

China CP Issues Rules on Free Debate

The Chinese campaign for democratization based on two recent reports by Mao Tse-tung went into high gear with the publication of directives by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party on April 27.

"This campaign," the directive states, "should be a movement of ideological education carried out seriously, yet as gently as a breeze or a mild rain."

The directive notes that China has entered the phase of socialist construction, requiring that the Party and working class must "remould themselves." It then adds: "But many comrades in the Party do not understand or understand adequately this new situation and task of the Party. At the same time, because the Party is in a ruling position throughout the nation and has won the support of the masses of the people, many comrades are liable to use purely

administrative measures as a method of handling problems."

The directive takes to task communists who "think of themselves as privileged and even resort to attacks or oppression when dealing with the masses. In the past few years in the Party there has been a growth of bureaucracy, sectarianism and subjectivism which depart from the masses and reality."

The campaign will be guided, the directives state, by the reports of Mao Tse-tung at the enlarged State Conference in February and at the National Conference on Propaganda convened by the Central Committee of the C.P. in March. Ideas which are stressed for this discussion and education include the following:

• "Let Many Flowers Blossom, Let Diverse Schools of Thought Contend." This calls for free debate and conflict of views and

opinions in all branches of intellectual and political life.

• "Long-Term Coexistence and Mutual Supervision." This refers to maintaining a multi-Party system on a long term basis, with the masses and non-Communist parties helping supervise and check the activities of the Communists.

• "Building the Country on Industry and Thrift." This calls for maximum mobilization for industrial development, with leaders participating in manual labor and ending all separation from the masses of people.

• "Correctly Handling the Question of Contradictions Within the Ranks of the People." This has been the nub of the reports by Mao in which he developed the theory that conflicts and differences among the people and between the leaders and the people are not ended under socialism. Such contradictions cannot be settled by force or administrative

measures, Mao pointed out.

The directive said Communists "should mainly understand serving the people; consulting the masses whenever problems arise; being the first to bear hardship and the last to enjoy comfort . . ."

On methods of education, the directive said "it should be a campaign of criticism and self-criticism carried to the proper extent. Meetings should be limited to small-sized discussion meetings or group meetings. Comradely heart-to-heart talks in the form of conversations, namely, exchange of views between individuals, should be urged more, and large meetings of criticism or 'struggle' should not be held."

"Everyone," the directive states, "should listen with an open mind to the opinion of others and enthusiastically take part in expressing his opinion of others. But criticism should not be imposed upon a person who does not ac-

cept it. Whenever possible, the necessary conclusions should be drawn about some of the arguments involving matters of principle, but the right to reserve differences must be permitted."

"In the course of the campaign," the directive continues, "those found to have committed mistakes, big or small, except for serious cases of offenses against the law or discipline, are all to be exempted from our organizational disciplinary measures. They are to be given positive and patient help to achieve the aim of taking warning from the past in order to be more careful in the future and treating the illness in order to save the man."

Non-Party people who wish to, the directive says, should be welcomed in the campaign. But there should be no compulsion, "and no coercion is allowed," the directive adds, that these people should be free to withdraw at any time.