

Confessions from Peking

On December 7, *People's Daily* published a revealing front page article that was immediately echoed by the bourgeois press throughout the world. "The works of Marx and Lenin," wrote the organ of the Central Committee of the CPC, "are no longer capable of solving today's problems." The next day *People's Daily* published a full page correction. Due to an unfortunate "typographical error" the word "all" had been eliminated from the article in question, leaving open the possibility that Marx and Lenin may be useful for solving *some* of today's problems. If they want to keep "*some*" thing of Marxism, it is only for the purpose of preserving the authority and rule of what has become an utterly counter-revolutionary, anti-Marxist party.

In fact, the Communist Party of China abandoned Marxism-Leninism for the solution of *any* of their problems after the coup d'etat of 1976 following the death of Mao Tsetung.

The *People's Daily* confession shows more than just how far and fast these revisionists have gone. After all, the revisionists in China had been attacking basic principles of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought even before they seized power in 1976 and have become increasingly brazen ever since then. But to openly discredit Marxism-Leninism is largely to be explained, ironically, by the past strength of Marxism in China and the support it still finds today among many millions. For the revisionists to carry out their complete restoration of capitalism, and to try to squash the resistance to their bourgeois rule, it is necessary for them to wage an all-out ideological offensive to prevent the masses from measuring the line and program of these usurpers in the light of revolutionary Marxism.

As one unnamed high Chinese official was quoted as saying, "for the

first time in the history of our Party, we have placed production in command." It is certainly true that the Chinese Communist Party under the leadership of Chairman Mao Tsetung had always struggled against the revisionist idea of putting "production in command." Under Mao's leadership the central task of the CPC had always been making revolution—first in the long decades of warfare leading to the liberation of China and later during the period of socialism itself when Mao led the people in fighting to continue to revolutionise society. Mao Tsetung succinctly summarised the relationship between revolution and the struggle for production with the formula, "Grasp Revolution, Promote Production," that he raised during the Cultural Revolution.

The last great battle of Mao Tsetung was aimed precisely at those who under the guise of "modernising" China and "boosting production" were attacking the dictatorship of the proletariat and Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought. And the leader of the revisionists in China at the time was, of course, none other than the current Chinese strongman Teng Hsiao-ping.

Ever since the coup led by Teng and Hua Kuo-feng it is not the works of Marx and Lenin, but the dictum of Teng Hsiao-ping that is guiding China's policy: "Black cat, white cat, what's the difference as long as it catches mice." If Marxism-Leninism is not useful in catching mice, why perhaps capitalism will do better. And in fact this is exactly what is going on in China where the revisionists are restoring the capitalist system of exploitation at breakneck speed. Mao Tsetung himself had pointed this out when he warned, "if people like Lin Piao come to power, it will be quite easy for them to rig up

the capitalist system. That is why we should do more reading of Marxist-Leninist works.

The total dismantling of collective agriculture in China's vast countryside, the institution of "international zones" where imperialists have free rein to set up and administer sweatshops, the total reversal of the transformations in the educational and artistic spheres that had been brought about through the Cultural Revolution, frequent public executions of alleged "common criminals," the enrollment of China in the U.S.-led war bloc—these are just some of the fruits of Teng Hsiao-ping's capitalist mice-catching. The restoration of capitalism and the putting of production (really profit) in command has brought forward a whole series of new problems in the economy and society which the Chinese revisionists are now trying to blame on Marxism. It is true that the only solution that Marxism offers for the problems of capitalism is the overthrow of the bourgeoisie.

Eight years after their coup d'etat, the Chinese revisionists still feel compelled to continue their campaigns against the "ultra-left influence of the Gang of Four" remaining from the Cultural Revolution. Millions of workers, peasants and revolutionary intellectuals were brought forward and were trained in Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought in the course of the Cultural Revolution. Revolutionary leaders like Chiang Ching and Chang Chun-chiao emerged, who stood alongside and led the masses into battle against the revisionists, and who continue to defend the revolutionary line in the face of bitter defeat. All of this is of great concern for the revisionist "cats" ruling in China today who know that they are up against more than mere mice. ■