

## SOUTHEAST ASIA

# China Reverses Mao's Policy

Oct. 22 (NSIPS) — In the last two weeks China has witnessed one of the most rapid and thorough-going reversals of domestic policy of a major nation in modern history. The evidence is widespread that within hours of the arrest and purge of the four leading Maoists and many others, the Maoist economic policies were basically repealed. Japan has been asked to import a large order of steel held up for six months by the Maoists, a U.S. business delegation was told that China seeks machinery and entire plants from the U.S., and the word has gone out that the trade and economic development policies developed by the late Premier Chou En-lai and embodied in the 5-Year Plan, suspended since January by the Maoists, have been reinstated.

Moreover, several prominent persons purged or demoted in Mao's last days have been given public acclaim. Mao's niece Wang Hai-jung and Nancy Tang, Chou faction members and Mao's translators until dumped by Chiang Ching, Mao's now-purged widow, led the Foreign Ministry delegation through Peking's streets to the loud applause of the throngs gathered to celebrate Chiang Ching's fall. Chu Mu-Chih, purged last summer as head of New China News Agency, reappeared heading the agency's delegation. This gave rise to speculation that former deputy premier Teng Hsiao-ping, purged last April by the Maoist faction, might himself be rehabilitated very soon. This possibility was given strong credence by reports given to foreigners by Chinese that Mao had never really intended to purge Teng at all, but just to reprimand him for some secondary errors, and that his purge was the dirty work of the "gang of four" headed by Chiang Ching. Criticism of Teng has been ordered suspended in political classes in Peking University, a former Maoist bastion.

But the greatest indication of the turnabout in policy was provided by the manner in which the mass demonstrations called by the regime have been conducted. As the reports below indicate, they have, in visible contrast to all previous Maoist-orchestrated mass campaigns, generated mass spontaneous support. This rapport with the population of the new regime headed by Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, reflecting a true popularity which Mao never had, makes Hua and his regime far more stable and strong than Mao's regime ever was.

It is this demonstrated ability to repudiate Maoism so fully in the domestic realm in such short order that has the Atlanticist planners completely terrified at the prospect — still only speculation — that the new regime could shortly ditch China's anti-Soviet policy with comparable despatch. The reprinted excerpt from the New York Times typifies this reaction, that cannot bear to admit the true quality of the Hua-led coup, nor its stability.

## 1.5 Million Strong Peking Demonstration Celebrates

PEKING, October 21, 1976 (HSINHUA) — One and a half million joyous armymen and people mounted a mammoth demonstration in Peking today to warmly celebrate Comrade Hua-Kuo-Feng being Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. . . . They hailed the great victory in shattering the scheme of the anti-Party clique of Wang Hung-

Wen, Chang Chun-Chiao, Chiang Ching and Yao Wen-Yuan to usurp Party and State power. . . .

The workers, peasants and soldiers among the demonstrators said: We long ago discerned and hated the criminal activities of the "gang of four." If their schemes for capitalist restoration had succeeded, we labouring people would suffer again. The Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua Kuo-Feng has eliminated four evils for us, and this is much to the satisfaction of the people and has won their full approval.

The massive demonstration went on from morning till night. When night fell, Tienanman Square was ablaze with light and tall buildings throughout the city were outlined by strings of lightbulbs. The eight million people of the capital were immersed in the joy of victory.

## "I Have Seen In Shanghai How One Liquidates The Opposition"

Oct. 19 — The following are excerpts from an article appearing in today's issue of the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica*. The article appeared under the above headline and is by Tiziano Terzani.

"The streets are an overwhelming carpet of heads. For the last three days endless crowds alternate along the sidewalks to read the posters or march at the sound of drums to express their support for the new authorities at Peking...

"There are caricatures of Chiang Ching, Mao's widow, Wang Hung-wen...Chang Chun-chiao,...and Yao Wen-yuan...over all the walls portraying them as a four-headed snake...smashed by a worker with a huge hammer...

Shanghai, China's radical capital, has accepted Peking's verdict. The purge...has not provoked any signs of dissent in this city which used to be the great political base of the radicals and where, during the cultural revolution, three of the new fallen leaders initiated their careers. Today, sound trucks go through the city shouting "Down with Chiang Ching," and the people answer back "Down with her! Down with Wang! Down with him!" answers the crowd...

New posters keep appearing on the walls charging local leaders of belonging to the "four evils" clique — as they are called in remembrance of an old Chinese campaign to get rid of rats, flies, mosquitoes, and sparrows.... The atmosphere has developed into that a great party... There have been no incidents and one sees neither armed soldiers nor policemen... If the support campaign for the new party leadership has succeeded at Shanghai, where it could have found noticeable resistance, it is clear that it will encounter no problems in succeeding throughout the country... Shanghai is obviously the test tube....

...As I traveled through the city I saw that at the factory gates, houses, and neighborhoods there were posters reading "we support the party's central committee headed by comrade Hua Kuo-feng." There posters have been multiplying by the hour and have literally changed the face of the city: you can see them on buses, trucks, houses, stores' windows.

...The nature of the crime committed by the four leaders is not explained; it is taken as a given. They were plotting a coup....

## Festive Atmosphere Dominates Chinese Demonstrations

Oct. 22 — The following is excerpted from a Prensa Latina, Cuban news agency, dispatch:

Thousands of Peking residents continue to line up on the streets in this capital, repudiating the four members of the Politburo arrested last week and expressing support for Hua Kuo-feng, the new chairman of the Chinese Communist Party... Since the early morning hours, when many still were asleep, new demonstrations broke out as official acknowledgement of the arrest of the four became known. While there is still no official indication of the order of the events, it became known the four, known as the "Shanghai four," attempted to overthrow Hua Kuo-feng. The demonstrators reiterated the "anti-party character" of the Shanghai four.

For many foreigners, this is the first time they have seen the Chinese army participate in such great numbers in popular demonstrations. This seems to indicate the support of the army for the measures taken. Another aspect that catches the eye is the unprecedented festive atmosphere in the demonstrations. There are various aspects that confirm this, such as the use of drums, the constant playing of music in the loudspeakers, the illumination of the streets at night, as seen only during important festivals. It is expected tomorrow will be the last day of the celebrations.

## "Legitimacy in Peking"

Oct. 22 — The following excerpts are from a New York Times editorial:

... Among foreign analysts, consensus is beginning to build up that Hua Kuo-feng may abandon the strange practices symbolized by the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, and that China will settle down instead to sober economic development with stress on more conventional education and industrialization. Such a highly pragmatic regime would probably attempt to improve its relations with Moscow to permit a reduction of that high state of readiness against military attack from the north which Mao regarded as essential.

While China may eventually follow such a course, it seems premature to accept this forecast without continued attention to alternatives. The outside world knows little about Hua Kuo-feng. The problem of legitimacy in Peking remains in the balance. For all the jubilation in the streets, the question of Hua's justification for donning Mao's mantle and assuming Mao's eminence is not fully resolved.

Mao Tse-tung provided a sacred dogma for Chinese Communism and was elevated before his death to the status of a living god. Hua Kuo-feng was an obscure figure — virtually unknown outside the leading circles in Peking — until less than a year ago....

Many of Hua Kuo-feng's associates undoubtedly question his claim to the power and position he has now assumed. Mr. Hua's efforts, once his seizure of power is completed, will most likely be aimed at legitimatizing his primacy. Until his tactics and strategies emerge, China's internal and foreign policies remain an enigma.

## Thai Coup Followed By Reign Of Terror Arrests; Strong Reaction In Region

Oct. 23 (NSIPS) — The two-week old rightwing military junta in Thailand has instituted a reign of terror inside the country and has rapidly reversed the previous government's policy of détente with other Indochinese states. The junta's policies, backed by the U.S. State Department and Henry Kissinger, have evoked a tough response from the Vietnamese, Laos and more surprisingly, from nationalist circles in Indonesia who are known to favor a détente and cooperation policy between the region's non-communist states and their Communist neighbors.

The Indonesian nationalist daily Merdeka roundly attacked the Thai military's anti-communist hysteria as a throw-back to the time when Thailand was a base for armed U.S. aggression against the people of Indochina. Speaking for the pro-development faction led by President Suharto, Merdeka charged the junta with using anti-communism "to suppress the just demands of the Thai people." The Indonesian condemnation was echoed in the Vietnamese Communist Party paper, Nhan Dan, which likened the Thai regime to that of Pinochet in Chile. The bloody Oct. 6 coup in Thailand was aimed at "impeding and reversing the inevitable tendency of social progress" in the region, charged Nhan Dan. In Laos, demonstrations 20,000-strong were held in the capital city of Vientian protesting against the Kissinger-orchestrated bloodbath in Thailand.

### Indonesia: U.S. Out!

Indonesian Foreign Minister Malik made his nation's desire for an Asian peace zone clear two days ago, announcing his opposition to the U.S. decision to expand its military base at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. Malik charged that the U.S.

decision was not only contrary to resolutions passed by the United Nations, but an insult to the protesting governments of the region who consider the base a direct threat to their security. Last week, former foreign minister and prominent Indonesian leader, Ahmed Subardio welcomed a Soviet proposal for the removal of all foreign bases in the region, according to the Soviet daily Pravda.

Linking the coup to Kissinger's other international terrorist deployments, Nhan Dan came out in full support of Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro's denunciation of the U.S. for last week's brutal bombing of a Cuban airliner. The paper charged the U.S. with "promoting acts of piracy which have worldwide repercussions and consequences."

The Thai regime left no doubt as to its role as a tool of U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's determination to crush regional détente between Communist and non-Communist Southeast Asia and break up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a regional organization including Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. This past week, the Thais provoked clashes with Laotian security forces, prompting the Laotian government to expel the military attaché stationed in the Thai embassy in Laos. The Vietnamese charged the Thais with widespread arrests of Vietnamese residents, putting them in "disguised concentration camps." The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry demanded the immediate release of those detained. Meanwhile, Thanat Khoman, foreign affairs advisor to the junta and major Kissinger lackey, has deployed throughout the region. Khoman, the former foreign minister