

Chinese revolution - then and now

TWENTY-NINE years ago, on October 1, 1949, the People's Republic of China was proclaimed. It was a socialist state with the workers and peasants of China controlling the dictatorship of the proletariat under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. There was jubilation among millions, throughout the world, who had witnessed the humiliation of the USA as it poured money and arms on its puppets - the reactionary Kuomintang - only to see both being frittered away or being captured by the ever-advancing Red Army. Finally on that triumphant day the world's largest socialist state was established to increase, immeasurably, the strength of the socialist camp.

The USA, aided and abetted by Britain and other imperialist powers, tried their utmost to throttle and blockade the infant state. The war in Korea, begun when the People's Republic was not even a year old, was deliberately spread to the borders of China in the fond hope held by the United Nations that the "reds"

would never be able to withstand such an onslaught. They did, and fought shoulder to shoulder with North Koreans.

Then followed the successful building of socialism in a semi-feudal, semi-colonial state where hundreds of millions of peasants broke their chains from the bondage of hunger, illiteracy and oppression.

Finally came the testing of socialist ideology confronted with the wholesale revising of Marxism-Leninism by the post-Stalin leadership of the Soviet Union. In the early '60's the Chinese Party took up the challenge initiated by the gallant Albanians and exposed the manifold deviations from scientific socialism inside the Russian Party and many others which have now openly embraced the reformist rubbish termed "Euro-Communism."

Many communists throughout the world benefited from the clarity of the ideological polemics.

Then came the attempt to strengthen the leadership of the working class inside China by

involving millions of workers and peasants during the years of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.

Today the giants of the Chinese Revolution - of the Long March, the Civil War and the creation of socialist China - are all dead. Chu Teh, Chou En-lai and Mao have all gone and with them appears to have perished the banner of socialism. But just as Brezhnev and the traitors of the Kremlin cannot dim the glories of the Bolshevik Revolution or the achievements of the Soviet Union under Lenin and Stalin neither can the present leadership of the Chinese Party and State destroy the inspiration that the Chinese Revolution provided for the peasants and workers of the world.

Socialism is possible for all of us if we learn to apply the principles of Marxism to our own conditions and fight on class lines for the destruction of capitalism. As Mao wrote in one of his fine poems:

"Nothing is hard in this world
If you dare to scale the heights."