

Experience of Kweichow Proletarian Revolutionaries in Their Struggle To Seize Power

In our issues Nos. 7 and 8, we reported on the seizure of power by the proletarian revolutionaries in Kweichow Province. Recently, the revolutionaries of that province, after full discussion and consultation, set up a provisional "three-in-one" organ of power—the Kweichow Provincial Revolutionary Committee, which comprises responsible members of the revolutionary mass organizations, responsible members of the People's Liberation Army units stationed in the area and revolutionary leading cadres of Party and government organizations. Following are excerpts from an article by the Kweichow Provincial Revolutionary Committee on experience acquired in the struggle to seize power which was printed in "Renmin Ribao" on February 23.—Ed.

CHAIRMAN MAO teaches us: "All revolutionary struggles in the world are aimed at seizing political power and consolidating it. The desperate struggles waged by counter-revolutionaries against revolutionary

forces are likewise solely for the sake of maintaining their political power."

The proletarian revolutionaries in Kweichow Province have formed a great alliance and seized Party, political, financial and cultural power from the handful of persons in authority taking the capitalist road in the Kweichow Provincial and Kweiyang Municipal Party Committees.

The seizure of power is an inevitable outcome of the development of the great proletarian cultural revolution and the great decisive battle waged by the proletarian revolutionary line to defeat thoroughly the bourgeois reactionary line.

Our experience is as follows:

When proletarian revolutionaries want to seize power and ensure victory in this struggle, they must form a great alliance, and a strong provisional organ

of power must be set up as the command centre to direct the seizure of power.

Chairman Mao teaches us: "It is up to us to organize the people. As for the reactionaries in China, it is up to us to organize the people to overthrow them. Everything reactionary is the same; if you don't hit it, it won't fall. This is also like sweeping the floor; as a rule, where the broom does not reach, the dust will not vanish of itself." The handful of counter-revolutionary revisionists in the Kweichow Provincial and Kweiyang Municipal Party Committees enforced a brutal dictatorship of the bourgeoisie over the people. Where there is oppression there is resistance. Through the struggle the vicious features of these counter-revolutionary revisionists have been exposed to the light of day. People have been organized and tempered in the fierce struggle between the two classes, two lines and two roads, and they have formed themselves into a powerful revolutionary contingent. This is the major force to ensure victory in seizing power, without which it is impossible to succeed.

In order to seize power a great alliance of the proletarian revolutionaries must be formed!

The seizure of power by the proletarian revolutionaries is a great revolution and a great decisive battle. After the forces have been organized it is also necessary to have a headquarters to direct the battle, a proletarian headquarters to unify thinking, to unify the fighting will and to co-ordinate actions. This headquarters is the nerve-centre from which to direct the battle.

The basic situation on the eve of the seizure of power by the Kweichow proletarian revolutionaries was as follows: fighting groups had been formed in many units and departments in industry, communications, capital construction, agriculture, forestry, finance, trade, culture, education and in provincial and municipal Party and government organizations, etc. Preliminary alliances of fighting groups had been achieved in these departments and fields. Citywide liaison organizations for the great alliance of the revolutionaries had also emerged. Most of these revolutionary organizations had already seized power in their own departments and basic units. This provided favourable conditions for the great alliance of the proletarian revolutionaries to seize power from the handful of persons in the Party who were in authority and taking the capitalist road.

". . . External causes are the condition of change and internal causes are the basis of change, and that external causes become operative through internal causes." In the course of the struggle to seize power the proletarian revolutionaries in Kweichow, closely following this teaching of the great leader Chairman Mao and upholding the principle of "integrating forces both within and outside the organizations concerned and relying mainly on forces within," firmly relied on the revolutionary Left in the provincial and municipal Party and government organizations and did not use any method of doing things on their behalf like a Saviour. This is another important factor in the successful seizure of power.

After the successful seizure of power, the foremost task which confronts proletarian revolutionaries is to consolidate it. The provisional body set up for the seizure of power should be quickly put on a sound footing, and a proletarian organ of power which is more comprehensive and is able to exercise its functions and powers in an all-round way must then be set up. This organ of power should be a leading body with full authority. Its general task should be to hold aloft the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought and disseminate Mao Tse-tung's thought to the people throughout the province. At the present stage, it should be in charge of exercising all Party, political, financial and cultural power in the whole province. In the future, it will be a supervisory body. The principle on which the formation of this body is based is the "three-in-one" combination of responsible members of truly representative revolutionary mass organizations, responsible members of the People's Liberation Army units stationed in the area and revolutionary leading cadres of Party and government organizations. This is extremely important. Whether or not things are done in this way is the criterion for distinguishing a true seizure of power from a sham or an ultra-"Left" seizure of power. After full discussion and consultation, the Kweichow Provincial Revolutionary Committee was officially inaugurated on February 13. It was founded in accordance with the above principle.

Organizational form must conform to the political task. The organizational form of the revolutionary committee is a product of the new stage of the current great cultural revolution and it serves the great proletarian cultural revolution.

Chairman Mao has all along called for "better troops and simpler administration." In line with this, the organizations to be set up by the proletarian revolutionaries should be fewer but better and more efficient. Revolutionaries should continuously create new forms and sum up their experience in practice so as to make our revolutionary organizations more revolutionary and scientific.

Chairman Mao teaches us: "Classes struggle, some classes triumph, others are eliminated. Such is history, such is the history of civilization for thousands of years." The struggle to seize power is truly a serious class struggle. The proletarian revolutionaries want to rebel, to seize power. The handful of persons in the Party who are in authority and taking the capitalist road will of course resist to the very end. Landlords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries, bad elements and Rightists in society will naturally seize every chance to take action. At the vital juncture in the proletarian revolutionaries' struggle to seize power, these elements will take desperate action, collude with the handful of counter-revolutionary revisionists within the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees and hastily rig up a counter-revolutionary alliance to resist the great alliance of the revolutionaries in the vain hope of getting in first with a fake seizure of power.

Aware of this situation and the tasks facing them, the Kweichow proletarian revolutionaries, at the moment

they were seizing power from the handful of persons in authority taking the capitalist road in the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees and the Provincial and Municipal People's Councils, dispatched People's Liberation Army units to promptly and resolutely put down two counter-revolutionary groups and arrest their chief ringleaders. They promptly launched a powerful political offensive against another reactionary organization, struck at its ringleaders and split it up. Under this lightning attack, these organizations collapsed, their counter-revolutionary plots were shattered, and their reactionary arrogance was utterly crushed.

In this process, clear-cut support from the People's Liberation Army is a vital link in winning victory. **"Without a people's army the people have nothing."** Even with the dictatorship of the proletariat, the fact that **"political power grows out of the barrel of a gun"** remains a universal truth. This is precisely the reason why the Kweichow proletarian revolutionaries have been able to seize power successfully and keep the situation under control after the seizure of power.

Though the seizure of power by the alliance of proletarian revolutionaries is just a beginning, just the first step of a ten thousand *li* long march, its political impact is very great. Following it, the provisional organ of power should promptly put forward a definite political programme with principles and policies based on the local situation and embodying the revolutionary demands of the masses, and issue a "Notice to Reassure the Public."

Chairman Mao teaches us: "To be good at translating the Party's policy into action of the masses, to be good at getting not only the leading cadres but also the broad masses to understand and master every movement and every struggle we launch — this is an art of Marxist-Leninist leadership."

In the course of seizing power, the Kweichow proletarian revolutionaries issued a series of public notices and orders. Because these met the demands of the masses and were published in good time, they played a great role in boosting the morale of the revolutionary Left and deflating the arrogance of the class enemy. They played a considerable role in splitting and disintegrating reactionary organizations and in strengthening and expanding the ranks of the revolutionary Left. They played a salutary role in turning the tide and reassuring the people. These public notices and orders broadly embodied Mao Tse-tung's thought, the Party's principles and policies and the great might of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Therefore, they enjoyed the warm support of the revolutionary masses of various nationalities throughout the province. Take the order dealing with the question of cadres, for example. Because it correctly embodies the long-standing policy of our Party on making distinctions in handling cadres of different categories, those persons in authority who are proletarian revolutionaries felt the warmth and solicitude of the Party all the more strongly and so courageously stepped forward to take their stand



Proletarian revolutionaries! Unite and carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end!

with the revolutionaries. They soon gained the confidence of the masses and actively plunged into the struggle of the proletarian revolutionaries to seize power on the basis of an alliance, and became the backbone or leaders in that struggle. Those cadres who had committed not very serious mistakes also saw their future clearly, got rid of their mental burdens, and indicated their willingness to correct their mistakes, return to Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and perform new meritorious services for the people. In this way, the proletarian revolutionaries received the hearty support of the great majority and the power which they have seized has become consolidated.

In the final analysis, of all principles, the principle of keeping Mao Tse-tung's thought in the forefront is of the first importance. A very profound experience gained by the Kweichow proletarian revolutionaries in their struggle to seize power is that wherever proletarian revolutionaries act in accordance with Chairman Mao's instructions, they succeed; where they act otherwise, they suffer setbacks or defeat. The struggle to seize power waged by the proletarian revolutionaries in Kweichow is now developing in depth; it is far from being over. We proletarian revolutionaries are still faced with arduous tasks. The historic mission of the great proletarian cultural revolution is entrusted to us. We are determined to ensure that every corner of the Kweichow plateau will be bathed in the brilliance of Mao Tse-tung's thought.