

Let the Red Flag of Naxalbari Fly Still Higher

by "RENMIN RIBAO" COMMENTATOR

THE revolutionary peasant forces in Naxalbari* and elsewhere in the Darjeeling District have won their first-round victory in the struggle against the "encirclement and suppression" campaigns launched by the reactionary Indian troops and police. The Indian reactionaries' initial repressive actions have failed.

Since July 6, the "non-Congress" government in West Bengal has sent large numbers of troops and police to attack the revolutionary peasants in Naxalbari, but they have found no way of putting down the peasant armed forces, nor have they been able to control the area.

Bravely and skilfully, the peasant armed forces led by revolutionaries in the Indian Communist Party have launched guerrilla activities in this area. They are able to take the initiative and attack; they also can instantly move away when confronted by an enemy with superior forces. On July 13, the armed peasants attacked the reactionary troops and police near the police camp in the Kharibari area. Six days later, they opened fire on the police near Tukuria forest, and then easily left the area. A July 23 report in the *United News of India* confessed that the peasant armed forces in the Naxalbari area "can move from place to place within the belt evading police action," adding that the Indian reactionaries could not understand this state of affairs and "has got no answer."

In fact, the answer is very clear. It is that the peasant revolutionary armed forces in Naxalbari have won the support of the peasant masses. In contrast, the reactionaries are extremely isolated from the masses. Provided that the peasants are fully mobilized, the revolutionary armed forces will be entirely able to smash any "encirclement and suppression" by reactionary troops and police and thus carry on their struggle.

Establishment and expansion of the peasant armed forces is a primary condition for persisting in

*Naxalbari is located in the strategic mountainous district of Darjeeling in West Bengal of India.

revolutionary peasant struggle. Speaking of the peasants' forces armed with spears in his masterly work *Report on an Investigation of the Peasant Movement in Hunan*, our great leader Chairman Mao says, "**This multitude equipped with spears . . . is a new-born armed power the mere sight of which makes the local tyrants and evil gentry tremble. The revolutionary authorities in Hunan should see to it . . . that every peasant, whether young or in his prime, possesses a spear. . . .**" The peasant armed forces in the Naxalbari area today are equipped with bows and arrows, long spears and other locally made weapons. If this "power of bows and arrows, and long spears" is built up on a more extensive scale, it will be able to make the landlord forces and the reactionary troops and police in the rural areas shiver at its sight. The armed peasants not only can safeguard their own survival, but they can also equip themselves with weapons captured from the enemy.

To continuously defeat the enemy's "mopping-up" operations and "encirclement and suppression" campaigns and to win military victories, the peasant armed forces, while still in a position of weakness, must adhere to mobile and flexible guerrilla tactics. So long as these revolutionary forces are good at employing the tactics of "**the enemy advances, we retreat; the enemy camps, we harass; the enemy tires, we attack; the enemy retreats, we pursue**" (known as the 16-character formula), they will be able to gather strength and exhaust the enemy's effectives. This is an effective method for persevering in armed struggle over a long period and for defeating the enemy and winning victory.

To gain a firm footing and to stick to long-term armed struggle, the revolutionary peasant armed forces must set up and expand their base areas in the countryside. This is an important task for the present Indian peasant revolution.

In their struggle against the reactionary troops and police, the armed peasant forces in Naxalbari have withstood the first rigorous test. This shows that the revolutionary forces in the countryside have ample

space to manoeuvre in and are quite capable of growing and expanding from small to big in the course of struggle.

The Chinese revolution from the very beginning was tested in battle by repeated "encirclement and suppression" and "counter-encirclement and suppression" campaigns. It was only through a protracted struggle that a powerful people's army and vast rural base areas were established and final victory was won. The Indian revolution will naturally be the same. The

peasant's revolutionary struggle in Naxalbari will be long and arduous. It still has to carry out intense struggles to smash one enemy "encirclement and suppression" campaign after another. It will meet with all kinds of difficulties and setbacks. However, so long as the revolutionary peasant armed forces in Naxalbari persevere in following the road of China's revolution and hold high the red banner of armed struggle, they will certainly push the Indian revolution towards victory step by step.

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