

More on the Struggle of Two Lines

National Secretariat, C.P.N.Z.

Last issue we stressed the need to understand what we mean by the struggle between two lines within the party.

In essence of course this is a struggle between Marxist-Leninist practice and theory and bourgeois concepts of organisation and ideology. But this struggle must be waged against many errors, ranging from sheer right opportunism to its twin brother — left sectarianism.

The first point all comrades must get clearly in mind is that after the world split in the international Communist movement (1960-63), those who rejected revisionism and took a Marxist-Leninist line had not, nor could have, eliminated the struggle within the parties and groups. The conflict in fact continued and has intensified everywhere, both within the socialist countries such as China and Albania and within the capitalist ones. The same situation naturally exists inside our party. We too reflected the deepening of the class struggle and it was for this reason that the C.P.N.Z. has called for study of "On Practice" and "On Contradiction" by Mao, as well as older classics of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin. We feel that the republishing of Mao's "Rectify the Party's Style of Work" in a past "C.R." was of great importance, but it will only prove of value if it is not only studied but put into practice under the conditions of N.Z. capitalism.

All the time we must be prepared to take an objective view of our various activities directed towards progress on the road to the N.Z. socialist revolution, and we must also be critical when necessary as well as objectively self-critical.

It is essential that comrades do not pick on isolated points from the Marxist classics and view them as things in themselves, apart from the present conditions.

Take the question of "One divides into two". This is an important Marxist-Leninist dialectical approach, stressed by Mao Tse-tung, but it does not mean that one divides into two at every meeting, branch, district or National, as some of our good comrades seem to think. The dividing occurs at certain nodal points. Perpetual subdivision will not strengthen our Party at any level and if pursued will only lead to anarchy and disruption, not to a strong Party based on Democratic Centralism as Lenin saw it.

In all our work, particularly when criticising or attempting self-criticism, we must guard against personal subjectivism. It is very easy to be subjective without realising it, but such an approach ne-

gates both the criticism and the basic principles of a Party of Democratic centralism. We end up with neither the necessary democracy nor the equally necessary centralism.

What follows deals with this aspect.

In our New Zealand conditions, Marxism-Leninism is struggling to develop in a hostile bourgeois ideological environment. We have to struggle increasingly to overcome the effects of bourgeois ideas penetrating back into the ranks of our Party.

Therefore, the concept of the struggle of two lines within our Party is a correct one. This concept of the struggle between the two lines is a necessary and a good weapon, but if we use such a weapon in a wrong way, harm can come out of it. We must all examine our practice and study Marxism-Leninism in order to strengthen the Party and develop the revolutionary consciousness of the working people. If our Party adopts this correct approach, our attitude within the Party must be one of mutual assistance in overcoming shortcomings for the general well-being and unity of the Party as a whole. We must always work within the concepts of Marxist-Leninist principles. While centralism must always be the dominant aspect of the organisational principles of a Marxist-Leninist Party, we must also ensure that democracy within the Party is carried out. This entails the necessary information and explanations to overcome differences of opinion, examination of practice, criticism and self-criticism and discussion within the Party. There must be neither centralism without democracy nor democracy without centralism. Both aspects must serve the interests of the Party and the revolutionary movement, guarding the Party's monolithic character, its unity of will and mass line methods thus keeping close contact and good order both inside the Party and with the broad mass movement. As Comrade Mao points out in "Rectify the Party's Style of Work": —"we must keep our ranks in good order, we must march in step".

The question of the relations within the Party is a vital one and is part of a concept of struggle to attain unity and bring theory to a higher level and leading to further struggle in a process of all-round Marxist-Leninist developments. Ideas based on individualism and self-interest are the chief barriers to the correct concepts of struggle, unity in a Marxist-Leninist concept of overcoming the old and developing the new.

Within the framework of such a struggle, and if carried out correctly, there should be no question of the situation developing into an antagonistic one. If this should happen, we would defeat the purpose of the struggle to clarify the Marxist-Leninist line against the bourgeois line.

While we have many problems to overcome in the Party relating to organisation, ideology, application, there is general agreement with the political line of the Party and the general organisational principles of democratic centralism; therefore, we should see the pre-

sent contradictions as being contradictions among the people, and not of an antagonistic nature.

On the other hand, with the Manson-Bailey group, there was a non-acceptance of the line of the Party. They had an alternative line for which they struggled. In this they cast aside the Marxist-Leninist principles of democratic centralism creating an atmosphere of anarchy and among other things attempted to seize the leadership of the Party. Such actions placed them outside the camp of Marxism-Leninism. Thus they became enemies of Marxism-Leninism and that struggle developed into an antagonistic one.

We have republished Comrade Mao's work, on "Rectify the Party's Style of Work", because the Political Committee considers it the most appropriate theoretical work dealing with the present problems facing the Party. We are asking ALL comrades and Party organisations to study it with the particular problem in mind. There is also the very valuable introduction by the National Secretariat to Comrade Mao's article and this also should receive close attention because it deals with the concrete situation of our New Zealand Party. Both the introduction of the National Secretariat, and Comrade Mao's study are an integral part of the ideological and political line of our Party. It is the line of clarifying Marxism-Leninism in the minds of Party members and its application to our practice.

It is important that we all approach the study of our present problems with the correct ideological outlook in mind; unity through struggle — non antagonistic. "Learn from past mistakes to avoid future ones", and "cure the illness to save the patient".

If we do that, we need not fear that the skies will fall, and we will succeed in raising the level of our Marxist-Leninist understanding, overcome aspects of subjectivism, sectarianism, and the present formalism expressed in writing, study, and in a great deal of our routine work.

Revolution Inevitable

The socialist system will eventually replace the capitalist system; this is an objective law independent of man's will. However much the reactionaries try to hold back the wheel of history, sooner or later revolution will take place and will inevitably triumph.

Mao Tsetung.