

Japanese People's Anti-U.S. Patriotic Struggle

The Japanese people's struggle against U.S. imperialism and Japanese militarism is developing vigorously. It has dealt a telling blow to the U.S.-Japanese reactionaries, fiercely pounding their reactionary rule in Japan.

LENIN, the great teacher of the proletariat of the whole world, pointed out: "Revolution unites quickly and enlightens quickly. Every step in its development rouses the masses. . . ." The Japanese people's struggle against U.S. imperialism and Japanese militarism has brought about a rapid awakening of the people of various strata and more and more people have joined the ranks of revolution.

Since June 1970, when the Japanese people held impressive meetings and demonstrations against the U.S.-Japanese reactionaries' "automatic extension" of the Japan-U.S. "security treaty," the revolutionary struggle of the Japanese people has developed in depth. Raging flames of the struggle against military bases were kindled wherever U.S. military bases are situated, including Misawa in northeastern Japan, Tachikawa and Yokota in Tokyo, Yokosuka in Kanagawa Prefecture, Iwakuni and Sasebo in western and southwestern Japan and Okinawa Island in southernmost Japan. Meanwhile, all the bases of the "self-defence forces" of Japan also became targets of attack in the people's struggle. Workers, peasants, students and citizens in Kansai and Kyushu regions fought many battles against the building of new missile bases by the "Defence Agency" of Japan in Nose in Osaka, Hakusan in Mie Prefecture, Kagamihara in Gifu Prefecture, Aibano in Shiga Prefecture, Iizuka in Fukuoka Prefecture and other places.

Opposing Okinawa "Reversion" Fraud

Having lived for a long time in abject misery under direct U.S. imperialist rule, the Okinawan people time and again have launched large-scale mass struggles for the withdrawal of U.S. aggressor troops, the dismantling of U.S. military bases and other military installations and the removal from the island of all nuclear weapons and poisonous gases stored there. They also strongly opposed the planned stationing of Japanese "self-defence forces" on the island to suppress the patriotic struggle of the Okinawan people against U.S. imperialism and the use of the "self-defence forces" to help the U.S. troops widen the war of aggression in Indochina. In the course of the struggle, the Okinawan people defied frantic suppression by the U.S. aggressor troops and severely punished them. In Koza, which is known as the "city of bases," a violent anti-U.S. storm was stirred up last December 20 by the Okinawan people, striking a harsh blow at U.S. imperialism.

The Japanese people's anti-U.S. patriotic struggle has witnessed further development since the beginning of this year. On April 28, "Okinawa Day," gigantic anti-U.S. rallies and demonstrations were held in many Japanese cities with the participation of more than one million workers, peasants, students, women and other citizens who strongly protested the Okinawa "reversion" fraud of the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries. It was the biggest anti-U.S. struggle since the one which broke out in June 1970 against the "automatic extension" of the Japan-U.S. "security treaty." Even the people of Yaeyama and Miyako, the remotest islands south of the Ryukyu group, took part for the first time in this nationwide anti-U.S. struggle.

On May 19, workers, peasants, students, teachers, government employees and members of religious circles on Okinawa and other islands, totalling some 80,000 and including men and women, staged massive strikes and took part in anti-U.S. rallies and demonstrations to oppose the Okinawa "reversion" fraud.

On June 17 and 18, rallies and demonstrations were held in more than 300 places throughout Japan to oppose the signing of the Okinawa "reversion" agreement. In Tokyo, the demonstrators, holding red flags aloft and shouting anti-U.S. slogans, marched towards the prime minister's official residence where the signing ceremony took place. The U.S.-Japanese reactionaries called out fully armed police to brutally put down the demonstrators, who, undaunted in the face of brute force, courageously fought the police with stones, incendiary bottles and flag staffs.

Sanrizuka Peasants' Struggle

The protracted struggle of the peasants of Sanrizuka near Tokyo against the reactionary Sato government's forcible occupation of farmland for the construction of a military airport has attracted the attention of more and more Japanese people.

The heroic Sanrizuka peasants have now organized themselves into action groups for old people, youths, women and children to struggle shoulder to shoulder with the workers, peasants and student youth who came from other places to support them. The greatly embarrassed Sato government last February ordered the occupation of the peasants' land by force. It then called in on many occasions several thousand or even up to 10,000 armed police and special agents to forcibly occupy the land with the help of high pressure water hoses and bulldozers. However, the workers, peasants and students, united as one, fought fiercely with the fully armed police. They persisted in struggle despite violence and threat of arrest. When the enemy demolished the houses and fortifications, they entered tunnels to continue their struggle; when one tunnel

was blocked up by the enemy, they dug another in some other place to valiantly resist the enemy attack.

On June 6, the peasants of Sanrizuka, young workers and students from nearby prefectures and peasant representatives from where people are persisting in struggle against U.S. military bases held a meeting in Sanrizuka Park. The representatives all pledged to strengthen solidarity with the Sanrizuka peasants to carry on the struggle against the revival of Japanese militarism by the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries.

On July 26, the Sanrizuka peasants together with the workers, peasants and students coming to support

their struggle once again bravely resisted armed suppression by the reactionary police who even used poisonous gas. But the dauntless revolutionary masses hit back with stones and incendiary bottles. After their barricades were wrecked by the reactionary police, the peasants, workers and students persisted in their struggle in tunnels up to the afternoon of July 27. The struggle fully demonstrates the spirit of courageous struggle of the Japanese people.

The heroic dauntless struggle of the Japanese people fully bears out the truth of Chairman Mao's thesis: **"Japan is a great nation. It will certainly not allow U.S. imperialism to ride roughshod over it for long."**

For Your Reference

"September 18 Incident"

On the night of September 18, 1931, the Japanese Kwantung Army entrenched in northeast China ordered its "garrisons" to blow up the rails on the "south Manchurian railway" at Liutiaokou near Shenyang. Then, like a thief crying "stop thief," it charged that the incident was created by Kuomintang troops. On this pretext it made a sudden attack on the Kuomintang forces stationed in Peitaying of Shenyang. Chiang Kai-shek, preoccupied with fighting a civil war at that time, adopted a policy of non-resistance towards Japanese aggression. On Chiang's secret no resistance orders, the Kuomintang troops in Shenyang and other parts of northeast China withdrew to the south of Shanhaikuan. After occupying Shenyang on September 19, the Japanese invading army sent troops to occupy Liaoning, Kirin and Heilungkiang Provinces. By the end of 1931, most of northeast China had fallen to the invaders.

It was no accident that the "September 18 Incident" took place. The policy of occupying northeast China by force had been decided at the Japanese cabinet's "Conference on Oriental Affairs" as far back as in 1927. The meeting also worked out the notorious "continental policy" — "to conquer China, Manchuria and Mongolia must be conquered first, and to conquer the world, it is necessary to conquer China first" — a policy which had been advanced by Tanaka in his memorial to the Japanese emperor.

Beginning in 1929, the Japanese army general staff and the Kwantung Army clandestinely organized four "staff tours" in the three provinces of northeast China to carry out espionage regarding the situation and to draw up an operational plan for invading northeast China. In June 1931, the

Japanese army general staff and the ministry of the army jointly worked out "an outline of the programme for the solution of the Manchuria and Mongolia issue" and decided on concrete steps concerning the occupation of northeast China by force. In July the army general staff secretly moved heavy artillery to Shenyang and aimed it at Peitaying where the Kuomintang troops were stationed. In August, at a national meeting of divisional commanders, Jiro Minami, the reactionary Japanese Government's minister of the army, said that the Manchuria and Mongolia issue could be solved only by force. Further preparations were then made for launching an aggressive war. Thus, after long premeditation, the Japanese imperialists touched off the "September 18 Incident."

This incident was an important step taken by Japanese imperialism to push its "continental policy." Over five years later, on July 7, 1937 it engineered the "Lukouchiao Incident" and brazenly launched an all-out war of aggression against China. Pursuing a ruthless "burn all, kill all and loot all" policy, it committed monstrous crimes against the Chinese people.

Japanese imperialism's atrocities in its aggression and Chiang Kai-shek's policy of non-resistance set aflame the fires of the entire Chinese people's struggle against Japanese aggression and for national salvation. At this critical period for the Chinese nation, the Chinese people of all nationalities, under the leadership of their great leader Chairman Mao and the Chinese Communist Party, rose in resistance against Japanese aggression. After a protracted period of people's war and together with the international anti-fascist forces, they defeated Japanese imperialism in August 1945 and won great victories in the anti-Japanese war, contributing greatly to the anti-fascist war of the people of the world.