

January Storm Decreed Criminal by Revisionists



In January 1967 the working class and masses in Shanghai seized power from the capitalist-roaders. Above, a message of support for their actions from Mao and the revolutionary leadership of China is distributed to the masses of Shanghai, who are shown at left celebrating the establishment of the city's Revolutionary Committee.

The 1967 January Storm, the most famous mass uprising during China's Cultural Revolution, was officially denounced as "counter-revolutionary" by the Shanghai Municipal Peoples' Congress (December 24, 1979, China's *Liberation Daily Newspaper*). The revisionists declared that all those who took part in the uprising could be *criminally* prosecuted by "severe legal action." It's clear the reversal of the verdict on the January Storm is a big step in preparing public opinion for the upcoming political trial of the Gang of Four, actually a trial of Mao's revolutionary line and Mao himself. The storm was led by Chiang Chun-chiao, Yao Wen-yuan, and Wang Hung-wen, three of the four, and was hailed by Mao: "This is one class overthrowing another. This is a great revolution."

It's not surprising the January Storm and the Cultural Revolution still freak out the revisionists. Vice-Premier Yeh Chien-ying, recently called the Cultural Revolution "an appalling catastrophe." For these revisionists, it certainly was. January 1967, hundreds of thousands of workers in Shanghai, joined by students, as well as peasants from surrounding areas, overthrew the Municipal Party Committee, a stronghold of the Liu Shiao-chi—Teng Hsiao-ping revisionist headquarters. Mao called on people all over China to learn from them and overthrow the bourgeoisie—"those in power taking

the capitalist road"—in the same way.

This was a great historic advance, even internationally, for, as Mao said of the whole Cultural Revolution, "In the past we waged struggles in the rural areas, in factories, in the cultural field, and we carried out the socialist education movement. But all this failed to solve the problem because we did not find a form, a method, to arouse the broad masses to expose our dark aspect openly, in an all-around way and from below." The January Storm was just such a step.

Wave upon wave, hundreds of millions of Chinese people were mobilized to seize back from below

those portions of power these capitalist roaders had usurped. Big character posters, public mass criticisms of persons in power, millions debating and changing society—this was the "catastrophe" the revisionist rulers like Teng, who was the number two target in the Cultural Revolution, hated and feared. Through the Cultural Revolution, unprecedented in human history, the working class and masses of people led by Mao and other Communist revolutionaries further transformed not only the Party, but every aspect of society—economic and social relations, culture, people's thinking—and continued the revolution of the working

class rule. Mao warned however "the struggle between the two classes and their two lines cannot be settled in one, two, or three Cultural Revolutions..."

This coup, of course, shows that what these capitalist-roaders find criminal about the January Storm was not that it was an act of violence by which one class overthrew another—but the fact that it represented the working class overthrowing the capitalists and not the other way around, like their coup. Hua and Teng are the real criminals and the final sentence will most definitely be passed on them by yet another rising of the Chinese people. ■

Prison Resort for Torres Murderers

Three of the six Houston cops who murdered Joe Torres were recently sent to jail. They have begun to serve time, being resented in October. The three murderers are resting comfortably in Montgomery, Alabama. They are incarcerated in a prison palace behind finely manicured hedgerows during the week, and on weekends they are permitted to take a 14-hour leave. They have also been put to hard labor—raking leaves and sweeping sidewalks. According to the warden, these "three celebrities" will be treated no differently from any of the others—which have included John Mitchell, Charles Colson and

other Watergate "celebrities." Their "prison" includes tennis courts, a miniature golf course, jogging track, fishing stream, art studio and baseball diamond. The question now is not whether these cops will get paroled when they become eligible in four months, but whether or not they will want to leave this place by then.

Meanwhile, back in Houston, the city government is breaking new ground in letting other murdering cops off the hook. The city council is actively working on a policy which would pay cops' legal expenses with city funds if they are indicted for a crime committed in the

course of duty. This policy is immediately aimed at helping two cops charged with killing Reggie Lee Jackson, a Black man who, according to four witnesses, was begging for his life right before he was shot. To add to this outrage, the secretary of the Grand Jury which will hear this case is an assistant to Police Chief Caldwell himself. Naturally, the authorities hope that the Reggie Lee Jackson killing will be dropped before it goes much further. And as for the "punishment" given to the killers of Joe Torres, in this case it clearly meets the state's view of the severity of the crime. ■