

# In Celebration of the Fortieth Chinese

By Communist Party of Peru Chairman Gonzalo

A recent speech by the Chairman of the Communist Party of Peru on the 40th anniversary of the 1949 victory of the Chinese revolutionary war analyses the importance of Maoism for the people's war being led by his party in Peru.

## POINTS FOR REFLECTION AND FOR SPURRING US ON TO MORE DEEPLY FULFILL OUR DUTY AS COMMUNISTS.

### I. The Chinese Revolution

Clearly the Chinese revolution has had far-reaching consequences for humanity, and this is true for several reasons. One is the sheer *immense number* of people who took part: 400 million at first, and 800 million by the time of the Cultural Revolution. It was a region of *earth-shaking struggles*, with a vast tradition of conflicts involving the masses of people, the peasants, whose struggles went back to the most ancient times, and wars such as the 1840 Opium War, for example. During the Cultural Revolution, in summing up China's long history, it was said that a hallmark of the country's history was the way its development was *marked by many different armed struggles*. This is the context that gave birth to the CPC and Chairman Mao, Marxism's third leading light and highest peak. All this served to create very special conditions in China, and what happened there shook the world.

Consider the *democratic revolution*: It is essentially a revolution, the overthrow of one class by another by means of people's war, of violence. This is a universal law, especially important today when some people seek to discard it as outdated. The democratic revolution in China is a model, a prototype of a revolution against imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. The democratic revolution inevitably leads to a

second revolution, and thus the Chinese revolution requires us to consider not only the democratic revolution, but also how it went over without pause to *socialist revolution*. In a country such as ours socialist revolution is not possible without first carrying out the democratic revolution. Chairman Mao showed that the socialist revolution is a continuation of the democratic revolution, and furthermore, that in the form of the cultural revolution it is a continuation of the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat based on the people's army which can defend the new State founded on the broad masses. He made it clear that the task of socialist construction arises with the revolution itself, and that this process is extremely complex and protracted; furthermore, Chairman Mao said that we communists still lacked a thorough and complete understanding of the laws of socialism and that such an understanding would take a long time to achieve. There would be sharp and violent class struggle, he said, and the confrontation between two different roads: the capitalist road and the socialist road; the question of which would win out was not settled. Of course he never doubted that in the long run socialism would triumph, but he specifically emphasized the sharp class struggle for the dictatorship of the proletariat.

He taught that socialism required relying on the broad masses, the peasants, proletariat and people, in order to develop new things and avoid the old capitalist roads that had been defeated by the revolution and that would lead away from the socialist road. Socialism would have to give rise to new forms. He made



One of the first people's militias formed during

it clear that the class struggle would continue to be acute, that the centre of the battle is for the dictatorship of the proletariat, which relies on the broad masses.

But furthermore, the Chinese revolution has shown the necessity for *cultural revolution*, a fierce but necessary struggle to continue the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat. Clearly the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution represents a world-historical epic of revolution, a victorious high point for the world's communists and revolutionaries, an imperishable achievement. Although we have a whole process ahead of us, that revolution left us great lessons we are already applying, such as, for example, the point that ideological trans-

# Anniversary of the Revolution



*the people's war in China.*

formation is fundamental in order for our class to seize power, which today means bringing about an ideological leap in order to seize state power.

In addition to these two points, the Chinese revolution has shown how revolution takes place within the context of a process of *restoration and counter-restoration* (a contradiction with two aspects). No class has ever seized power at one go; rather, each has faced the restoration of the old power and had to fight fiercely for a counter-restoration until finally that class seized power for good. The proletariat has already travelled the greater part of this road.

Thus the Chinese revolution bids us to reflect upon the democratic rev-

olution, the socialist revolution, the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, and restorations and counter-restorations, or in essence, the permanent revolution, as Marx called our class's stormy march forward to achieve communism through the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Today more than ever, we proclaim that our goal is to make communism a reality, and nothing can stop our march towards that future. This ineluctable march must go through difficult stages and processes, each stage involving new and more difficult problems, but we communists possess the necessary strength to overcome them because we possess the most powerful ideology. We reaffirm that as communists, this must be our final goal, no matter how great the difficulties that our class, the proletariat, must vanquish. The problems we see today, *the restorations in China and the USSR, do not negate this goal, but rather underline the length and complexity of the process of the march towards communism.* Today, when some people proclaim that communism is finished, let us grasp the Chinese revolution, and let our Party, as part of the world revolution, serve its goal: communism.

This is what we draw from the Chinese revolution and the role of Chairman Mao.

## II. Maoism

This is the decisive question. Chairman Mao teaches that the ideological and political line decides everything, and we have but one ideology: Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, principally Maoism. This is not the place to outline Marxism overall, nor is it necessary; our point here is to see the proletariat's ideology as a great reality that develops by leaps and through stages. Its first stage was Marxism, its second, Leninism, and its third stage, its highest and

greatest expression, is Maoism. Thus, for us communists Marxism is an irresistible force, living, always pushing forward, developing. Just when fools declare it dead it develops further and refutes them resoundingly. Even in Marx's day such nonsense abounded, and the same was true in Lenin's time and today as well. It should be no surprise when these would-be buriers of Marxism trot out their lies. They aim cunning and sinister attacks at Maoism because Maoism is humanity's most advanced outlook.

It is exactly when the ideology of our communist parties reaches greater heights that it is attacked, negated and declared outmoded. But — and this is very important — all this gibberish about the so-called death of Marxism *is only the prelude to a new development of Marxism*, as it was in Marx's and Lenin's times. Maoism is the most advanced scientific ideology, and therefore the most transforming reality. It arose from matter and is a material expression, because the spirit is simply a form of matter. We have been given humanity's most advanced ideology: Maoism.

We must reaffirm our great slogan of 1979: *Uphold, defend and apply Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, principally Maoism!* (This slogan has been updated, because at that time we said Mao Tsetung Thought). Those who think they can negate it are dreaming!

Maoism is something *new*, and new-born things have never been easily accepted. Its authority has been established through fierce struggle, by the proletariat's leadership in the revolution, the communist parties. Lenin called Marxism the tree of life and idealism a mere parasite; today, the idealism being propagated is simply a rotten parasite of Maoism, which is the living tree of life. We are convinced of the greatness of Maoism, and we owe it everything, for with-

out it we would not even be together here. Without Maoism there could be no people's war, nor could this people's war be a bright flame prevailing against wind and waves.

Maoism has the most far-reaching importance for the international proletariat and the world's peoples. *Therefore it remains a necessary task to struggle to make it the commander and guide of the world revolution.* Consider the immense power contained in Maoism, all the power with which it can arm the proletariat and the people. Chairman Mao said that in difficult times we should consider our all-powerful ideology; we have Maoism. He was right to say that the proletariat had the most powerful atomic bomb: Mao Tsetung Thought, as was said in those days.

Thus, let us reaffirm our Maoism, the most glorious peak.

### III. The New Counter-Revolutionary Offensive Being Carried Out by Gorbachev and Deng World-Wide

Clearly they are carrying out this offensive in collusion with the blackest world reaction, imperialism, because it suits their convergent interests.

The sinister and perverse nature of Gorbachev and Deng's new offensive becomes clearer every day. They negate the most basic points. Thus Chinese revisionist followers of Deng put forward the idea that capitalism goes through four stages — the embryonic, primary, secondary and highest stages — and that since World War II capitalism has reached its highest stage. They negate Lenin's central thesis of imperialism; furthermore, they say that capitalism is far from being outmoded, that it enjoys sufficient strength to overcome its difficulties. Articles in the international press argue that the world capitalist system, the U.S. system, gives the lie to Marx's ideas, that essentially Marx was wrong in holding that under capitalism overproduction gives rise to crisis, since today such crises can be managed and therefore do not mean that the system is outmoded. At the same time they admit that a crisis of overproduction could arise, and therefore contradict themselves.

The point here is that the Chinese revisionists and the imperialists are in collusion against Marxism.

Regarding the role of the Church: A Peruvian entrepreneur, a member of the big bourgeoisie tied to imperialism, especially Yankee imperialism, says that the country's economy is heading inevitably towards an explosion, and that therefore, together with the Church, they are carrying out schemes designed to contain that explosion. The Community in Action charity scheme administered by Caritas is a part of these efforts to stop the revolution and to traffic in the masses' hunger. In China today they are calling for recognition of the Church's new role; they are saying that under socialism religion is not the opium of the people. This is an open negation of Marx, which they justify with the false claim that Marx's judgement was made before Marxism had come up with a scientific analysis of the role of religion. This, too, is an example of how revisionism coincides with reaction. We are very clear on the role of the Church. We have put forward our views before, distinguishing between the class interests of the Church hierarchy and the religious feelings of the people; furthermore, who could ever forget the Pope's furious threats, when he warned us to "change your attitude" while he blessed the reactionary armed forces? Wherever there are problems the Pope always shows up to play his counter-revolutionary role. Poland is another example of this.

Thus revisionism's negation of Marxism is taking specific forms and this is leading to its own death and disintegration.

Our Party said that there would come a time to wage a great battle to defend Marxism in every sphere. This time has come; it is time to defend Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, principally Maoism. This means we should study revisionism thoroughly, as one studies the enemy, because we are locked in a war to the death with it. We should study it and rip out its guts so as to expose its hideous features for the world to see. We have to show how revisionism, imperialism and world reaction collude to put Marxism into question and refute it.

In the economic sphere they proclaim that capitalism has come up

with a solution to its problems and therefore is not headed for collapse. They want us, the peoples of the earth, the proletariat, to believe that capitalism is eternal. They want to pull the wool over our eyes in the political sphere as well, when these fools try and make us believe that the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie is not a system heading for ruin, that the bourgeoisie is not outworn but has received a new lease on life, that the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie is also eternal. Ideologically, they preach an idealism shot through with most reactionary religion, especially Catholicism, loaded with more superstition and fraud.

Armed with Maoism, which is the peak of Marxism, with people's war, with the Party, mobilizing the masses, we must expose and smash all these schemes, and above all, serve the advance of the world revolution.

### IV. The PCP

The PCP is Marxist-Leninist-Maoist, Gonzalo Thought. The Communist Party and the people's war it leads are proof of the invincibility and vitality of Marxism, of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, principally Maoism, and this entails the greatest responsibility. Therefore we should develop the people's war in order to show the validity and power of Maoism and seize power.

The seizure of power will have far-reaching consequences because we are in a key part of Latin America at a time when this continent, in comparison with Asia and Africa, is undergoing the most severe economic, political and ideological crisis, a general crisis with no solution in sight in the coming years. This can be seen in the fact that while countries are growing at a rate of over 9 percent a year in Asia, at 3 percent in Africa, and 2.5 percent in the backward European countries, North Africa and the Middle East, the growth rate for Latin America is 1 percent, and this in turn should be measured against the continent's high population growth rate.

Consider the role of the PCP and what the country-wide seizure of power would mean. It would change history. Facts are confirming our Party's analysis in this regard: for example, that the 1990s will be even

worse for the reaction than the 1980s, as they themselves admit. Let's seriously analyse U.S. imperialism's campaign which Bush claims is aimed at drugs. Peru is the main producer, Bolivia the second and Colombia the third. This much is true. But what is the U.S.'s aim? To escalate their counter-revolutionary war in the Andean countries which are the backbone of Latin America, especially South America. Where, along this backbone, is people's war raging? In Peru, under the leadership of the Party and through the actions of the masses. Therefore their campaign is aimed at us. What does this mean? It is leading to the development of the contradiction nation/imperialism, principally U.S. imperialism, without forgetting the other superpower and the other powers. It means a change in the contradiction. Let's not forget that other countries could be used in this; serious complications could arise, especially for the southern part of Peru, from Brazil's demand for an outlet to the Pacific through the port cities of Matarani and Ilo, or the widely-exposed policy of the Peruvian state to move away from Bolivia and closer to Chile. Yankee aggression, whether it be direct or indirect by way of puppet governments, is bringing about a war of national liberation, and despite the sacrifice and the efforts this would require, there will be a magnificent opportunity to unite 90 percent of the Peruvian people, at a time when the Party is calling for the country-wide seizure of power, and this will mean more favourable, though more difficult, conditions for the Peruvian revolution. Imperialism is dreaming if it thinks it can snuff out the revolution, and while this period will be extremely difficult, complex and bloody, it will lead to the people's triumph and serve the emancipation of the class and the world proletarian revolution, and, the decisive point, it will make Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, principally Maoism, the commander and guide of the world revolution.

Only through great storms, Chairman Mao said, can the world be changed. Let the Chinese Revolution spur us on to fulfill the Party's tasks here where it is our responsibility to do so! □

# Message of the Committee of the RIM to the Communist Party of Peru (PCP)

Dear comrades,

The Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement sends you its greetings and congratulations this May 17th as we celebrate with you the tenth anniversary of the day when a handful of fighters of the PCP seized and burned the ballot boxes in the Andes mountain village of Chuschi and launched the people's war.

On that day the downtrodden of Peru began to stand up. Today, thousands and thousands of sons and daughters of the people are marching in great armed battalions behind the Party's streaming banners, developing people's war in the service of world revolution, while the system of domination and oppression in Peru is sliding into a chasm of disaster. This lifts the hearts of revolutionaries and oppressed people everywhere and fills them with confidence. The Revolutionary Internationalist Movement is proud to count you amongst its ranks. We know that Maoist revolutionaries in other countries are learning important lessons from the experiences for which our Peruvian comrades are paying in blood, in the service of the revolutionary war they themselves must lead.

Your Party was founded in 1928 as part of the Third International by Jose Carlos Mariategui. After his death the Party fell into the clutches of revisionism, from which it reemerged through a long series of struggles inspired by Mao's international polemics with revisionism and

the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. In a period when many other so-called revolutionary forces in Latin America and elsewhere were negating the necessity of a communist party, and communist party leaders were negating the necessity of violent and thoroughgoing revolution, the comrades led by Comrade Gonzalo fought for a party that would be ideologically, politically, organisationally and militarily capable of leading the armed seizure of political power in Peru and advancing towards socialism and communism.

Your Party studied the concrete conditions of Peru today from the point of view of seeking to apply Mao Tsetung's teachings on New Democracy and people's war. As the *Declaration* of our Movement says, this is "the point of reference for elaborating revolutionary strategy and tactics" in the countries oppressed by imperialism, where in general the revolution must follow the path of arousing the peasants under the leadership of the proletarian party, seizing political power piece by piece, carrying out agrarian revolution and establishing revolutionary base areas, surrounding the cities from the countryside in a protracted war so as to build up the strength to take political power country-wide and complete the New Democratic Revolution, and thus open the door to socialism. The *Declaration* also affirms that "in the oppressed countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America a continuous rev-

olutionary situation generally exists." Your Party thoroughly grasped this responsibility to actually launch the armed struggle and acted accordingly.

In the course of the war itself, your Party has been further forging its ability to carry out its tasks, especially by drawing in and training a great many poor peasants as well as proletarians from the shantytowns and factories. You are building a strong People's Guerrilla Army as the main form of organisation under the Party's leadership, because, as Mao said, "without the people's army the people have nothing". In the countryside you have established hundreds of people's committees where the oppressed along with their allies wield the political power that is the embryo of the New Democratic state. You are developing the revolutionary base areas that nourish your people's war.

These accomplishments are inseparably bound up with the overall stand, viewpoint and method developed by Marx and Lenin and taken to a qualitatively higher stage by Mao. Other armed struggles led by non-proletarian forces in Latin America and the world have either failed to hold out over a protracted period of time or lack any real perspective of countrywide political power and at best hope to enter into some kind of arrangement with one or another oppressor, even when carrying out some sort of guerrilla warfare. In contrast, the PCP is known to friend and foe alike for its most uncompromising stance: it is determined to seize all power for the proletariat and the oppressed masses and to continue to shoulder its duties as a detachment of the international proletariat until classes and oppression are eliminated the world over. Further, guided by Mao's line of fighting in a way that mobilises and relies upon the masses in every aspect of warfare, from the very start your Party unfolded the war as a war of the masses themselves and has entirely and wholeheartedly based itself upon the masses and struggled to unleash their boundless potential. The way in which you fight is determined by your aims and outlook. Only Maoists, the representatives of a class that aspires to communism, can fight a people's war.

"Without upholding and building

on Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought it is not possible to defeat revisionism, imperialism and reaction in general", the RIM *Declaration* states. The truth of this assessment, confirmed through so many tragic negative experiences, is also being borne out today in a positive way by your victories.

Because yours is a genuine people's war, in ten years it has advanced far beyond any other recent revolutionary attempt in Latin America. You have spread it through 22 of the country's 24 departments. The ambit of your military action extends through the country's central mountain ranges from north to south and through the valleys leading to the jungle in the east and the coastal cities in the west. The cities themselves, especially the capital, have been shaken again and again by the armed actions of the organised urban poor. From the initial period, when the first detachments lacked even arms, through the extremely difficult years of 1983-1984 when the people's war first found itself locked in battle with Peru's 300,000-strong regular armed forces and up to today, the reactionaries have exacted a price of 14,000 lives. Now the U.S., backed by all the imperialist powers East and West, is pouring the concrete for new military bases and preparing for the possibility of a major intervention which could demand even more immense sacrifice by the people and have enormous, far-reaching consequences for both sides. Momentous battles can be seen on the horizon.

The victories of the people's war in Peru under the line and leadership of its Chairman, Comrade Gonzalo, are victories for the world proletarian revolution, which took an important step forward on May 17th 1980 due to the single-minded determination of your Party, its leadership and its members, to overcome all obstacles, throw everything into the breach and defy death itself to initiate, sustain and carry through a people's war. We pledge to the revolutionary workers, peasants and comrades of Peru that we will continue to support them and to play our own part for the sake of our common goal.

May 17th 1990

The Committee of the RIM

## Statement by the Communist Party of Peru

On this the tenth anniversary of the people's war, we salute with revolutionary reverence the proletariat and people of Peru, especially the peasants, principally the poor peasants. We salute the masses of people because the masses make history and they are carrying out the people's war, because with the fighting steel forged from their poverty and their inextinguishable shining struggle they have given rise to and developed the people's war, and we also salute the leadership, cadres and members of the Party, the fighters of the People's Guerrilla Army, the thousands upon thousands of sons and daughters of the people who are shaking and transforming the old Peruvian society to the very core, and with the devastating language of arms are building a new society for all the oppressed and exploited.

We salute the proletariat and the people, the masses, because in the heat of the people's war their hunger and their blood have become ennobled and have been transfigured into the ardent, unquenchable flames of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, the true and all-powerful ideology of the international proletariat; because their actions sustain and advance the struggle against the new counter-revolutionary worldwide revisionist offensive being led by Gorbachev and Deng, and also make it possible to confront the all-out, evil cam-

*Drawing by revolutionary prisoners of Peru.  
"We are shock troops of  
the world revolution."  
PCP"*



# Honour and Glory to the Proletariat and People of Peru

paign against Marxism being led by the imperialists, in collusion and contention with the revisionists; in sum, because their actions serve the unceasing and implacable combat against imperialism, revisionism and reaction around the world, making Marxism-Leninism-Maoism the commander and guide of the proletariat and peoples of the world by developing the world proletarian revolution.

We salute the proletariat and the people, the masses, because with their tireless, strong hands of creativity and combat they have given rise to the three tools of the revolution; because their unbending rebel spirit and their inexhaustible wisdom nourish the Communist Party of Peru, the organised vanguard of the proletariat, the leadership and guarantee of the Peruvian revolution, the axis and centre of all revolutionary organisation, based on Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, Gonzalo Thought; because their unyielding heroism reaffirmed daily beats in the hearts of the People's Guerrilla Army, an army of a new type, the complete opposite of the reactionary armed forces, which under the leadership of the Party carries out the political tasks of the revolution, acts as the basis of the New State and serves the people; because their tremendous ability to transform and their powerful ability to build are what underlies, sustains

and builds the New Political Power, the joint dictatorship based on the worker-peasant alliance led by the proletariat through its Party, the New State which for several years now has been blossoming and growing stronger every day in the People's Committees and Base Areas which shine defiantly in the bright sunlight in the countryside, in the very bosom of the people.

We salute the proletariat and the people, the masses, on this tenth anniversary of the people's war, because without their unparalleled support in Peru there would be no people's war; because without the bread that they share, without their indefatigable, constant efforts and without their precious blood, the people's war would not be what it is, the Peruvian people's greatest and most far-reaching epic of transformation; because without their support it would not be, as it is, irrefutable testament to the invincibility of people's war, worthy proof of the vitality of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, principally Maoism; because without their growing contribution to the people's war in Peru it would not be, as it is, a hearth of hope far beyond our borders, and its future triumph a key for the development of the world proletarian revolution; because without the proletariat, the people, especially the peasants, principally the poor peasants, without fully carrying out a

great leap in the involvement of the masses in the people's war, country-wide political power will not be seized.

For all these reasons, and because our starting point is always that the masses make history, that the masses wage the people's war, that this war is and has been a continuation of the class struggle with arms in hand, we salute the proletariat, the people and the masses for the great victories they have won in ten years of people's war, and call on them to increasingly take their destiny into their own hands through the people's war led by the Party, and to Seize Power Countrywide!, Organise the Seizure of Political Power!, Forge the People's Democratic Republic of Peru!

**Long Live the Tenth Anniversary of the People's War!**

**Long Live the Communist Party of Peru!**

**Long Live Chairman Gonzalo!**

**Glory to Marxism-Leninism-Maoism!**

**Honour and Glory to the Proletariat and People of Peru!**

Central Committee,  
Communist Party of Peru  
Peru, May 1990