

MAO TSETUNG MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Comrades and friends:

You have probably seen the announcements of the Mao Tsetung Memorials to be held in New York City on September 9 and in the San Francisco Bay Area on September 10, sponsored by the Revolutionary Communist Party USA and the Mao Tsetung Memorial Committee. These meetings will address questions of tremendous importance and urgency for the working class, oppressed people and revolutionary and progressive forces worldwide. They will bring together thousands of people from all across the U.S.—people who want to know what the recent events in China mean for the future of revolution and socialism, and more broadly, people who are concerned about and interested in the developments in China and the lessons that must be drawn from them.

We would like to formally invite and urge you to attend these meetings and we ask you to contribute financially to build them.

The significance of the massive campaign to build for these events and of the meetings themselves cannot be underestimated. With Mao Tsetung and all he stood for under sharp attack in China and many other quarters, it is imperative that we stand to defend the great achievements of the Chinese revolution under his leadership and the immortal contributions he made to the struggle of the working class internationally.

Mao Tsetung was, without question, the greatest revolutionary of our time. His name has come to stand for revolution, for overthrowing everything reactionary. He led one quarter of humanity in overthrowing the exploiting classes of old China and in driving out the foreign imperialists who had dug their claws deep into the backs of the people. He mobilized the masses in their millions to expose and defeat those who would drag China backwards to capitalism while pretending to uphold socialism and revolution, as Khrushchev and Brezhnev had done in the Soviet Union.

Because of this Mao was ceaselessly slandered and villified by the capitalists throughout the world, by the revisionists in the USSR and elsewhere. Not surprising. He gave them no quarter. His revolutionary line was relentless.

But it was not just Mao the person these reactionaries feared and hated. What threw them into the greatest turmoil was that Mao sought every opportunity and every means to unleash the initiative of the masses of people, to arm them not only with guns, but with a political understanding of how deep and thoroughgoing the revolutionizing of society must be, how radical the rupture with the past had to be in order to build a society free from exploitation.

Mao fought with all his energy to see that what happened in Russia did not happen in China. He saw the great danger to the cause of revolution that came from people in authority inside the Communist Party itself, people who said, “don’t let things get out of hand, don’t go so fast, stop, go back.”

In 1966 Mao launched the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution with the slogan “It’s right to rebel against reactionaries,” and called on the people to “bombard the bourgeois headquarters in the party itself.” The likes of Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao were cleared out of the party and many others, like Teng Hsiao-ping, were severely criticized and toppled from positions of authority. With the Cultural Revolution the revolutionary transformation of society was propelled forward by leaps and bounds. The picture of a mighty storm of workers and peasants asserting their command of society emerged out of China and touched the deepest aspirations of people the world over for freedom from oppression. Millions of people of all countries were fired with hope and enthusiasm for revolution by Mao and the Cultural Revolution.

Mao warned that there would be many more battles with the revisionists and all reactionaries before

communism would ultimately triumph. He said there would be a need for many more cultural revolutions. He said that because the material and social basis for capitalist restoration still existed in China, it would be relatively easy for renegades to seize power and rig up the capitalist system.

Since Mao died, this is exactly the way things have been going in China. Revisionists seized power, arrested the four main leaders who had stood with Mao, attacked millions of revolutionary-minded cadre and people and began frantically dismantling and reversing all Mao, Wang Hung-wen, Chang Chun-chiao, Chiang Ching, Yao Wen-yuan and other revolutionaries had fought for.

The revisionists in China led by Hua Kuo-feng and Teng Hsiao-ping aren't only attacking proletarian rule in China—they are capitulating to and collaborating with imperialists and reactionaries and exporting a revisionist line all over the world. Some in the international communist movement have embraced them and their poison wholeheartedly, as many embraced Khrushchev & Co. in Russia in the 1950s.

In this situation the Mao Memorials have tremendous significance. Not only can the meetings themselves have an impact on this two-line struggle in the revolutionary movement, but the Revolutionary Communist Party and the Mao Memorial Committee are taking these questions out to the broad masses of people in the U.S., speaking to their deep-felt desires for a future free from oppression and exploitation and answering the lies and slanders of the ruling class in the U.S.—who are trying to use the developments in China to promote cynicism about revolution and propagate the idea that no matter how hard people struggle, the revolution will go sour and a new bunch of exploiters will grab power.

Work to build for the Mao Memorial meetings is going ahead rapidly all over the country. Huge billboards are going up calling on people to uphold the contributions of Mao and the Four. Ads on subways and buses, tens of thousands of vivid posters and hundreds of thousands of leaflets, as well as notices on radio and TV and newspaper ads are calling on people to come to the meetings.

The interest and enthusiasm of many has been sparked, as well as the anger and reaction of the bourgeoisie and its agents, reflecting the real importance of the questions being addressed.

In order to accommodate the many people who are expected to come, auditoriums with large capacity (and high cost!) have been secured. Needless to say, this work and the meetings themselves require a very large outlay of money if they are to achieve their full and necessary potential. Funds are urgently needed and we ask you to donate as generously as you can to help make these Memorials a success. Come to the meetings, organize others to come, and please contribute the urgently needed funds.

The seizure of power by the revisionists in China is a bitter setback. But in the light of Mao's clarity on the difficulties and protracted nature of the struggle for a society where labor serves the common good and there are no privileged few—for communism—the defeat in China must be recognized as only temporary. An important task before us is clear. As Mao stated in 1965, "If China's leadership is usurped by revisionists in the future, the Marxist-Leninists of all countries should resolutely expose and fight them and help the working class and the masses of China to combat such revisionism." "The road is tortuous," he said, "but the future is bright."

Please send donations to the Mao Tsetung Memorial Committee in care of Box 3486, Chicago, IL 60654 or the Memorial Committee in your area.