

Tachai...

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The struggle that now confronted the Chinese people was the "struggle between two roads" - the road that led forward to building and strengthening socialism and the one that led to capitalism. These struggles were over how to construct the new society - do it in such a way that it led to the doing away with the suffering people had faced in the old society, that it led to doing away with the old inequalities and class divisions.

TACHAI THE RED BANNER describes how this came down in the day to day lives of the people. It shows how this two line struggle which our press paints as the factional infighting of different power blocs, actually revolves around life and death problems facing the people around very practical questions of how to run the country. Questions, which if resolved incorrectly will eventually lead to the old class divisions being reestablished - with a handful of rulers at the top.

For instance in this country we're always told that people work best if they're working for themselves - that in working for the collective good people will have no "incentive." The same question has come up in Tachai time after time. After liberation, the land of the rich landlords was distributed among all the poor and middle peasants - this was a big step in putting the means of production (land, animals, tools) in the hands of the people, ending their starvation and poverty and starting to wipe out the inequality of the old society. But this still left each peasant working on their own - farming tiny scattered plots. Not only was this a very inefficient of farming which would have left the peasants and China itself very poor, but eventually this kind of individual production would have led to some peasants doing better than others - with the old differences and inequalities coming back.

The solution - to move the peasants of China's countryside forward economically and politically was to step by step go from the peasants farming their private plots of land individually to large scale collective agriculture with land and income being controlled by larger and larger units until China's land is collectively owned and run by the

whole people. This struggle is still going on in China today and the campaign to Learn from Tachai that is going on now represents an important and leap in the process.

TACHAI THE RED BANNER describes the first step in this long struggle - the setting up of mutual aid teams made up of different households where people pooled their tools and animals and helped each other on their different plots (which were still owned separately). While the local Communist Party Committees, headed by a poor peasant Chen Yung Kuei, called for the formation of one team for all to participate in, several of the better off peasants de-

ren in it and not many strong workers. At first this team was the laughing stock of the village - everyone assumed that the other team - the "Stout Fellows" team - would do much better. Yet at the end of the year the poor peasants team had harvested more than the better off team. How could they do this? Because the poor peasants from years of suffering could see that collectivization was in their interest; while the better off peasants were convinced that the way to make it was "looking out for number one." When it came time to work the poor peasants worked equally hard on each other fields - the better off peasants would work like hell on their own land and loafed when it was turn to work



Members of the former "Oldsters and Youngsters Team" - the first step towards a collective agricultural economy

decided they would form their own team. They didn't want to be "bogged down" with the poorer families - which had poorer land, less tools and animals and fewer able-bodied workers. Instead they excluded the poorer families and struck out to "make good" on their own.

Chen Yung Kuei and the Party Committee went ahead and formed a team of poor families - called the "Oldsters and Youngsters Team" because it had mainly old people and young child-

to work on someone else's. The poor peasants worked out a plan for developing all their fields - the "Stout Fellows" fought each other over whose fields would get worked. In short - the poorer peasants, because of their background and with the leadership of the CCP grasped the need for working together, while the better off - starting with the forming of their separate team were still into individual production.

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Long Live The People's Republic! Long Live Working Class Rule!

Two Octobers ago the Chinese people turned a difficult situation arising from the death of Chairman Mao into an important victory by defeating the counter-revolutionary Gang of Four. Aware of the two classes, two lines and two roads you continue your heroic march down the socialist road. Through this struggle communists in China and worldwide gained greater understanding of the tasks of the working class under socialism. This victory placed the future of China more firmly into the hands of the Chinese proletariat. Once again the Chinese people and Party proved capable of conquering all obstacles.

In the U.S. students and all revolutionary people watched events unfold closely. China has meant much to the American people. It has year after year proved socialism superior to capitalism. It was the salvos of the Cultural Revolution that led to Marxism-Leninism being reborn in the United States. And once again socialist China was a beacon as the defeat of the Gang of Four prepared us to remove a counter revolutionary bane in our own ranks. This bane which commanded a slight majority of the leadership of our party were the U.S. kissing cousins of the Gang of Four. Their control prevented us from expressing support for the defeat of the Gang of Four earlier. It was necessary to break their control of our ranks to continue to stand with the Chinese revolution.

To turn against China now is to turn against revolution. This we would never do. Therefore we are determined, even if apologetically late, to now take the opportunity to express our warmest congratulations and most militant solidarity. Today greater than ever before the words of Mao ring loud, "We have stood up. Our revolution has won the sympathy and acclaim of the people of all countries. We have friends all over the world."

-National Office for the Revolutionary Student Brigade