

**PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI'S SPEECH  
AT THE RECEPTION  
CELEBRATING THE 20TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING  
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC  
OF CHINA**

(September 30, 1969)

Comrades and Friends,

Our great socialist motherland — the People's Republic of China — has triumphantly lived through twenty fighting years.

On this glorious festive occasion, on behalf of our great leader Chairman Mao and his close comrade-in-arms Vice-Chairman Lin Piao and on behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist

Party of China and the Government of the People's Republic of China, I extend the warmest congratulations and give a proletarian revolutionary salute to the representatives of the working class, poor and lower-middle peasants, Red Guards, revolutionary cadres and revolutionary intellectuals of all nationalities who have come from all parts of the country and to the representatives of the heroic Chinese People's Liberation Army, and cordial greetings to the broad masses of patriotic overseas Chinese and our patriotic fellow-countrymen in Hongkong and Macao, to our fellow-countrymen in Taiwan who are being oppressed and exploited by the U.S.-Chiang reactionaries and to all fellow-countrymen who love our socialist motherland!

Joining us today in joyously celebrating this festive occasion are delegations from friendly countries, comrades from fraternal Marxist-Leninist Parties, friends from mass organizations of various countries,

fighters and heroes from the front of the struggle against U.S. imperialism and also comrades and friends from Asia, Africa, Latin America, Oceania, Europe and North America. We express our warm welcome and sincere thanks to them!

Comrades and Friends,

Twenty years ago, our great leader Chairman Mao solemnly proclaimed to the whole world: **"Our nation will no longer be an insulted nation; we have stood up."**

In the past twenty years, the Chinese people, under the leadership of Chairman Mao and the Communist Party of China, have smashed the sabotage and disruptive activities of the class enemies at home and abroad and, maintaining independence and keeping the initiative in our own hands, relying on our own efforts and working hard and waging arduous struggles to make our country prosperous, have won one victory after another in the socialist revolution and socialist construction. Particularly, as a result of the Great Pro-

letarian Cultural Revolution personally initiated and led by our great leader Chairman Mao, a handful of Party persons in power taking the capitalist road have been overthrown, renegades and hidden traitors have been dragged out, the mental outlook of the broad masses of the people has undergone profound changes and the dictatorship of the proletariat has been further consolidated and strengthened. At present, responding to Chairman Mao's call "**Unite to win still greater victories**", the people of the whole country are carrying out the fighting tasks set forth by the Ninth National Congress of the Communist Party of China. An invigorating and thriving atmosphere prevails throughout the country. A new upsurge is emerging in industrial and agricultural production and in the development of science and technology and culture and art. Our motherland has been transformed from a poor and backward semi-feudal and semi-colonial country

bullied by others into a great socialist country which has persisted in the principle of maintaining independence and keeping the initiative in its own hands and has attained initial prosperity.

All our achievements in the past twenty years are great victories for Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought and for Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line. Chairman Mao teaches us:

**We are now engaged in a great and most glorious cause never before attempted by our forefathers. Our goal must be attained. Our goal can certainly be attained.**

Let us unite still more closely around the Central Committee of the Party with Chairman Mao as its leader and Vice-Chairman Lin Piao as its deputy leader, hold aloft the great red banner of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, carry on in a deep-going way the mass movement for the living study and application

of Mao Tsetung Thought, persevere in the struggle between the two classes, the two lines and the two roads, firmly grasp revolutionary mass criticism, **“carry out the tasks of struggle-criticism-transformation conscientiously”**, so as to ceaselessly push forward the socialist revolution and socialist construction and win new and still greater victories!

Comrades and Friends,

The present international situation is excellent. The revolutionary struggles of the people of various countries are vigorously developing and forcefully pounding at the reactionary rule of the imperialists and their lackeys. U.S. imperialism and social-imperialism are beset with difficulties both at home and abroad and are finding things tougher and tougher. In order to contend for spheres of influence and suppress the people of various countries, they chant peace while both of them actually engage in frenzied arms expansion and war preparations.

They are stepping up their collusion in their attempt to form a ring of encirclement against China and carry out war threats against it. In order to cover up their ulterior motives, they slanderously counter-charge us with having so-called expansionist ambitions and even insinuate that we intend to launch a nuclear war.

From the very first day of the founding of the People's Republic of China, we have declared explicitly that we firmly stand for the safeguarding of world peace and oppose wars of aggression. Ours is a true socialist country and we will never commit aggression against others. We develop nuclear weapons solely for defence and for breaking the nuclear monopoly, and our ultimate aim is to eliminate nuclear weapons. But the peace we uphold is one based on principles, that is, peace based on the Five Principles of mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality

and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. We will never barter away principles. Our great leader Chairman Mao said long ago: **"We will not attack unless we are attacked; if we are attacked, we will certainly counter-attack."** We must make full preparations against the war threats of U.S. imperialism and social-imperialism, including their nuclear war threats. If they should insist on imposing a war of aggression on us, we will firmly resist to the end until final victory.

The 700 million Chinese people armed with Mao Tsetung Thought and tempered through the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution are determined to better fulfil their proletarian internationalist duty and, together with the people of the whole world, carry the struggle against imperialism, modern revisionism and all reaction through to the end.

We firmly support the heroic Albanian people in their struggle against imperialism and revisionism!

We firmly support the heroic Vietnamese people in carrying their war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation through to the end!

We firmly support the Laotian people in their just struggle against U.S. imperialism and the reactionaries of Thailand!

We firmly support the Palestinian people and the other Arab people in their just struggle against U.S. imperialism and Zionism!

We firmly support the Asian, African and Latin American peoples in their struggle for liberation!

We firmly support the revolutionary struggles of the peoples of Western Europe, North America, Oceania and other parts of the world!

We are determined to liberate Taiwan!

We will firmly unite, fight and win victory together with the revolutionary people of all countries and with all revolutionary Marxist-Leninist Parties!

Long live the great unity of the people  
of the world!

Long live the great unity of the people  
of all nationalities of China!

Long live the great People's Republic of  
China!

Long live the great, glorious and correct  
Communist Party of China!

Long live invincible Marxism-Leninism-  
Mao Tsetung Thought!

Long live our great leader Chairman  
Mao! A long, long life to Chairman Mao!