

REPORT ON DISCUSSION WITH COMRADE FROM HONG KONG RML

On Saturday, July 21, an older comrade from the Hong Kong Revolutionary Marxist League visited the NO with new information on the reported release of several Chinese Trotskyist leaders in Shanghai. (I did not write down the comrade's name, but he had a letter of introduction from Yip Nin of the RML, and I believe he said his name was Ying.) Ying said that since the release the first week of June, the son of one of the old Hong Kong comrades named Lou Tze-k'o was able to visit Shanghai (Lou Tze-k'ou's son is not a member of the RML and not involved in politics). Lou's son met Cheng Ch'ao-lin, confirming that he is out of prison. Ying said they did not discuss politics but that Cheng did confirm that he remains a convinced Trotskyist and did not recant his views in order to be released. Cheng is resuming his writing on modern Chinese history and politics. Ying added that all seven of those released were Trotskyists. The letter from Wang Fan-hsi that we received last week identified two of these: Cheng Ch'ao-lin, the most prominent of the imprisoned comrades, who is a founder of the CCP and of the Trotskyist movement and also known as a Marxist historian and translator; the other was Wu Jing-ru, who has not been mentioned before in our literature, but is a comrade of long-standing and Cheng's wife. Ying seemed to think he knew the names of all seven, but was only able to remember one more: Chiang Chen-tung. This is presumably the comrade referred to in the Revolutionaries in Mao's Prisons pamphlet as Chiang Tseng-tung, a leading activist in the Shanghai labor movement during the revolution of 1925-27, who is today about 68 years old (Cheng is 78). (There is a brief biography of Cheng Ch'ao-lin in my book on pp. 150-51.)

Ying said he has seen no public announcement of the release and suggested that we discuss with Wang before writing anything on the question. I have written to Hong Kong to see if Yip Nin can give us further names of those released or any other information.

Les Evans
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