

Memorial Speech by First Vice-Chairman Hua Kuo-feng

WITH deep grief, we pay tribute today to the memory of Comrade Chu Teh, a fine member of the Communist Party of China, a great revolutionary fighter and proletarian revolutionary of the Chinese people and an outstanding Party, state and army leader loved and respected by the people of the whole country.

Comrade Chu Teh was a Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Tenth Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Fourth National People's Congress.

Comrade Chu Teh died of illness despite all treatment at 15:01 hours on July 6, 1976 in Peking at the age of 90.

Comrade Chu Teh's life was one of fighting for the cause of communism, one of continuing the revolution with perseverance. Loyal to the Party and the people, Comrade Chu Teh fought heroically for and selflessly dedicated all his energies throughout his life to the implementation of Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line and the victory of the Chinese people's liberation and the cause of communism. Under Chairman Mao's leadership, Comrade Chu Teh performed immortal services for the Party and the people in the building and development of the invincible people's army, in the building and expansion of the revolutionary bases, in the overthrow of the reactionary rule of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism and in the winning of victory in the new-democratic revolution, and in the building of China's revolutionary political power, the consolidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the advancement of the socialist revolution and construction. Comrade Chu Teh's death is a great loss to our Party, our army and the people of our country. It fills the whole Party, the whole army and the people of the whole country with profound grief.

Comrade Chu Teh was born in Yilung County, Szechuan Province. In his early years he joined the Tung Meng Hui led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, took part in the Revolution of 1911 and engaged in revolutionary activities against imperialism and feudalism. In 1915, he joined the uprising in Yunnan against Yuan Shih-

kai's attempts at proclaiming himself emperor and restoring the monarchy. In the course of struggle Comrade Chu Teh gradually espoused Marxism-Leninism and joined the Communist Party of China in 1922. From that time on he took an active part in revolutionary activities under the leadership of the Party. After Chiang Kai-shek betrayed the revolution, Comrade Chu Teh took part in leading the Nanchang Uprising on August 1, 1927 and became Deputy Commander of the 9th Army of the revolutionary forces. In 1928, he led part of the revolutionary troops that had risen in Nanchang in launching an uprising in south Hunan and then marched with them to the Chingyang Mountains where they joined forces with the troops led by Comrade Mao Tsetung. This led to the founding of the Fourth Army of the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, and Comrade Chu Teh was appointed its commander. Under Comrade Mao Tsetung's leadership and guided by his line on army building, Comrade Chu Teh henceforth made outstanding contributions to the building and development of the people's army and to the building and expansion of the revolutionary bases. From 1930 onwards, he served successively as Commander of the First Army Group of the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, Commander-in-Chief of the First Front Army of the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, Commander-in-Chief of the Military Commission of the Chinese Soviet. He took part in the 25,000-li Long March which began in



1934. During the Long March, he waged a resolute struggle against the renegade Chang Kuo-tao's activities, aimed at splitting the Red Army and betraying the Party. After the outbreak of the War of Resistance Against Japan in 1937, Comrade Chu Teh was made Commander-in-Chief of the Eighth Route Army. During the Third Revolutionary Civil War he served as Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. With the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, Comrade Chu Teh was elected a Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government and appointed Vice-Chairman of the Military Commission of the Central People's Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. He was elected Vice-Chairman of the People's Republic of China at the First National People's Congress in 1954 and appointed Vice-Chairman of the National Defence Council. Comrade Chu Teh was elected Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Second, Third and Fourth National People's Congresses.

Comrade Chu Teh was elected an Alternate Member of the Central Committee at the Third Plenary Session of the Sixth Central Committee of the Party in 1930. Starting with the Fifth Plenary Session of the Sixth Central Committee in 1934, he was elected uninterruptedly to full membership both in the Central Committee and the Political Bureau of the Central Committee. He was elected a Secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat at the First Plenary Session of the Seventh Central Committee. He was elected a Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee and a Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee at the First Plenary Session of the Eighth Central Committee. He was elected a Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee at the First Plenary Session of the Tenth Central Committee.

For decades, Comrade Chu Teh firmly implemented Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line and fought heroically and indomitably in the new-democratic revolution and the socialist revolution and in the struggles against domestic and external class enemies. He is an example that the whole Party, the whole army and the people of the whole country should learn from.

In mourning Comrade Chu Teh, we should learn from his spirit of carrying out the revolution continuously. Always loyal to the Party and the people, he assiduously studied works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao's works, firmly adhered to Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line, persisted in continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat and fought all his life for the realization of the great ideal of communism.

We should learn from his revolutionary spirit of fighting the enemy staunchly and courageously. In the face of the ferocious class enemies, in the years of fiery wars and in the storm and stress of class struggle, he fought heroically, regardless of personal danger and full of confidence in victory.

We should learn from his noble quality of serving the people wholeheartedly. Always and everywhere he defended the interests of the Party and the people. Diligent, earnest and conscientious, he dedicated his all to the proletarian revolutionary cause.

We should learn from his fine proletarian style. He upheld Party principles, observed Party discipline, safeguarded the unity of the Party, and maintained close ties with the masses. He was modest and prudent, unassuming and approachable, plain in his style of living and hard working. He set an example by his conduct for others to follow. He firmly opposed all



At the memorial meeting for the late Comrade Chu Teh.

manifestations of the bourgeois style of life and waged an unremitting struggle against any act that was against the interests of the Party.

Comrade Chu Teh, a great proletarian revolutionary of the Chinese people, has left us for ever. We should turn our grief into strength. Under the leadership of the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Mao, we should take class struggle as the key link, adhere to the Party's basic line, persist in continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat,

deepen the great struggle to criticize Teng Hsiao-ping's counter-revolutionary revisionist line and repulse the Right deviationist attempt at reversing correct verdicts, consolidate and develop the victories of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, unite as one and strive to consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat, combat and prevent revisionism, build our country into a powerful modern socialist state and bring the cause of communism to triumph.

Unite to win still greater victories!