

Discord Mounts in China

Gary Jarmin
October 1972
Staff Writer, The Rising Tide

It is very rare to hear reports in the West about underground activities taking place within Communist China. Rare as the reports may be, the underground activities on the mainland are anything but. In fact it may be that because of the unique nature of Mao's regime, his policies, and the tremendous population within the mainland, that underground activities are even more frequent than in other Communist nations.

Much of Peking's internal conflict stems from the power struggle between supporters of the late Lin Piao and those of Chou En-lai. (Even more recent reports indicate that the feud between Chou En-lai and Chiang, Mao's wife, is also beginning to develop into a major power struggle.)

Ever since Lin Piao was killed in an apparent escape attempt, major conflicts between Lin's supporters and those of Chou and Mao have become intensified. Supporters of Lin are continually attacked in the Party's leading newspapers, The Red Flag and the People's Daily. Most of the attacks are focused on old and new party cadres who have lost their "revolutionary zeal" and are charged with following "mountain-top-ism, paternal-ism, and schism-ism."

In many cases this conflict has grown quite violent and has resulted in guerilla operations. The Hong Kong Times reported that supporters of Lin Piao blew up a warehouse in Canton on March 3. The Central News Agency also reported that a series of explosions racked a Maoist barracks in Canton, killing scores of troops.

The CNA added that these attacks were evidently carried out by followers of the deposed "defense minister," Lin Piao. Chances of another Cultural Revolution-style purge resulting from this conflict, or even a resurgence of warlordism, cannot be discounted. At any rate the Party is not taking any chances and is stepping up its purge of military and party cadres loyal to Lin.

Probably even more threatening to the Peking regime in the long run are the discontented students who have been sent to the countryside for "corrective labor." After and during the Cultural Revolution roughly 80 percent of the university students (many of them red guards) were banished to the countryside. More than 400, 000 have been forcibly relocated on collective farms this year alone.

These students, perhaps of the cream of Communist China's intellectual community, deeply resent their potential being wasted in agricultural production with little hope of ever having the chance to once again resume their studies. Consequently, those who are lucky enough have fled the mainland. The majority of those who manage to swim to Hong Kong are between the ages of 17 and 25.

However these dissatisfied young people are doing more than just fleeing Mao's "paradise." Reports from the mainland indicate that sabotage, guerilla activity and underground leaflets are being used quite frequently to try to undermine "Peking's control. The People's Daily even admitted that class struggle has not ceased "but on the contrary has become fiercer and more complicated." The report went on to say that a counter-revolutionary organization in Lunghai country was discovered and a large cache of arms seized.

In another report a young refugee stated that some former Red Guards had seized two train-carloads of supplies. The Central News Agency also reported that anti-Communist guerillas have been active in the mountain area near Kwangtung raiding nearby counties, sacking granaries and setting them on fire.

It is a well-known fact that work slow-downs are an often-used form of protest in Communist countries, and China is no exception. Farmers, who still must work under slave-labor conditions, were reported in the People's Daily as having "wrecked a project to relieve drought in Kweichow." The paper charged them with cherishing "capitalistic and individualistic" concepts which blocked efforts to improve the irrigation system in Kwangsi.

The only concepts most of these people are really guilty of harboring are those of freedom. The Peking regime has many labels for it: "revisionism," "class enemies." "Bourgeoisie elements," "Liu Shao-chi-ism," "reactionaries;" the list is probably endless. However, no matter how much the Peking regime may try to cover it up with slogans and rhetoric, the fact remains that the historic cry of all people is to be free both spiritually and physically. And no tyranny on earth will ever be able to alter this irreversible destiny of mankind.