisals, the Gang instituted a reign of terror, stifling the initiative of the people. They used their power to promote friends through the age old political practice of patronage. And turned the dictatorship over the enemy into dictatorship over the people.

While the Gang were leaders of the Communist Party, whole sections of the society were thrown into chaos and paralysis.

these plans come to fruition, the various arguments, including the "Gang of Four's", that socialism is only for poor countries, will be exploded as China becomes more and more a modern, powerful and socialist country by the end of the century.

The next twenty-five years of China's development promises to be as exciting as the last twenty-five. In watching China develop and grow we are watching the future unfold before our eyes.

As one American worker put it who recently travelled to China, it was like entering a time machine. Some took that to mean he felt like he had entered the past considering the backwardness of technology and production. He insisted, however, it was like entering the future after having experienced the new socialist relations. After twenty-five years there will no longer be any room for confusion of this type. China will have stepped into the front ranks in all aspects.

In China man has taken into hand the laws of social development as well as the laws of science and nature and is consciously transforming the world. The dark days of ignorance, prejudice and oppression are behind the Chinese people. As each day passes the Chinese people are becoming better armed to prevent the old order from ever again being restored. With this increased understanding the lives of the people are improving and already China is beginning to step into its rightful place as a leader of the world's people on all fronts. In the next twenty-five years the two systems will increasingly stand in sharp contrast. The thriving world of socialism and the dead end world of capitalism. People the world over look to China and its future, not only because of respect for their advances, but because we see that future is something we more and more desire and will win as well.



PEOPLE DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE "GANG OF FOUR."

