

China's anniversary

The People's Republic of China was established 23 years ago this week, Oct. 1, 1949.

This simple fact is continuing to change the world, perhaps more so today than ever before.

The struggle of the Chinese revolution is one of history's greatest human dramas. Hundreds of millions of poor and grotesquely oppressed peasants smashed eons of feudal and imperialistic bondage behind the Communist party of China led by Chairman Mao Tsetung.

The Chinese masses accomplished this fantastic task in less than three decades, largely because of the correct policies of the CPC at every difficulty on the road to revolution and because of the party's ability to exercise flexible tactics while adhering tenaciously to fixed principle.

These same policies have guided the Chinese people in the 23 years since liberation and have resulted in great successes in the building of socialism.

From the beginning, People's China was under the gun of imperialism. The Chinese revolution was hardly consolidated before it volunteered to come to the aid of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in a major war of defense against U.S. imperialist aggression.

In the years that followed, the U.S. and its lackeys spared no effort to destroy the Chinese revolution by one means or another.

During the late 1950s, at no little sacrifice to itself, the CPC initiated and led the struggle against developing revisionism in the USSR, heretofore the acknowledged leader of the socialist camp. Recognizing Soviet leadership at the time, the Chinese party insisted on the right to develop in its own way and on its right to criticize what it understood to be the incorrect policies of the USSR, guided at the time by Nikita Khrushchev.

In the years that followed, the Soviet government elevated this intra-party struggle to an intra-state struggle. The USSR withdrew its aid and technical support from the wretchedly poor Chinese in an effort to force the CPC into line. Refusing to knuckle under, China went its own way, despite extraordinary hardship.

In the mid-1960s, recognizing that China, too, was developing some of the same revisionist traits that had disfigured socialism in the USSR, the most revolutionary section of the CPC, led by Chairman Mao, launched one of the great struggles of our times—the cultural revolution.

The purpose of this revolution within the revolution—a social phenomenon that engaged virtually every citizen in the People's Republic—was to root out bourgeois influences and practices from the superstructure of Chinese society. This struggle caused enormous social dislocation, but the Chinese masses did not flinch from the task. (Nor do they flinch from criticizing excesses during the cultural revolution, particularly the tendency toward ultra-"leftism" that developed for a while.)

In the years following the cultural revolution, China has more and more assumed a prominent role in world affairs, establishing

relations with countries which but a few years earlier were so in thrall to U.S. imperialism that they feared to even acknowledge the existence of the world's most populous nation.

China's rightful entry into the UN last year and the visit of President Nixon to China this year are great victories for the Chinese revolution. Washington's monomaniacal design to "contain" (and destroy) China had failed. Imperialism was forced to come to terms.

China accepted Nixon in Peking but refused to scrap an iota of political principle in so doing. "No deal on Vietnam," was what the Chinese, in effect, told the imperialist chieftain. In fact, China willingly placed its own primary national issue—Taiwan—in second place to the liberation of Vietnam during the Nixon visit.

During the past year or two China has developed the tactic of building an alliance of small and medium-sized nations—largely of the third world—to struggle against imperialism and the hegemonistic designs of the two superpowers. This policy, based on uniting the many to defeat the few and making use of contradictions in the enemy camp, portends changes in international alignments that neither superpower could possibly have foreseen a few years ago and which both are doing their best to thwart.

The China of 1972 is still a poor and developing country which must overcome many problems. Internally, while having made great progress, China still has shortcomings, which the Chinese people acknowledge. Internationally, despite a changing atmosphere, China still faces grave dangers in a world largely controlled by two powers it opposes and which possess sufficient nuclear weapons to reduce the world to a cinder.

But it is also a truth in the year 1972 that revolution is the main trend in the world today and that the forces of revolution are in the process of gaining ascendancy over the forces of reaction. China's contribution to this process, by the example of its own revolutionary struggle and its continuing revolutionary role, have been decisive.

The Guardian joins all revolutionary peoples in observing the anniversary of Chinese liberation and in wishing the Chinese people well in the years to come.

'Terrorism'

To the imperialists, all who struggle for liberation are "terrorists."

This is the real meaning behind the concerted effort by the United States and other imperialist countries to win UN support for a program to end "terrorism."

Calling upon the UN to stop "the growing assault on international order with which we are all faced," U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers made it clear that his target was those "criminal acts of terrorism (which) derive from political origins."

One purpose of the U.S. is to try to force countries like Cuba and Algeria, which frequently have given asylum to plane hijackers and political kidnappers, to return such people to the "courts of justice" in the imperialist countries. In response, the Cuban delegation was conspicuously absent from the General Assembly during Rogers'