

'GANG' SABOTAGED DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM

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[Article by Shih Chien: "The 'Gang of Four' Sabotaged Democratic Centralism in Order To Usurp Party and State Power"--published in Issue No 12 of the RED FLAG Journal, 1976]

[Text] Democratic centralism is the organizational principle of our party. The great leader and teacher Chairman Mao taught us: "Within the ranks of the people, we cannot do without freedom, nor can we do without discipline; we cannot do without democracy, nor can we do without centralism. This unity of democracy and centralism, of freedom and discipline, constitutes our democratic centralism."

Only by the implementation of democratic centralism can we effectively strengthen the party's centralized leadership, bring into full play the role of party organizations as fighting bastions, bring into full play the initiative and creativeness of the vast numbers of party members and the people, and insure that Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line and policies will be implemented. Also only by the implementation of democratic centralism can we effectively prevent the criminal activities of bourgeois careerists and conspirators to split the party.

In the struggle against the opportunist and revisionist lines, Chairman Mao inherited, defended and developed the Marxist-Leninist theory on party-building, formulated a series of principles and methods for our party to implement democratic centralism, and applied it to building political power as the basic system for state organs. Under Chairman Mao's long nurturing, the implementation of democratic centralism has become a fine tradition of our party and state, guaranteed our party's consolidation and growth, and insured the victorious development of the revolutionary cause and continuous strengthening of the dictatorship of the proletariat in our country. This was exactly why the "gang of four," to achieve their criminal aim of usurping party and state power, frenziedly sabotaged democratic centralism. Whether to uphold or to sabotage the party's democratic centralism became an important part of our struggle against the Wang-Chang-Chiang-Yao antiparty clique.

The Wang-Chang-Chiang-Yao "gang of four" ignored the leadership of Chairman Mao and the party Central Committee, defied party discipline, attempted to go against the tide of history, did as they wished, and completely violated the Marxist-Leninist principle of centralized and unified leadership of the party. By extremely wicked and vicious means they opposed and persecuted the great leader Chairman Mao, attacked and made false accusations against the respected and beloved Premier Chou, ceaselessly intrigued against Comrade Hua Kuo-feng, who was selected by Chairman Mao himself to be his successor, and tried their utmost to undermine the leadership of the party Central Committee and to undermine revolutionary authority.

They did not heed Chairman Mao's words, wantonly tampered with Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, and even went so far as to forge Chairman Mao's "directives." With ulterior motives they put forward the slogan that "empiricism is the current main danger," opposed Chairman Mao's scientific conclusion that "revisionism is the main danger," shifted the general orientation of criticizing revisionism, and pointed the spearhead at leading cadres who adhered to Chairman Mao's revolutionary line. They waved the banner of criticizing the theory of productive forces to sabotage the correct principle of "grasping revolution, promoting production." They distorted the revolutionary rebel spirit, indiscriminately tried to overthrow everyone, fanned up bourgeois factionalism and instigated the bourgeoisie to attack the proletariat. Even worse, they forged a so-called Chairman Mao's last adjuration and worked in a big way to create counterrevolutionary public opinion for them to usurp party and state power.

They established their own system inside the party--in fact set up another "central committee"--and placed it above Chairman Mao and the party Central Committee. They did not discuss things with the Political Bureau but personally sent letters, wrote directives on documents, delivered materials and called meetings everywhere, rivaling the party Central Committee and wildly undermining Chairman Mao's strategic plans. On the eve of the convocation of the Fourth National People's Congress, behind the backs of Chairman Mao and the party Central Committee, they secretly tried to "form a cabinet." There were clandestine activities up and down the line and coded telegrams were sent back and forth within their clique. They also instructed their accomplices to quickly find suitable persons to seize vital departments and vainly attempted to place their trusted followers in various departments of the party Central Committee and the State Council and usurp the leadership of these departments.

What Chairman Mao and the party Central Committee had decided upon, they could overturn at will or pretended to comply with but actually went their own way. In the struggle to criticize Teng Hsiao-ping and beat back the right deviationist wind to reverse verdicts, they refused to implement Chairman Mao's series of important instructions, but used the public media under their control to put on a rival show against the party Central Committee, tried to ferret out so-called "agents" of Teng Hsiao-ping at every level, and in the name of criticizing Teng Hsiao-ping actually attempted to usurp power.

They set up clandestine liaison centers, secretly gathered blacklist materials on responsible comrades of the central organs, poked their nose into everything everywhere, stirred up troubles and attempted to overthrow a large number of responsible party, government and army comrades of the central organs and various localities, disrupt party organizations at all levels and undermine the centralized leadership of the party in various areas and units. Their accomplices blustered that "Wherever the machine of party organization is still running, the situation there is no good" and that "To wreck a factory means to put a noose around the neck of the secretary of the provincial party committee," nakedly exposing their vicious intention to usurp party and state leadership.

They vigorously engaged in secretarian activities and turned the localities and departments under their control into a watertight and impenetrable "independent kingdom" and a "country" dominated by their gang. In these localities and departments they set up their own regulations and acted willfully. The instructions of Chairman Mao and the party Central Committee could be tightly blocked from reaching the public, the party's line and policies could be tampered with at will, party discipline could be discarded and government orders could be disobeyed. There wasn't any party leadership. These localities and departments became an entirely bourgeois "kingdom" ruled by the "gang of four."

Many facts show that the "gang of four" are big conspirators and careerists who have no regard for the party's leader, the party's guiding ideology, the party Central Committee, party discipline and the laws of the country.

"Absolute centralization and rigorous discipline in the proletariat are an essential condition of victory over the bourgeoisie." [quote from Lenin]--The centralization and unification of the party is an important guiding principle of the party's political life and an important guarantee for the implementation of the party's correct line. Whether of the party, the government, the army, the mass organizations and the cultural and educational institutions, in the east, west, south, north or center of the country, it is the party that exercises leadership in everything. After Chairman Mao died, the party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua represents the fundamental interests of the proletariat and the masses of the people, is of one heart with the masses of the people, is wholeheartedly loved and supported by the people of all nationalities throughout the country and is the only core of leadership of the whole party.

Only by closely rallying around the party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, obeying the command of the party Central Committee in all actions and achieving unity in thinking, policy, plan, command and action on the basis of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line can the whole party win victories continuously in revolution.

The "gang of four" wildly persecuted the party's leader, undermined the centralized and unified leadership of the party Central Committee and undermined party discipline. Their purpose was to undermine the fighting command of the proletarian revolution and thus forfeit the revolutionary cause of the proletariat as a whole. The "gang of four" not only undermined the party's centralization and unification but also seriously undermined the party's democratic system. They ran a steel plant and a hat factory, brandished a cudgel in one hand and a hat in the other, frantically attacked and persecuted the revolutionary cadres and masses, and enforced a dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. They vigorously practiced "letting those who comply thrive and letting those who refuse perish." Those who got along well with them and flattered them were lauded to the skies for a song, a play, a blank examination paper or a sycophantic letter and given high positions and handsome salaries. Those who resisted them and failed to please them were labelled at will as "counterrevolutionaries," "capitalist roaders," "bad elements" and so forth and subjected to rabid counterrevolutionary suppression.

The party branch and poor and lower-middle peasants of the Tachai production brigade waged a resolute struggle against the criminal activities of the "gang of four" who attempted to pull down the Tachai red banner. Because of this, Chiang Ching struck our fiercely and acted in a highhanded manner, vilifying the Tachai people as "having been influenced by revisionism and become politically backward." She looked as if she would cut down the Tachai red banner with a single swing of a hatchet and flatten Tiger Mountain with a single kick.

The film "Pioneers" extols Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and hurt the black hearts of the "gang of four." They raised a cudgel of so-called ten "accusations," hit at the film head-on and were determined to destroy it. A scenarist of the film, driven beyond the limits of forbearance, wrote to Chairman Mao and exposed the crimes of Chiang Ching and company. Chiang Ching frantically struck back in revenge and shamelessly brayed: "Not heeding my words means not heeding the party's words." This short sentence fully exposed their wolfish ambitions to strangle democracy and usurp party leadership. They frantically strangled the socialist enthusiasm of the revolutionary masses and vainly attempted to bind the hands of feet of hundreds of millions of people, prevent them from transforming nature and block the advance of workers and poor and lower-middle peasants along the bright socialist road.

The cadres and masses in the suburbs of Shanghai wanted to learn from Tachai. Chang Chun-chiao, however, babbled that "Tachai cut up mountains to build farmland, but we have no mountain to cup up in Shanghai" and willfully hampered their efforts. The masses of workers and poor and lower-middle peasants wanted to vigorously criticize capitalism and build socialism in a big way, but they babbled that "to make big efforts is to confuse the key link with what hinges on it." They are archcriminals sabotaging "grasping revolution, promoting production," and butchers strangling the revolutionary initiative of the masses of the people.

Our party's democracy is democracy under centralized guidance. Centralism should be closely integrated with democracy. The initiative of the whole party should be brought into full play by the practice of democracy. Only by practicing democracy under centralized guidance can the party's leading organs and the vast numbers of party members and cadres bring into full play their creative power and sense of responsibility; have the courage and skill to raise questions, express opinions and criticize shortcomings; proceed from the desire to cherish, help and supervise the leading organs and leading cadres; vigorously fulfill the party's tasks; and consolidate and develop the party.

Under Chairman Mao's long nurturing, our party has given full scope to the democratic work style and, under centralized and unified leadership, practiced a high level of democracy. This is an important guarantee to strengthening party leadership, implementing Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line, fulfilling the party's fighting tasks and smashing the conspiratorial activities of bourgeois conspirators and careerists to usurp party and state power. The "gang of four" undermined this fine tradition of the party and undermined the party's centralized democracy. Their purpose was to undermine the basis of the party's centralized and unified leadership, strangle the socialist enthusiasm of the whole party, the whole army and the people of all nationalities throughout the country, eliminate the masses' supervision over them and achieve their criminal aim to usurp party and state power and restore capitalism.

Chairman Mao severely criticized the "gang of four" for their strangling of democracy and warned them: "Do not set up the two factories, a 'steel plant' and a 'hat factory.' Do not label people at will." Chairman Mao pointed out: "Being opinionated and often scolding others is also an indication of not understanding Marxism-Leninism."

The "gang of four" regarded themselves as a proletarian steel plant. In fact, they enforced an out-and-out bourgeois dictatorship. The more they tried to prettify themselves and describe the cudgel they used to hit people as a revolutionary stick, the more they exposed their true features as wolves with human faces but hearts of beasts. Wang, Chang, Chiang and Yao are a sinister counterrevolutionary gang, typical representatives of the decadent and moribund bourgeoisie inside the party and unrepentant capitalist roaders still traveling on the capitalist road. They arrogantly undermined the party's democratic centralism. Their criminal purpose was to usurp party and state power, vainly attempting to turn our party into a revisionist and fascist party and restore capitalism in China.

In our party's history many examples exist in which ringleaders of the revisionist line undermined the party's democratic centralism in order to achieve their treacherous purposes. The "gang of four" inherited the mantle of Wang Ming, Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao. They were indeed pupils who learned from and outdid their teachers. They went even further than their predecessors. The party Central Committee headed by Comrade Hua Kuo-feng very wisely and resolutely shattered with one blow the counterrevolutionary scheme of the "gang of four" to usurp party and state power. This gives great satisfaction to the people, is supported by them, and greatly boosts their morale. [Words indistinct] the abnormal situation caused by the truculent and tyrannical behavior of the "gang of four" in party life and the political life of the masses of the people has been wiped out like clouds being swept away by the wind; a new situation has emerged. Our party has become more unified and stronger, the people of our country are filled with greater enthusiasm and militancy and socialist revolution and construction is vigorously developing everywhere.

We must conscientiously study Chairman Mao's brilliant thinking on strengthening the building of the party and his series of important instructions on criticizing the "gang of four," thoroughly expose and criticize the crimes of the "gang of four" in undermining democratic centralism, rally most closely around the party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, obey the command of the party Central Committee in all our actions, adhere to the principle of democratic centralism, uphold the party's centralized leadership, give full scope to proletarian democracy, carry forward the party's fine tradition, strive to create "a political situation in which there are both centralism and democracy, both discipline and freedom, both unity of will and personal ease of mind and liveliness," and unite to win still greater victories.