

DENOUNCING THE GUARDIAN LINE

The Guardian's out-and-out break with the Marxist-Leninist movement (see The Call, June 28) has aroused a still sharper struggle against its centrist, pro-revisionist line.

A flood of denunciations and exposures of the Guardian's line and practices has come to The Call in the past weeks from many parts of the U.S. and several other countries. The Call welcomes these letters, statements, articles and reports and will print in full as many as possible. Here are some excerpts.

Four persons who helped set up the Guardian Bureau in Boston wrote *The Call* to describe their experiences with the Guardian's slide into revisionism and to "expose the lies about the history of the bureau contained in the June Guardian Sustainers' Newsletter." Their statement recounts how one member was expelled from the bureau by the New York editors for taking the stand that capitalism has been restored in the USSR and another for demanding that the Guardian oppose both superpowers in the solidarity movement for Puerto Rican independence.

In a July 21 letter, Prairie Fire bookstore notified the Guardian editors that it will no longer distribute that paper. The Guardian, observe the members of the bookstore collective, has "distorted and attacked Marxism-Leninism," and "engaged in unprincipled attacks on the People's Republic of China."

"Even your news coverage, the usually-cited trump card which you hold against all critics, is infected by your political position," the bookstore collective says to the Guardian editors. "Not only do you 'disagree' that the USSR is an imperialist superpower, but your news pages suppress any facts which might lead an objective observer to conclude otherwise."

What has been the effect on bookstores that stopped distributing the Guardian? China Books and Periodicals, whose three stores dropped the Guardian earlier this year because of the paper's anti-China content, reports that sales and subscriptions to Peking Review have increased considerably. "There is a growing interest in China," Henry Noyes, head of China Books and Periodicals, told *The Call*, "and people realize that Peking Review is the best source of information on China's policies."

A former Guardian sustainer in Florida, incensed at the Guardian's attacks on China, sharply criticizes the Guardian for ignoring China's own foreign policy statements, relying instead on William Hinton's "personal modifications (distortions)" of China's policies. What the Guardian is really attacking, he writes, is "the theory and practice of building a united front against both superpowers."

A veteran Marxist-Leninist from New York City writes, in this connection, about the political background of the Guardian executive editor Irwin Silber. During the inner-party struggles against revisionism in the CPUSA in the 1955-58 period, the writer recalls, Silber "was a member of the open counter-revolutionary Gates clique, which called for the liquidation of the party and helped to drive 20,000 members from the party. He resigned in 1957 or '58 as an unreconstructed Gates-ite, anti-Soviet and against all the tenets of Marxism-Leninism. He then wandered around the political movement, cooperating with the Trotskyite Independent Socialist movement in the late '50s..."

More recently, the writer continues, "in view of the fact that Marxism-Leninism had become ever more popular and that People's China had become a beacon of the peoples of the world, he (Silber) became a 'friend' of China.

"To reformists like Silber, this could not be a deep-seated process, and he was soon to turn on China and on Marxism-Leninism."

Letters and reports from abroad continue to arrive as well. A former Guardian writer in El Salvador notes: "*The Call* is a really good newspaper! We read it in a flash when it gets here, while the Guardian just sits around; we just can't get through

it. Their news analysis is at best confused, totally off-target; their 'centrism' more like out-and-out revisionism with every issue. As a former occasional writer for the Guardian, I'm glad I got off the bandwagon before it rushed headlong into the opportunist swamp."

A 23-year-old Marxist-Leninist worker from Iceland writes: "I read an article in *The Call*, 'With friends like the Guardian, China needs no enemies.' I have read the Guardian, and I must say that I completely agree with your article. In the revisionist press in Iceland, the Guardian's articles

have been used as weapons to slander and damage China's socialism."

In Norway, the revisionist party paper reprinted the Guardian's articles against China, points out a recent issue of Klassekampen; the twice-weekly Norwegian Marxist-Leninist newspaper, Klassekampen carried long excerpts from *The Call's* May 24 article against the Guardian.

Several anti-revisionist study groups in the U.S., especially those studying *State and Revolution*, have also used the Guardian as a negative example. Some of their articles will appear in future issues.

A new English-language edition of 36 poems by Mao Tsetung has recently been published by China's Foreign Languages Press. The collection has a special significance because Chairman Mao makes use of beautiful and tightly condensed poetic language to present a Marxist-Leninist view of the world, its contradictions, and the masses of people who propel its history forward.

The collection spans forty years of Mao Tsetung's writings, 1925 to 1965. The theme that is most powerfully expressed in virtually every poem is that of daring to struggle—of going against the tide and relying on the masses to change history.

The very first poem in the collection, "Changsha" (1925), reflects this spirit. Chairman Mao writes about his days as a student during the great political movements that swept China.

Boldly we cast all restraints aside.

Pointing to our mountains and rivers,

Setting people afire with our words,

We counted the mighty no more than muck.

Forty years later in "Reascending Ching-kangshan" (1965), Mao Tsetung points to the great changes which have taken place in this "old haunt" of the early revolutionary fighters. Calling on the people to learn from the heroic spirit of China's revolution, Chairman Mao writes:

A SOURCE

We can clasp the moon in the Ninth Heaven

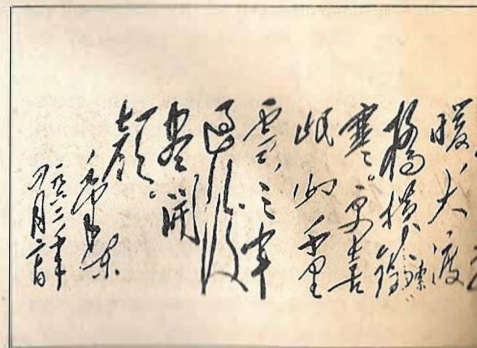
And seize turtles deep down in the Five Seas:

We'll return amid triumphant song and laughter.

Nothing is hard in this world

If you dare to scale the heights.

"Reascending Ching-kangshan" and another poem "Two Birds: A Dialogue" (1965) were published for the first time in



MAO TSETUNG POEM "THE LONG" made in April 1962. (Hsinhua News Ph