

APPENDIX 8

C.P.C. CENTRAL COMMITTEE CIRCULAR ON HOLDING NATIONAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE

I

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China has decided to call a national conference on science in Peking in the spring of 1978.

The tasks of the conference are: Hold high the great banner of Mao Tsetung Thought and implement the line of the 11th National Congress of the Party*; make in-depth exposure and criticism of the "gang of four" composed of Wang Hung-wen, Chang Chun-chiao, Chiang Ching and Yao Wen-yuan; exchange experience; draw up plans; commend advanced personnel, especially scientists, technicians, workers, peasants and soldiers who have made inventions and innovations; and mobilize the whole Party, the whole army and the people of all nationalities in the country as well as all scientists and technicians to work for the modernization of science and technology.

With the smashing of the "gang of four" and the successful conclusion of the first Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, China has entered a new stage of development in the socialist revolution and construction. Guided by the strategic decision of grasping the key link of class struggle and bringing about great order across the land, the Central Committee successively called the Second National Conference on Learning From Tachai in Agriculture and the National Conference on Learning from Taching in Industry. This has effectively promoted the in-depth development of the movement to expose and criticize the "gang of four" and speeded up the restoration and expansion of industrial and agricultural production, and a new leap forward of the national economy is in the making. In May this year, Chairman Hua gave important and timely instructions on scientific work and issued a call for simultaneously carrying out the three great revolutionary

*The line is: Hold high the great banner of Chairman Mao, adhere to the Party's basic line for the historical period of socialism, grasp the key link of class struggle and bring about great order across the land, continue the revolution and strive to build China into a powerful and modern socialist country.

movements of class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment. In the short span of just over three months, a great revolutionary mass movement for modernizing science and technology has developed rapidly and vigorously. China's socialist science and technology is entering a new stage.

II

Technological revolution is an important aspect of the continued revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat. In 1958 the great leader and teacher Chairman Mao pointed out: **“While continuing the socialist revolution on the political front and the ideological front, we should lay stress on the technological revolution in the Party's work. This question deserves the attention of the whole Party.”** He issued this call to the whole Party: **“We must marshal our energies to study and fulfil the great technological revolution that history has entrusted to us.”**

Modernizing agriculture, industry, national defence and science and technology means making a technological revolution and providing the national economy and defence with the most advanced achievements in science and technology. Chairman Mao once said: **“The technological revolution refers to the key technological transformations in history, for example, the steam engine replacing hand labour, later the discovery of electricity and now the discovery of atomic energy.”** By the end of the 20th century, we must have machinery in use in every possible department and locality and realize electrification in town and country and automation in the main branches of industry so as to raise labour productivity enormously, develop the social productive forces rapidly, radically change the face of China's economy, greatly strengthen our national defence and ensure that our state of the dictatorship of the proletariat will always remain invincible.

The modernization of science and technology is the key to the realization of the four modernizations. We must build up a contingent of scientists and technicians ranking among the world's best. We must have the most advanced scientific experiment facilities. There should be important theoretical creations and technical inventions, and in the major fields of science and technology we must approach, reach or surpass the world's advanced levels so that our national economy will be in the front ranks of the world. Contemporary natural sciences are now working for new important breakthroughs. New advances in natural science are bound to bring about tremendous changes in techniques of production. Without scientific experiment and without new techniques, there can be no great increase in labour productivity and a new leap forward

will be out of the question, our socialist system will not be able to display its superiority to the full, and there will be the danger of lagging behind and being vulnerable to attacks. Whether science and technology can be pushed forward as quickly as possible is a question of vital importance for socialist construction as a whole and for the destiny and future of our country.

III

In the sharp struggles between the two classes and the two lines over the past 28 years, Chairman Mao's revolutionary line has always been in the dominant position in science and technology. Under the wise leadership of Chairman Mao and the Party Central Committee and with their careful attention, the people of all nationalities and the scientific and technical personnel in our country worked diligently in defiance of difficulties, and established and developed a number of new branches of science and technology in spite of the blockade and monopoly by imperialism and social-imperialism. The successful testing of atomic and hydrogen bombs and guided missiles and the launching and accurate recovery of man-made earth satellites are important indications of our new level in science and technology. We have made a number of creative advances in theoretical research and applied sciences which are up to advanced world levels. A mass movement for scientific experiment involving tens of millions of people is developing vigorously and the number of professional scientists and technicians has increased a hundredfold compared to pre-liberation days. We have laid the foundation for big progress in the future.

But science and technology in our country suffered for a long period from interference and sabotage by Liu Shao-chi, Lin Biao and especially the "gang of four." The "gang of four" undermined Party leadership in this field, tampered with the theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat and negated the revolutionary movement of scientific experiment. They wrote off the great achievements made in science and technology and negated the fact that Chairman Mao's revolutionary line has occupied the dominant position in this field since the founding of New China. They vilified the efforts to modernize agriculture, industry, national defence and science and technology as attempts to "restore capitalism" and denied the role of science in promoting production, which led to the destruction of laboratory equipment and the disbanding of research institutions. They spread the nonsense that "the more knowledge one has, the more reactionary one becomes." They slandered intellectuals as the "stinking ninth category" [coming after the eight categories of class enemies, namely, the landlords, rich

peasants, counter-revolutionaries, bad elements, Rightists, renegades, enemy agents and unrepentant capitalist-roaders], wilfully persecuting them. Negating the role of Marxist philosophy as the guide to scientific research, they advocated substituting philosophy for the natural sciences and repudiated theoretical work in natural science. In opposing the principle of "letting a hundred schools of thought contend," they debased the proper style of study and suppressed views on academic matters. They opposed learning from advanced foreign technology and at the same time strangled efforts to create things in China. This serious sabotage by the "gang of four" greatly dampened the enthusiasm of scientific and technical personnel and the masses, caused a break in the training of scientific and technical personnel, severely damaged scientific and technological work in our country, thereby turning science and technology into a brake on the development of the national economy and widening the gap with the advanced scientific level of the world, which at one time was being narrowed. We should on no account underestimate the grave damage wrought by the "gang of four." We must thoroughly expose and criticize their counter-revolutionary revisionist line, distinguish between right and wrong, eliminate their poisonous influence and advance unswervingly along the course Chairman Mao charted for developing China's science and technology.

We must combine the three great revolutionary movements of class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment as Chairman Mao taught us. **"Class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment are the three great revolutionary movements for building a mighty socialist country. These movements are a sure guarantee that Communists will be free from bureaucracy and immune against revisionism and dogmatism, and will for ever remain invincible. They are a reliable guarantee that the proletariat will be able to unite with the broad working masses and realize a democratic dictatorship."** Class struggle is the key link. If we busy ourselves only with the struggle for production and scientific experiment to the neglect of class struggle, if leadership is not in the hands of the proletariat and if the people are not energetic and vigorous, we cannot achieve much in the struggle for production and scientific experiment. If we go in for class struggle without carrying out the struggle for production and scientific experiment, without building a substantial material base and making the country prosperous and powerful, we will not be able to consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat and all the pledges to "support the general line" [referring to the general line of going all out, aiming high and achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism] will prove a false one. Is it all right to pay attention only to the struggle for production without scientific experiment? Cer-

tainly not. Scientific experiment cannot be replaced by the struggle for production. We must engage in all the three great revolutionary movements, as Taching and Tachai are doing.

We must follow Chairman Mao's teaching and launch mass movements for scientific experiment. Scientific experiment in our country is a revolutionary movement combining the efforts of both professionals and the masses. This is something no capitalist country has done or can ever do. We must uphold the principles of combining leading cadres, scientists and technicians and the masses of workers, peasants and soldiers, combining scientific research, production and use, and combining popularization and the raising of standards. The role of the professionals as the backbone force must be brought into full play. The mass movements for scientific experiment must be developed persistently and in a down-to-earth way and increasingly raised to a higher level. Such great mass movements will open up inexhaustible springs of creativity, produce a large number of outstanding scientists and technicians and enable science and technology to flourish as never before.

We must follow Chairman Mao's teaching and build up a vast contingent of working-class scientists and technicians who are both red and expert. Tempered in ideological and political movements and the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in particular, the overwhelming majority of scientists and technicians want to serve the socialist cause and are making efforts to do so, they are willing to integrate themselves with the workers and peasants and are actually doing so. They have made progress to varying degrees in changing their world outlook from a bourgeois to a proletarian one and in gradually fostering and acquiring a proletarian world outlook. The ranks of working-class scientists and technicians who are red and expert have grown considerably. But, on the whole, the number of scientists and technicians is still not large and their level is not high. It is necessary to expand their ranks and raise their level as soon as possible. It is essential to carry out correctly the Party's policy of uniting with, educating and remoulding the intellectuals, earnestly help them transform their world outlook and provide them with conditions so that they can devote themselves to their professional studies and do their work well. All institutions of scientific research must produce results and train proficient scientific workers. The basis for training such scientific workers is education. Primary and middle schools, colleges and universities are important bases for training scientists and technicians, while colleges and universities are at the same time an important force in scientific research. We must do a really good job in the educational revolution and end as quickly as possible the situation in which education is to a serious degree not in accord with our socialist cause.

We must follow Chairman Mao's teaching and energetically promote the Marxist style of study. Scientists and technicians should be encouraged to study dialectical materialism and use it in guiding scientific research. The principle of "letting a hundred schools of thought contend" must be implemented. It is criminal to suppress free academic discussion among the people. We should encourage the habit of daring to think, to speak and to act, and promote the style of working conscientiously, with meticulous care and by strict standards. We should foster the communist style and work in co-ordination, learn from one another and make common progress.

We must follow Chairman Mao's teaching and uphold the principle of integrating learning with independent creativity. In the natural sciences we are comparatively backward. We must strive to learn from other countries. It is necessary to improve the work of scientific and technical information, promote international academic exchange and introduce necessary advanced techniques. Only by learning what is advanced can we catch up with and surpass the advanced. We learn from others in order to develop our own creativity. We must proceed from China's concrete conditions, dare to create new things, act upon the principle of independence and self-reliance and take China's own road of developing science and technology.

IV

To strengthen Party leadership and mobilize all positive factors to push scientific research work forward as fast as possible, the key lies with the various departments under the State Council, the various units under the Military Commission of the Party Central Committee and the Party committees of the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions.

The Central Committee calls on Party committees at all levels to take immediate action and **launch a great Marxist-Leninist movement for the technical revolution in economic work in town and country in a well-guided way, link by link and wave upon wave.** They should, prior to the holding of the national conference on science, deepen the exposure and criticism of the "gang of four," take effective measures to solve a number of problems that can be solved with conscious effort, so that the movement to modernize science and technology will surge ahead on a sound basis.

We must do a good job of consolidation without delay, quickly restore scientific research institutions that were disbanded as a result of interference and sabotage by the "gang of four," and put in order those now in disorder. All scientific research institutions must practise

the system of directors undertaking responsibility under the leadership of the Party committees. It is imperative to install as Party committee secretaries those cadres who understand the Party's policies and have enthusiasm for science, to select experts or near-experts to lead professional work, and to find diligent and hard-working cadres to take charge of the supporting work. The Central Committee has decided to set up a State Scientific and Technological Commission, and the various regions and departments should accordingly strengthen their administrative organizations in charge of scientific and technological work. The scientific and technological associations and other academic societies should all vigorously unfold their work. The agro-science network embracing the four levels of the county, commune, production brigade and team and the technical innovations organizations in factories and mines should be strengthened and improved. The work of popularizing scientific knowledge must be done well.

The Party's policy towards intellectuals must be implemented without delay. Measures must be taken to transfer step by step to scientific or technical work those professionals who really know the work but are now in unrelated jobs. We must see to it that those scientists and technicians who have made achievements or have great talent must be assured proper working conditions and provided with necessary assistants. Titles for technical personnel should be restored, the system to assess technical proficiency should be established and technical posts must entail specific responsibility. Just as we ensure the time for the workers and peasants to engage in productive labour, so scientific research workers must be given no less than five-sixths of their work hours each week for professional work.

No time should be lost in mapping out programmes for the development of science and technology. In the light of the needs of socialist construction, all localities and departments should mobilize the masses to draw up plans that are both advanced and practicable. There should be points of emphasis in the plans, and concrete arrangements for three years and eight years and broad outlines for the coming 23 years should be made. The State Planning Commission and the State Scientific and Technological Commission should co-ordinate and balance out the plans made by the various departments and localities and then work out a national programme for the development of science and technology as a component part of the national economic plan. While the plans are being drawn up, all units should proceed immediately with key research items and strive for results at top speed.

The various departments under the State Council, the various units under the Military Commission of the Central Committee and the Party committees of the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions

should submit to the Central Committee progress reports on all the work mentioned above before the end of the year.

The mass media should do revolutionary propoganda in varied forms for the forthcoming national conference on science and for the task to modernize science and technology.

V

Our great motherland has a vast territory, a varied climate and an abundance of natural resources. Our great people of various nationalities are intelligent, industrious and brave. Our country produced many eminent scientists and countless skilled craftsmen and created a magnificent science and culture in ancient times. China is the cradle of one of the world's oldest civilizations and has made tremendous contributions to mankind. It is only in modern times that our science and technology ceased to advance and lagged so far behind others as a result of the moribund feudal system, foreign aggression and the dark rule of the reactionary classes.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the people of various nationalities in our country, led by Chairman Mao and the Party Central Committee, have performed new wonders, transforming old China which was poor and blank into new socialist China with the beginnings of prosperity. Looking into the future, we are filled with boundless confidence. We have 800 million people armed with Mao Tsetung Thought, we have the revolutionary line laid down by Chairman Mao and the superior system of socialism, we have a contingent of scientists and technicians who faithfully serve socialism, and we have the material base built over the past 28 years and the valuable experience gained in developing socialist science. As long as the people of all nationalities throughout the country unite and work hard under the leadership of the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua, our long cultural tradition will certainly be carried forward, our rich natural resources will be put to full use and the wisdom and resourcefulness of the people of our nationalities will be brought into full play. It is certain that China's science will flourish, that reports of successes will keep pouring in and that large numbers of outstanding people will come forward.

The Central Committee calls on all scientific and technical personnel to keep to the orientation of being red and expert, have lofty aspirations and high aims, fear no hardship, strive to make inventions, storm the bastions of science and scale new world heights.

The Central Committee calls on the masses of workers, peasants and other working people to keep raising their level of ideological and

political consciousness, go all out with technical innovations and the technical revolution, use scientific methods in farming, launch socialist emulation drives and achieve a high labour productivity.

The Central Committee calls on the commanders and fighters of the People's Liberation Army to study military science and technique diligently, improve arms and equipment and speed up the revolutionization and modernization of our army.

The Central Committee calls on youngsters throughout the country to work hard, study politics, raise their educational level and foster the style of loving science and applying and spreading scientific knowledge.

The Central Committee calls on members of the Communist Party and the Communist Youth League to strive to become models in expediting the modernization of science and technology.

We can learn what we did not know. We are not only good at destroying the old world, we are also good at building the new. A Chinese nation with high scientific and cultural levels and a powerful socialist China with modern agriculture, industry, national defence and science and technology shall emerge in the world!