

COMMUNIQUE FROM CENTRAL COMMITTEE

CHINA CP EVALUATES MAO

The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party has just issued a report shedding new light on recent developments in that country which have captured world attention.

Reporting on its third full meeting, held Dec. 18-22 in Peking, a Central Committee communique analyzes the historic contributions of Chairman Mao Tsetung to the Chinese revolution and outlines big changes ahead for the nation.

The report "emphatically points out that the great feats performed by Comrade Mao Tsetung in protracted revolutionary struggle are indelible" and that without his leadership "it is most likely that the Chinese revolution would not have been victorious."

At the same time, the communique also points out that it would not be Marxist to say that revolutionary leaders, including Chairman Mao, never make mistakes. Mao himself, the Central Committee agreed, was always the first to take a dialectical view of his own accomplishments.

The Central Committee report urges all Party members and the whole Chinese people to adopt a scientific attitude and struggle even harder to apply the scientific system of Mao Tsetung Thought to the concrete conditions in China today.

The need to correctly sum up the contributions of Chairman Mao is only one way in which the Central Committee report emphasizes the importance of increasing democracy and mass participation in the life of the country. In fact, the entire report is a call to once and for all throw out the views of Lin Piao and the "gang of four," who not only tried to make great leaders like Mao



WALL POSTERS all over China reflect campaign to increase democracy.

Tsetung into faultless, godlike creatures, but also did their best to stultify the people's thinking by turning Marxism into dry, static dogma.

In the past, it states, centralism has been "divorced from democracy," and there has been "too little democracy." Among other measures, it urges the strengthening of the socialist legal system, "so that democracy is systematized and written into law."

Again and again, the report calls on the people to "emancipate their thinking," "raise questions," "study new circumstances," "seek truth from facts," and "use

practice as the test of truth." In fact, this is what the world has already seen taking place, as wall posters have gone up all across China expressing the masses' views on how to evaluate the past and move forward into the future.

At the meeting, Party Chairman Hua Kuo-feng also made several suggestions on how to democratize Party life itself, including paying more attention to collective leadership.

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China CP evaluates Chairman Mao. . .

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Setting an example of the call to freely criticize past errors and correct mistakes whenever they are discovered, the Central Committee also reviewed their own work and reversed a number of previous decisions. Specifically they agreed that it was a mistake to call the period in 1975, when Teng Hsiao-ping was in charge of the work of the Central Committee, a "right deviationist wind" and wrong to call "the mass demonstrations honoring Chou En-lai at Tien An Men Square in April 1976 a "counter-revolutionary incident." The Central Committee also decided to rehabilitate several veteran Party comrades who, they agreed, had been unjustly criticized in the past.

It is important to remember that under socialism, the flourishing of democracy and freedom of expression is an essential ingredient in mobilizing the people to defend the revolution and build socialism. This means uniting everybody firmly behind the campaign to modernize the country by the year 2000. The Central Committee made a number of important decisions regarding this great battle.

In the first place, it summed up the now two-year-old campaign to criticize the counter-revolutionaries Lin Biao and the "gang of four," calling it a "great victory" which has "fundamentally come to a successful conclusion." Now the basis has been laid, the report states, to

"shift the emphasis of the Party's work and the attention of people to socialist modernization."

China's own history shows that modernization is no simple matter, the Central Committee points out, but rather a "profound and extensive revolution." This requires that Party members and the masses alike continue to wage class struggle and study hard to apply Marxism to the tasks which face them.

In solving the many complex contradictions involved in modernization, the report calls Mao Tsetung's article "On the Ten Major Relationships" "significant for guidance today" and announces that a number of major new economic measures will be adopted. These include increased trade with developed countries, as well as improvement in management, with more authority given to lower levels, and a more efficient division of labor.

But of all the changes in the economic sphere, the report lays greatest stress on changes in agriculture. "The whole Party," the communique states, "should concentrate its main energy and efforts on advancing agriculture as fast as possible, because agriculture, the foundation of the national economy, has been seriously damaged in recent years and remains very weak on the whole."

Again emphasizing the importance of increased democracy, the report points out that modernization of agriculture first of all requires the wholehearted parti-

cipation of China's millions of peasants and this, in turn, requires that the Party pay "full attention to their material well-being economically" and give "effective protection to their democratic rights politically."

As concrete steps in this direction, the Central Committee proposed, among other things, that the state council raise the price paid by the state for grain and a number of other products and at the same time reduce the cost for farm machinery, fertilizer and other goods which the peasant communes must buy.

While the report lays stress on the need to improve the livelihood of both peasants and workers, it warns against thinking that such a transformation can take place overnight. The Party, it says, must "intensify education in the revolutionary ideas of self-reliance and hard struggle." Leading Party comrades, it adds, must be examples in this respect.

The report also makes several other significant points, including an evaluation of the foreign policy of the Party and government as "correct and successful." The completion of negotiations for normalization of relations between China and the U.S., it notes, is an "important contribution to peace in the world."

All in all, the communique provides an excellent framework for understanding what is happening in socialist China today and what changes will be taking place in the coming year.