

Revolutionary Armed Peasant Struggle of Mushahari Region

A Review by Bihar Comrades

[From Liberation, Vol. II, No. 4 (February 1969).]

Following is the full text of a resolution adopted by the Bihar State Co-ordination Committee of Communist Revolutionaries:

The Bihar State Co-ordination Committee of Communist Revolutionaries hails the revolutionary peasant struggle in the Mushahari region of Muzaffarpur district and sends its warmest greetings to the militant peasantry for standing heroically in the face of brutal counter-revolutionary terror of the State and the landlords and for conducting sustained armed resistance under the leadership of Communist revolutionaries.

This revolutionary struggle of about 10,000 peasants, landless and poor, covering more than 12 villages is an extension of the Agrarian Revolution initiated in Naxalbari under the banner of the thought of Mao Tse-tung - Marxism-Leninism of the present era. The struggle of the Mushahari peasantry also confirms that all the oppressed countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America have been transformed into the epicentre of the world revolution and that everywhere in this region an unprecedented revolutionary upsurge exists. The Mushahari struggle following as it does in the wake of a series of armed struggles by the peasantry in various parts of the country from Telengana and Srikakulam in the south to Lakhimpur Kheri in the north has delivered devastating blows to the myth assiduously propagated by the revisionists and the neo-revisionists of our country that objective and subjective conditions for launching armed struggle do not exist in India. This struggle has driven another big nail into the coffin of the bankrupt parliamentary path preached ad nauseam by the high priests of revisionism and neo-revisionism in India. It has provided another practical example showing that the path blazed by Naxalbari is the only correct path that the Indian people must follow for their emancipation from the bondage of imperialism, feudalism and comprador-bureaucrat capital.

A careful analysis of various aspects of this struggle shows that there cannot be a Chinese Wall between the economic and political struggles provided the struggle is led to its logical conclusion and is not artificially held back and confined within the four walls of economism and legalism. The struggle of the Mushahari peasantry was initiated on economic issues, but it could take a qualitative leap towards political struggle because by continuous propaganda the mass line of agrarian revolution came to grip not only the minds of the revolutionary cadres but also a substantial section of the mass of poor and landless peasantry, and the mass line could take root in the minds of the peasants as they continuously fought on all the issues, whether small or big, that affected their lives.

The critical review of this struggle demolishes the theory preached by some so-called revolutionaries that armed struggle cannot and must not take place in the plains where the terrain

is not favourable. It proves again that the real iron fortress for the revolutionaries is people and that an awakened people serves the revolutionaries in the same way as the sea serves the fish.

The very fact that thousands of revolutionary peasants escaped from the attempted encirclement of the police and remained concealed within a short distance from the area under police cordon shows how people act as a reliable shelter for their valiant vanguard.

The Mushahari struggle was fought and is still being conducted with the help of traditional weapons. Armed with these weapons the brave peasantry has been fighting hard and repelling the attacks made repeatedly by the State and the landlords. The Mushahari struggle proves that it is not the weapons but the men who decide battles. The granite unity forged among the peasantry, their political consciousness and their perseverance in armed struggle are the surest guarantees for winning victory.

Another feature of this struggle has been that the peasant masses have invariably shown the utmost initiative in planning and executing the tasks at each stage of the struggle and have shown remarkable capacity for organization and resistance. Had it not been for the initiative of the mass of the peasantry of this area, the struggle would not have developed into an armed political struggle against the State within such a short period and within such a small territory with very unfavourable terrain.

However, the most decisive factor in this struggle has been that the local unit of Communist Revolutionaries has always stood at the head of the movement and boldly led it through thick and thin. This was possible because the whole local unit was composed of landless and poor peasants who are firm believers in the thought of Mao Tse-tung.

The local unit has been able to exercise its hegemony at all stages of the struggle as it has self-critically analysed its errors and drawn appropriate lessons from them.

Now, as the struggle further develops, serious ideological, political, organizational and technical preparations must be made to take it to the second stage. These tasks are arduous and hard work is necessary. The State Co-ordination Committee considers it necessary to point out that the task of further consolidation of the Kisan Sangram Samiti and organizing new ones must be undertaken while at the same time conducting an energetic political campaign for our mass line. The State Co-ordination Committee also directs the local unit to concentrate its efforts on fighting back the combined offensive of the landlords and their goondas at this stage while not losing sight of the reactionary state power even for a moment. Another task that needs immediate attention is one of rapidly broadening the base area and winning the mass of the peasantry for revolutionary struggle.

With the fulfillment of these tasks, the State Co-ordination Committee is confident that the Mushahari peasantry can act as an instructive example for the whole of Bihar. Further development of this struggle would ignite the powder keg and ultimately the feudal land relations would be destroyed giving Bihar, particularly, North Bihar, a direction towards a liberated area and a People's Liberation Army.

The State Co-ordination Committee exhorts all the comrades to draw lessons from this heroic armed struggle and launch struggles on similar lines in their own areas. The Committee also appeals that a serious solidarity movement in support of the fighting Mushahari peasantry should be launched and the lessons of the struggle disseminated among the peasants in all parts of Bihar.

The Committee is confident that the peasants are bound to win and the feudals are bound to fail provided Mao Tse-tung's thought grips their minds. Let us enable the peasantry to assimilate the thought of the Chairman.