

Advance From Victory to Victory

— 1977 New Year's Day editorial by "Renmin Ribao,"
"Hongqi" and "Jiefangjun Bao"

FILLED with pride of victory and jubilation, people throughout China are ushering in the new year amidst the struggle to thoroughly expose and repudiate the "gang of four."

Nineteen seventy-six was an extraordinary year during which we won a great historic victory. In that year we lost our great leader and teacher Chairman Mao Tsetung and our esteemed and beloved Premier Chou En-lai and Chairman Chu Teh of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. Our country was hit by earthquakes and other serious natural disasters. At a time when our Party was confronted with tremendous difficulties, the Party Central Committee headed by Comrade Hua Kuo-feng led us in smashing at one blow the plot of the Wang-Chang-Chiang-Yao anti-Party clique to usurp Party and state power. This gigantic, soul-stirring class struggle averted a major setback in the Chinese revolution, a major retrogression in Chinese history and a major disaster for the Chinese people. Our victory is a great victory for Mao Tsetung Thought, a great victory for Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line. The whole Party, the whole army and the people of all nationalities all over the country are elated and proud to have another wise leader of their own in Chairman Hua Kuo-feng. Eliminating the "four pests" has brought about a great liberation for the people, their minds and the productive forces. Our motherland is a vast panorama of brightness and prosperity. The far-reaching significance of the great victory of smashing the "gang of four" is becoming more and more evident.

Marxist theory and the historical experience of the Chinese revolution show that a proletarian political party must have its own outstanding leader in order to unify the will and strength of the party, the class and the entire people, overcome difficulties and danger, seize and consolidate political power and wage successful struggles. Our Party went through ten major two-line struggles in the past, and at every crucial moment when the revolution was at stake, Chairman Mao always led us in overcoming the crisis, triumphing over splits and piloting the ship of the revolution to safety, and riding the waves forward. When the Party and state were in critical danger of turning revisionist and changing political colour after Chairman Mao passed away, Comrade Hua Kuo-feng led our Party in saving the critical situation, smashing the "gang of four" and successfully waging another major two-line struggle. In this great struggle, Chairman Hua Kuo-feng has won the support and love of the whole Party, the whole army and the people of all nationalities throughout the country, and his leading position in the whole Party has been established. This is the most reliable guarantee for carrying out Chairman Mao's behests, upholding Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and carrying through to the end the proletarian revolutionary cause pioneered by the great leader Chairman Mao and the esteemed and beloved Premier Chou and the other revolutionaries of the older generation. The people of the whole country and the revolutionary people throughout the world rejoice to see that, with the guidance of invin-

cible Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, with a wise leader such as Chairman Hua and with the broad masses of the Party members, the people's army and the people rallying most closely round Chairman Hua and the Party Central Committee, our Party has a great future, our country has a great future.

Chairman Mao's brilliant work *On the Ten Major Relationships* was recently published in accordance with the decision taken by the Central Committee. This important work of Chairman Mao's, which defends and develops Marxist philosophy, political economy and scientific socialism, is a great historical document. Chairman Mao said: "We must do our best to mobilize all positive factors, both inside and outside the Party, both at home and abroad, both direct and indirect, and build China into a powerful socialist country." This is a basic policy that we must adhere to in all our work. In his important speech at the recent Second National Conference on Learning From Tachai in Agriculture, Chairman Hua summed up our struggle against the "gang of four" and expounded and defended Chairman Mao's great theory of continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat. In line with Chairman Mao's thesis that "great disorder across the land leads to great order," Chairman Hua made the strategic policy decision — "in the course of the acute struggle between the two classes, to achieve **stability and unity** in our country, consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat and bring about great order across the land," — and set forth the tasks for the new year: To deepen the great mass movement to expose and criticize the "gang of four"; to strengthen Party building and carry out in the whole Party an education movement in Marxist ideology; to deepen the mass movements **In agriculture, learn from Tachai, and In industry, learn from Taching** and strive to **push the national economy forward**; and make further efforts to bring about a new high tide in the mass movement to study works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao's works. These are the four fighting tasks lead-

ing to great order across the land. The whole Party, the whole army and the people of all nationalities throughout the country must diligently study well Chairman Mao's *On the Ten Major Relationships* and Chairman Hua's important speech, propagate and implement them effectively.

Chairman Hua has issued the call: "In the coming year grasp class struggle as the key link and exert ourselves to win still greater victories." Thoroughly exposing and criticizing the "gang of four" is our central task for the whole year. This gang completely betrayed the three basic principles "**Practise Marxism, and not revisionism; unite, and don't split; be open and above-board, and don't intrigue and conspire**" and tried to usurp supreme Party and state leadership. The contradiction between us and them is one between ourselves and the enemy. Our struggle against them is a life-and-death struggle between the two classes. We must not be kind-hearted towards this counter-revolutionary sinister gang but must struggle resolutely against them. A great deal of hard and careful work remains to be done to expose and criticize them penetratingly and thoroughly and eradicate their poisonous influence politically, ideologically and organizationally. Chairman Hua has said: "In industry, agriculture, commerce, education, military affairs, government and Party, it is essential to take the Party's basic line formulated by Chairman Mao as the guide, sum up through earnest investigations and study the positive and negative experience in the past as well as in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, get clear about the specific line of work and the specific principles, policies and methods in each field and constantly improve and perfect them in the course of practice so that the work in all these fields can advance faster along Chairman Mao's revolutionary line." To put all this into practice effectively, we must all the more work hard and make painstaking efforts. We should fully mobilize the masses, and unite with all the forces that can be united and carry this great political revolution through to the end.

Class struggle is the motive force propelling society ahead. If only we expose and repudiate the "gang of four" thoroughly, become clear about the ideological and political line, and mobilize the positive factors in all fields, we will certainly be able to do an even better job in all our work. At present, in the whole country both the higher and lower levels are concerting their efforts and are united as one under the leadership of the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua, and a new upsurge in socialist revolution and socialist construction is rising vigorously. The situation is steadily improving, and will develop faster and better than people can now anticipate. We must conscientiously study works by Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Chairman Mao's works, strive to grasp dialectical and historical materialism and oppose idealism and metaphysics. We should strengthen unified and centralized leadership of the Party and strengthen ideological building and organizational building of the Party so that Party organizations at all levels can give full play to their fighting role as the vanguard of the proletariat. We should wholeheartedly rely on the working class and the poor and lower-middle peasants, unite with the other labouring people and the masses of intellectuals and further develop the revolutionary united front led by the working class, based on the worker-peasant alliance and embracing the patriotic democratic parties, patriotic personages, patriotic overseas Chinese and compatriots in Hongkong and Macao, consolidate and strengthen the dictatorship of the proletariat, defend and develop the victories of the Great Cultural Revolution and foster and enhance socialist new things. Comrades on the agricultural, industrial and other fronts must foster great and lofty aspirations and work energetically for socialism in a down-to-earth way. We should strengthen army and militia building, adhere to the instruction **"The whole nation should learn from the People's Liberation Army; the Liberation Army should learn from the people of the whole country,"** do a good job in supporting the government and cherishing the people and in supporting the army and

giving preferential treatment to army men's families, and strengthen the unity between the army and the government and between the army and the people. We are convinced that we will win one new victory after another for our socialist revolution and socialist construction as a result of the common efforts by the whole Party, the whole army and the people of all nationalities all over the country. We are certainly able to create a completely new situation in which there are political liveliness and economic prosperity, and in which a hundred schools of thought contend and a hundred flowers blossom in science and culture, and the people's livelihood steadily improves on the basis of the development of production. We will certainly be able to achieve the magnificent goal of accomplishing the comprehensive modernization of agriculture, industry, national defence and science and technology and build China into a powerful socialist country before the end of the century.

As we celebrate New Year's Day, we express deep concern for our compatriots in Taiwan Province who are our own flesh and blood. We are determined to accomplish the sacred cause of liberating Taiwan and reunifying our motherland.

We will unswervingly carry on the revolutionary line and policies in foreign affairs formulated by Chairman Mao himself, uphold proletarian internationalism, strengthen our unity with the international proletariat and the oppressed nations and oppressed people of the world, strengthen our unity with the third world countries and unite with all countries suffering from imperialist and social-imperialist aggression, subversion, intervention, control and bullying, so as to oppose the hegemonism of the two superpowers — the Soviet Union and the United States.

Let us hold aloft the great red banner of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought and, under the leadership of the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua, wage a united struggle and advance from victory to victory!