

only a "slight" increase over the same period of 1980, based on a claimed 11.6 percent growth in light industry and an absolute drop in heavy industry of more than 10 percent. This includes a 66 percent drop in capital construction, which, if true, will propel the entire economy downward as existing shortages in materials, energy, and transport infrastructure become exacerbated.

On top of this, 150-200 million people are afflicted by China's worst drought and floods in decades. In Peking, one-fourth of the wells have gone dry and grain output in surrounding farmlands is down 25 percent from 1980. Students in Shandong (Province) University are reportedly fighting at lunch there over insufficient food. Total grain output fell 5 percent in 1980. It is impossible to assess the 1981 results, since the land in many areas is still too hard for sowing. Yet, on fiscal grounds, Deng is cutting back on irrigation and flood control projects. Food protests have been added to unemployment demonstrations.

In the midst of this economic crisis, a crime wave is sweeping China, much of it organized, and a great deal of it led, *by party cadre*. Newspaper articles and radio broadcasts throughout the country are reporting the same pattern of violent crimes and brigandage. They describe the formation of gangs armed with machine guns and explosives who blow up markets, sabotage railroad trains, and carry out murders, robberies, and gang rapes in broad daylight, with rape victims going to the authorities only to be raped by policemen. Smuggling, drug-peddling and black-marketeering are rampant. It has gone beyond crime to almost a social breakdown; it is not simply hungry peasants stealing some food.

The situation has gotten so bad that in several provinces the government has built for rallies of 50,000 to 100,000 people to watch murderers sentenced to death be executed.

But how can the situation be controlled from Peking or provincial capitals when so much of the crime is led by party cadre? The machine guns and explosives are provided to the gangs by members of the 10-million-person armed militia—and now the airwaves throughout China resound with appeals for people to turn in their weapons. In one province, party officials provided weapons for rival clans to engage in violent fights. In another, a party-appointed leader of a work team led a gang of brigands to steal materials from a construction site. A Guangzhou radio broadcast declared, "We must severely and quickly punish officials who have committed heinous crimes." On May 28 the national Discipline Inspection Committee vowed it would "strictly deal with those leading cadre who have taken the lead in committing larceny.

What does it matter if Deng gains a few top posts when party cadre are instigating social disorder?

Protests against 'blind westernization'

What the Chinese are saying about the "Westernization" policies under Deng Xiaoping:

Westernization means affairs dealing with barbarians, that is, all matters dealing with foreign countries. . . . The [late 19th-century] Westernization movement . . . *advocated procuring and copying foreign arms and ammunition* . . . it was the malicious product of the Chinese feudal forces who colluded with the foreign invaders to suppress the Chinese people's revolution [emphasis added].

—*People's Daily*, April 30

The Westernization movement pursued the political line on foreign affairs of compromise with and capitulation to the foreign aggressors; the Westernization movement played a reactionary and negative part in Chinese modernization and that is its essential aspect.

—*People's Daily*, May 15

At that time [1894 it was] advocated that China should purchase warships by asking for loans from Britain and Russia and form alliances with them. In this way, there appeared the rather cherished illusion of checking Japan by adopting the tactic of "using foreigners to check foreigners." Those who advocated this failed to see the nature of the aggressors. . . .

Zhang Zhidong, who always believed in foreign things, had hoped to jointly run the iron works with foreign businessmen. . . .

[O]fficials of the Westernization movement blindly placed orders to purchase machines with funds from [foreign] loans at a high rate of interest without first examining the machines being purchased. As a result the products manufactured were not suitable and could not be sold.

When the imperialists adopt comparatively moderate forms for suppression such as politics, economics and culture instead of resorting to war, the ruling class of the semicolonial country will capitulate to the imperialists and the two parties will form an alliance to suppress the masses jointly. The case of Zhang Zhidong was somewhat similar to this.

—*Peking Jingji Yanjiu*, May 20