

More on Premier Hua Guofeng's speech at NPC

Socialist modernization and class struggle in China

The realization of the four modernizations by the end of the century, the raising of our present low level of productivity to that befitting a modern nation and the consequent transformation of those parts of our present relations of production and superstructure which hamper modernization and the eradication of all old habits detrimental to it — these constitute the principal contradiction to be resolved, the central task to be performed, by our entire people at the present stage. To perform this central task, we must persevere in the dictatorship of the proletariat and in class struggle. But class struggle is no longer the principal contradiction in our society; in waging it we must center around and serve the central task of socialist modernization.

Premier Hua Guofeng's speech at the Second Session of the Fifth National People's Congress, June 1979.

With these comments, Chinese Premier Hua Guofeng reaffirmed an important Marxist-Leninist lesson on building socialism which the Communist Party of China (CPC) has gained in its battle against modern revisionism and more recently against the "gang of four." This lesson has two aspects: (a) class struggle continues under socialism; and (b) class struggle under socialism must serve the

further development of the productive forces.

Regarding the first aspect, the Soviet revisionists deny that class struggle persists under socialism. This theoretical deviation is an integral part of their overthrow of the principles of Marxism-Leninism. The Communist Party of China in its polemics with the Soviet revisionists in the 1960's exposed this deviation

as an integral part of the restoration of capitalism in the Soviet Union.

Class struggle continues under socialism whether or not one consciously recognizes its existence. Comrade Mao Zedong and now his successors in China have maintained that communists must recognize the continuing class struggle and wage it to protect socialism from the class enemy and political degeneracy.

As Hua Guofeng pointed out in his speech, "Class struggle at home is closely connected with class struggle abroad. For these reasons there will still be class enemies of all kinds in China for a long time to come, and we must exercise proletarian dictatorship over them."

A form of class struggle must also be waged among the people. Hua pointed out that the "influence of bourgeois and feudal ideologies will continue for a long time." The struggle against these ideolo-

gies is protracted, but is waged as a contradiction among the people.

In sum on this point, Hua stated, "While carrying out the four modernizations, boosting our productive forces and raising labor productivity, we must continue to wage class struggle economically, politically and ideologically in correct ways so that it will be impossible for the bourgeoisie to exist or for a new bourgeoisie to arise."

Regarding the second aspect, i.e. that class struggle under socialism must serve the further development of the productive forces, this was learned as a result of the struggle against the "gang of four," who magnified class struggle to such a degree as to actually damage socialism.

Exaggerating class struggle under socialism was a part of the "gang of four's" ultra-leftist line which attacked

continued on pg. 14

China's socialist modernization . . .

continued from pg. 13

the fruits of the revolution under the banner of opposing "revisionism."

As the practice of the "gang of four" in China has shown over the past several years, this type of "class struggle" is extremely detrimental and could lead to the restoration of capitalism by weakening the socialist system.

What, then, is the relationship of class struggle and socialist modernization?

Socialist modernization is a great revolutionary task which is necessary to achieve if the

Chinese people are to continue to march towards communism. Socialist modernization is a part of the struggle for production.

Class struggle is necessary to achieve modernization and ensure its socialist orientation. Class struggle is needed to further transform the aspects of the relations of production and the superstructure which hinder the further development of the economic base.

But class struggle is not the same as socialist modernization. Neither is socialist modernization a "form" of class struggle.

Such views were actually promoted by the "gang of four" which reduced everything to a "form of class struggle." As a result of their line, China's economy, science and culture were almost liquidated and class struggle was turned into factionalism.

Under socialism there are three great revolutionary movements — the class struggle, the struggle for production and the struggle for scientific experiment. Persisting in these great movements is necessary to construct socialism, but to single out

only one of these, such as class struggle, or to reduce the others to just forms of this one thing, spreads confusion.

Hua Guofeng's speech makes a clear distinction between class struggle and the struggle to realize the four modernizations but he also shows the interrelationship of these great tasks. His speech is a theoretical and practical summation of some of the concrete experience in building socialism in China and contains lessons for the international communist movement.