

INTRODUCTION

This issue of *Class Struggle* is dedicated to the memory of Mao Tsetung, who died in Peking on September 9, 1976.

Chairman Mao Tsetung was the great leader and teacher, not only of the Chinese people, but also of the working class, in all countries and the oppressed nations and peoples of the world.

Chairman Mao founded the Chinese Communist Party and led it through more than 50 years of protracted revolutionary struggles. He founded the Chinese People's Liberation Army, led its historic and glorious Long March, and guided its victories against Japanese imperialism and Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang reactionaries.

After the seizure of power by the Chinese revolution in 1949, Chairman Mao led the Chinese people in socialist construction, continuing the revolution under the conditions of the dictatorship of the proletariat. In 1966 he initiated the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, thus further developing Marxism-Leninism and offering the workers of the world a brilliant example in combating revisionism and preventing capitalist restoration.

Mao Tsetung was truly the greatest Marxist-Leninist of our time. He stands shoulder-to-shoulder with Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, V.I. Lenin and Joseph Stalin as the great theorists of scientific socialism and leaders of the world proletariat.

In this issue we are reprinting several articles and statements which sum up Chairman Mao's life in some detail. From the Communist Party of China, we include Chairman Hua Kuo-feng's speech at the memorial

meeting for Chairman Mao in Peking. From the Party of Labor of Albania, we include a special editorial from the newspaper Zeri I Popullit. From the October League (Marxist-Leninist), we include two articles from *The Call*, one of which emphasizes Chairman Mao's teachings on the American people. Finally, to offer a glimpse at Chairman Mao's personal life and work in his last years, we include an article by the 8341 Unit of the People's Liberation Army, the group assigned the job of Mao's personal bodyguard.

Chairman Mao's death is a heavy loss to the people of China and the world. At the same time, in the spirit of turning grief into strength, we are taking this occasion to print several articles summing up and commenting on the immortal ideas of Mao Tsetung. These can be used as introductions to further popularize the study of Chairman Mao's works among revolutionary fighters in the U.S.

The first of these, contributed by a Marxist-Leninist study circle in Chicago, surveys Chairman Mao's teachings on the vanguard party. This is especially important in view of the principal task of U.S. Marxist-Leninists, which is to build a new communist party.

The second, by Eileen Klehr, Vice Chairman of the OL, examines one of Chairman Mao's greatest contributions to Marxism-Leninism, namely, his theory of the continuation of class struggle under the dictatorship of the proletariat. Given the fact of capitalist restoration in the Soviet Union, turning the social-imperialists there into one of the two main enemies of the world's peoples and the most dangerous source of a new world war, this is a critically important issue to be grasped by the working class everywhere.

The third article is by Dan Burstein, editor of *The Call*. He discusses Chairman Mao's contributions on the national liberation movement, on war and peace, and on the necessity to form a broad united front against the two superpowers, the U.S. and the USSR. Since Chairman Mao's revolutionary line on the international situation is under fire by revisionists and opportunists of various stripes, this defense of proletarian internationalism gives an important, correct orientation to the struggle in this arena.

Fourth, we include an article by the Communist Youth Organization which sums up Chairman Mao's line and experience in guiding the struggle of revolutionary young people in China. It shows how these lessons apply to the U.S. as well and declares that the revolutionary youth everywhere will certainly carry on Mao Tsetung's cause.

Fifth, is an article examining Chairman Mao's line on culture, written by Trisha Renaud of the *Call* staff. It explains Chairman Mao's view that the purpose of revolutionary culture is to serve the cause of the proletarian revolution and that art and literature should not stand apart from the class struggle, but serves either the proletariat or the bourgeoisie.

Finally, we include three articles on recent events in China. One is by

David Crook a British citizen living in China and teaching at the Foreign Languages Institute in Peking. Crook discusses the struggle between the two lines during the recent earthquakes in China, targeting the line of Teng Hsiao-ping. It gives a vivid portrayal of what this battle means in the real life of the Chinese people.

The last two pieces are on the latest example of class struggle in China. One is an article by Jen Ping, the other is a joint editorial from China's leading newspapers. Both target and expose the traitorous activities of the "gang of four"—Wang Hung-wen, Chang Chun-chiao, Chiang Ching and Yao Wen-yuan—who formed an anti-party clique and tried to usurp political power following Mao's death and bring about capitalist restoration.

The legacy left behind by Mao Tsetung represents both a summation of the experience of the revolutionary movement in China and the world and a bright beacon pointing to the future of humanity, to communism. *Class Struggle* will redouble its efforts to make certain Chairman Mao's cause is carried forward.

The Editors
December 1976