

Mao memorials held throughout U.S.

On the weekend of September 9 and 10, hundreds of people throughout the United States commemorated the second anniversary of the death of Chairman Mao Tsetung, who died on September 9, 1976.

Saturday evening programs were held in Hawaii, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Sunday commemoration events were held in New York, Chicago and Boston.

These programs were sponsored by many different organizations and attended by people from all walks of life. Sponsoring organizations included community, educational and cultural groups, student and youth groups, and revolutionary organizations. The U.S.-China People's Friendship Association chapter in San Francisco joined in sponsoring the program.

All the programs were lively and combined slideshows or films with poems and speeches reflecting the deep feelings which the people have for Chairman Mao's life and teachings.

Highlights of the programs

A young Hawaiian man speaking at the Honolulu program stated that on his recent trip to China he saw in practice Chairman Mao's revolutionary line being carried out and the support by the masses of Chinese people for Chairman Hua and the leadership of China.

Fred Engst, who had lived in China for 22 years, gave a moving speech at the San Francisco program. He talked about the new Long March of the Chinese people and the advances in the building of socialism after the overthrow of the "gang of four."

He spoke of how Chairman Mao, by relying on the masses of people, led many struggles against the revisionists who wanted to turn China into a capitalist country. Starting with the struggle against the Soviet revisionists, Fred Engst traced the struggles and defeat of Liu Shao-chi, Lin Piao and the "gang of four."

There was a special contribution to the New York program from the Dominican community

and groups from the Dominican Republic. Linea Roja and Bandera Proletaria, two Marxist-Leninist groups in the Dominican Republic, gave a joint speech expressing support for Chairman Mao's "Theory of the Three Worlds." The Anti-imperialist Patriotic Union (Dominican Republic) discussed the lessons and legacy Chairman Mao left for the Dominican people. A poem written by a member of Terpsicores, a Dominican cultural group, shortly after Chairman Mao's death, was especially well received.

There were many overseas Chinese and Americans of Chinese descent at the programs. In Los Angeles, a 79 year old man, a member of the Chinese Progressive Organizing Committee, spoke of the impact of Chairman Mao on overseas Chinese in the United States. He said, "I came to the U.S. in 1921, 57 years ago and I experienced a lot of discrimination and national oppression faced by Chinese people in the U.S. This is very similar to the insults and oppression of China by the big imperialist powers before libera-

tion. We overseas Chinese working people love Chairman Mao because he stood up for the interests of working and oppressed people; and by liberating China and transforming her into a self-reliant, socialist country, he inspired and improved the status of overseas Chinese everywhere."

Also in Los Angeles, there was enthusiastic participation by Iranian students. The program concluded with the singing of the Internationale in three languages: English, Chinese and Persian.

RCP's wild attacks repudiated

In contrast to the unity and enthusiasm of the sponsoring organizations and participants in these various Chairman Mao commemoration programs stood a small band of counter-revolutionaries from the so-called Revolutionary Communist Party. This band of thugs carried out many outrageous and reactionary activities this weekend. In New York Chinatown, the RCP held a rally and burned an effigy of Chairman Hua Kuo-feng. Many residents observing these wild antics of this

desperate gang condemned their actions. In San Francisco, the RCP held a rally across the street from the commemoration event, chanted their revisionist slogans, and attempted to prevent people from going to the program. Despite their actions, over 350 people attended the San Francisco event.

In the words of one elderly participant in the San Francisco program, "These actions of the RCP are those of a dying and desperate group and will find no support among the broad masses of people."

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To the hundreds of people who attended these commemorative events nationwide, and to thousands more, Chairman Mao will always be remembered for his immense contributions to the Chinese people and peoples around the world. Today Chairman Hua Kuo-feng and the Chinese Communist Party is continuing to carry out his revolutionary line in building socialism in China and contributing to the just struggles of peoples everywhere.