

The Struggle of Two Lines— the Law of Development and Unity of the Party

— The National Secretariat, C.P.N.Z.

Within our Party as a whole, within each Party organisation and within each individual Party member, unceasing struggle will inevitably go on between correct, revolutionary ideas and incorrect ideas from capitalist society, i.e. between Marxist-Leninist ideology and bourgeois ideology. This is a world-wide phenomenon which finds clear expression in the great ideological struggle in the international Communist movement between Marxism-Leninism and modern revisionism.

The decision of our National Conference in 1963 reflecting the determination of the overwhelming majority of our membership to reject modern revisionism and stand firmly on the positions of Marxism-Leninism in the great ideological struggle in the world Communist movement was an important victory for revolutionary ideology which proved that Marxism-Leninism was the principal aspect of the principal contradiction in ideology within the C.P.N.Z.

But dialectics teaches us that contradiction, struggle, change, is absolute and permanent, while stability, the passive balance of opposing forces is relative and only temporary. Had we rested on our laurels, self-satisfied with the correct decision we took in 1963, counter-revolutionary opportunism would have become the principal aspect of the ideological contradiction, revisionism would have triumphed over Marxism-Leninism within our Party.

DECADE OF SHARP STRUGGLE

The past decade, since 1963, has been marked by extremely sharp ideological struggles within the C.P.N.Z. as the class struggle manifested itself in accordance with this law of dialectics. The class enemy has made desperate attempts to subvert and destroy us as a revolutionary Party. It will never cease its efforts to do so.

The desertion of Jackson and Anderson, heading a minority heavily influenced by Soviet social-imperialism, occurred fairly soon after the defeat of modern revisionism at the 1963 National Conference. The trade union-parliamentary politics line of the Socialist Unity Party which they established with the support of the revision-

ist leadership of the Soviet Union, clearly demonstrates their bourgeois ideological position. The exposure and removal of this hostile trend within our ranks strengthened our Party.

Recognising that with the deepening of the crisis of imperialism the bourgeoisie would be driven to more and more desperate measures against the revolutionary forces, in 1967 we began a series of organisational changes aimed at reconstructing our Party in a form capable of coping with open fascist repression. By August, 1968, practice had proved that the scheme we had tried to implement was fundamentally wrong, was isolating the Party from the masses, and if continued, could only lead to the liquidation of the Party. It was a mistake of sectarianism, a denial of the revolution as the deed of the masses, and a demonstration of the existence of bourgeois influences in our ideology.

This deviation, however, did not mean that opportunism had become the principal aspect in our ideology as a whole. It had gained a temporary ascendancy in an important field, but once again the vast majority of our membership stood firm on Marxism-Leninism. A faction, headed by the leadership of the Wellington District Committee at that time, fought tooth and nail to continue this course towards liquidation, even going as far as to plot to take over the leadership of the entire Party, but they were exposed and defeated. Their breaching of democratic-centralism proved that an antagonistic contradiction had developed between them and Marxism-Leninism and they were eliminated from the Party.

It is important to note that while the former group was "Rightist" both in form and essence and the latter group was "Leftist" in form and "Rightist" in essence, both represented trends of bourgeois ideology within the C.P.N.Z. essentially hostile to Marxism-Leninism. Thus it was inevitable that a trend towards organisational reconciliation and integration between the members of these two groups would develop. This has already become apparent. In the long run, all the enemies of the revolution, from the lunatic fascists to the ultra-Leftists, will end up on the same barricade in open struggle against the Party.

CONTRADICTIONS INEVITABLE

It would be a mistake, however, if we were to think that with the removal of these enemies from our ranks the ideological battle is now settled once and for all. This will never be the case throughout the entire historical era in which class society and the ideological contradictions stemming from class society continue to exist in the world.

The C.P.N.Z. operates under social-historical conditions which expose it constantly, every moment of every day, to intense ideological pressure from the imperialist bourgeoisie and the thousand and one petty-bourgeois influences deriving from the nature of the world we live in. To believe that we, as Communists, are immune

from these influences and that they do not find expression in our thinking, our Party work, methods and organisational forms, would be pure idealism. Every one of us is affected to some degree and the struggle against such influences is a permanent duty for every Communist.

But it would be a mistake of another kind to regard this struggle to overcome the traces of alien ideology in the minds of our comrades as an antagonistic struggle, a struggle between us and the class enemy. This is a contradiction within the ranks of the people, therefore it must be handled in the manner of "curing the disease to save the patient".

The main weapon in this struggle is the constant raising of the ideological-political level of every member through the integration of the principles of Marxism-Leninism with the concrete reality of New Zealand as it is revealed through the revolutionary practice of the C.P.N.Z. using Communist criticism and self-criticism to discover objective truth through analysis of practice with absolute honesty.

Having summed up the experience of the struggles between the two lines in the Party for more than fifty years, Mao Tsetung teaches us: "Practice Marxism and not revisionism; unite, and don't split; be open and above board and don't intrigue and conspire." These are the three basic principles to be followed in waging inner-party struggles.

SECTARIANISM, SUBJECTIVISM, STEREOTYPISM

The Political Committee considers that sectarianism, subjectivism, and stereotypism, can be demonstrated in many aspects of our work. Sectarianism is expressed in trends to individualism, in putting the individual branch or locality before the district or the Party as a whole. The end result of this would be a sort of social-democratic federation of Communist groups in place of a disciplined, monolithic party with every member and every unit working to apply a united strategy. Subjectivism, seeing the part but not the whole, is very prevalent. How rarely do comrades in their criticisms of policies, party organs, or other members, make an objective assessment of all aspects of the subject, and how frequently do they express only, or mainly, just those aspects of which they approve or disapprove in the particular policy, party organ, or comrade. Stereotypism shows up in the dull routine of basic tasks carried out, without any striving for new methods to apply policy or approaches to new people, formalised book study and writing, divorced from the reality of revolutionary practice.

Our Party has come through many difficult tests triumphant. Marxism-Leninism is the principal aspect of our ideology, but the P.C. believes that we still have a great deal to do to ensure that our Party develops as a thoroughly disciplined, monolithic, revolutionary party of the new type that Lenin envisaged and built.

Serious study of the teachings of the Marxist-Leninist classics

in close relationship with the concrete problems which we face in the work of our Party can greatly assist us to find correct solutions to these problems. Therefore the P.C. has decided to reprint the article, "Rectify the Party's Style of Work", by Mao Tsetung as basic study material for every branch and every individual comrade. We believe that this study can play an important part in raising the ideological-political level of the whole Party so that we can build that "well disciplined Party armed with the theory of Marxism-Leninism, using the method of criticism and linked with the masses of the people . . ." which is the primary weapon with which we shall defeat the enemy.

—National Secretariat.

Rectify the Party's Style of Work

— MAO TSETUNG (February 1, 1942).

This speech was delivered by Comrade Mao Tsetung at the opening of the Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

The Party School opens today and I wish it every success. I would like to say something about the problem of our Party's style of work.

Why must there be a revolutionary party? There must be a revolutionary party because the world contains enemies who oppress the people and the people want to throw off enemy oppression. In the era of capitalism and imperialism, just such a revolutionary party as the Communist Party is needed. Without such a party it is simply impossible for the people to throw off enemy oppression. We are Communists, we want to lead the people in overthrowing the enemy, and so we must keep our ranks in good order, we must march in step, our troops must be picked troops and our weapons good weapons. Without these conditions the enemy cannot be overthrown.

What is the problem now facing our Party? The general line of the Party is correct and presents no problem, and the Party's work has been fruitful. The Party has several thousand members who are leading the people in extremely hard and bitter struggles against the enemy. This is plain to everybody and beyond all doubt.

Then is there or is there not any problem still facing our Party? I say there is and, in a certain sense, the problem is quite serious.

What is the problem? It is the fact that there is something in