

PEOPLE'S DAILY HAILS LANKAO PEASANTS' STRUGGLE

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[Text] Peking--The tremendous role of the poor and lower-middle peasants in the great proletarian cultural revolution is the subject of a front-page report in PEOPLE'S DAILY on the sharp class struggle in Lankao County in Honan Province. Lankao is known for the tremendous struggle which the local people, led by Chairman Mao's good pupil, the late county Communist Party secretary Chiao Yu-lu, had waged against the counterrevolutionary revisionist line pushed by China's Khrushchev and his local agents and against extraordinary natural calamities.

An exceptionally sharp struggle developed during the cultural revolution when the handful of capitalist-roaders in the county Communist Party committee tried to negate the success of the struggle and shield the counterrevolutionary revisionist line. The poor and lower-middle peasants, who firmly adhered to Chairman Mao's revolutionary line, fought back heroically, and their struggle was eventually crowned with success with the recent establishment of the county revolutionary committee.

Saluting the heroic poor and lower-middle peasants of Lankao, an article by Commentator in PEOPLE'S DAILY says:

"Firm reliance should be placed on the poor and lower-middle peasants.' This is the correct policy and line for the great cultural revolution in the countryside. It is the key to guiding it in the direction indicated by Chairman Mao and carrying it through to the end.

"The poor and lower-middle peasants suffered the most in the old society. They best know the bitter of the old society and the sweet of the new; they can distinguish most clearly between the socialist and the capitalist roads. They have boundless love for Chairman Mao and the Communist Party and they have profound class feeling for our great leader Chairman Mao. They resolutely follow Chairman Mao's teachings and firmly take the socialist road.

"They intensely hate such absurdities advocated and pushed by China's Khrushchev as 'exploitation has its merits,' 'San Zi Yi Bao' ['San Tzu I Pao' in Wade] (extension of plots for private use, extension of free markets, increase in the number of small enterprises with sole responsibility for their own profits and losses, and fixing of output quotas on the basis of individual households) and the 'four freedoms' (usury, hiring labor, sale of land and private enterprise).

"Who are members of Chairman Mao's headquarters and who are members of the bourgeois headquarters, who are good and who are bad?--The poor and lower-middle peasants keep clear accounts. As Chairman Mao teaches: 'They have never been wrong on the general direction of the revolution.' The cultural revolution in the countryside can count on a staunch and reliable force when firm reliance is placed on the poor and lower-middle peasants. They stand firm and are clear-cut in their love and hate in fighting against the class enemies and dare to wage a life-and-death struggle against the capitalist forces. Whatever the circumstances, they never waver in their determination to defend Chairman Mao and his revolutionary line.

"In discussing the revolutionary firmness of the workers and the majority of the peasants, our great leader Chairman Mao teaches us: 'Some people have read a few Marxist books and think themselves quite learned, but what they have read has not penetrated, has not struck root in their minds, so that they do not know how to use it and their class feelings remain as of old. Others are very conceited and having learned some bookphrases, think themselves terrific and are very cocky; but whenever a storm blows up, they take a stand very different from that of the workers and the majority of the peasants. They waver while the latter stand firm, they equivocate while the latter are forthright.'

"The soul-stirring class struggle in Lankao has provided the most convincing proof that the poor and lower-middle peasants armed with Mao Tse-tung's thought are firm, forthright, and dauntless! In the crucial moment of the struggle, they defended Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line and the impregnable state of socialism by their loyalty to Chairman Mao and the party.

"Firm reliance on the poor and lower-middle peasants enables us to be victorious in both the revolution and production in the vast countryside. They are most concerned with the cultural revolution and production. They are genuine models in grasping revolution and promoting production. When they are firmly relied upon, both the revolution and production will be carried on vigorously and prosperity will reign in the countryside.

"Only by following Chairman Mao's strategic plan closely and firmly relying on the poor and lower-middle peasants, is it possible to win all-round victory ideologically, politically, economically, and organizationally in the cultural revolution in the countryside," Commentator's article concludes.

An excellent situation now prevails in Lankao following more than a year of the cultural revolution, PEOPLE'S DAILY reports.

During the gigantic struggle between the two classes, two roads, and two lines over the last year or so, the county's poor and lower-middle peasants fought resolutely in defense of the red flag hoisted by Chiao Yu-lu by adhering to Chairman Mao's revolutionary line while the handful of capitalist-roaders in the former county party committee and the conservative force they controlled tried in every way to pull down the flag.

The largest revolutionary organization formed by the local poor and lower-middle peasants had now won a decisive victory, Chairman Mao's revolutionary line has been brought home to everybody and the sinister line pushed by China's Khrushchev has been thoroughly repudiated.

The handful of capitalist-roaders have been overthrown and the Lankao County revolutionary committee, headed by Chiao Yu-lu's close comrade in arms Chang Chin-li, has been established in the storm of revolution.

The whole county is filled with a vigorous revolutionary atmosphere, with study courses in Mao Tse-tung's thought set up in every commune and production team and posters put up everywhere condemning the criminal attempts of China's Khrushchev to restore capitalism.

In spite of the severe cold, the poor and lower-middle peasants are working with soaring enthusiasm in a mammoth campaign to dig irrigation canals, lead water from the Yellow River, and transform the alkaline land into fertile paddy fields. Their confidence and courage raised a hundredfold, the heroic people of Lankao are ushering in the all-round victory of the cultural revolution and with their heroic labor are continuing to write the magnificent epic left unfinished by Chiao Yu-lu.

The class struggle in Lankao has developed along a tortuous course. The former first secretary of the county party committee, a man named Wang who worked here before 1962, was a faithful disciple of China's Khrushchev. He was overwhelmed by the natural calamities that struck Lankao for several years running. During the three years of short-lived economic difficulties, he followed China's Khrushchev in pushing the latter's sinister program of "San Zi Yi Bao." Disregarding poor and lower-middle peasant opposition, Wang tried it out at a people's commune and then pushed the practice of fixing output quotas on the basis of individual households and entrusting draft animals to the care of individuals.

The class enemies went into action too. They incited commune members to take on individual farming and feverishly sabotaged the collective economy. Trees were felled and water conservancy systems were damaged. Soil alkalinity increased, water-logging became serious, and farmland was hit by sandstorms.

It was at this crucial moment that Chairman Mao's good pupil Chiao Yu-lu came to Lankao in December 1962, carrying with him the "Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung" and the resolution of the 10th plenary session of the Eighth Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. The first thing he did was to hold aloft the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought and grasp class struggle as the key. By encouraging the peasants to contrast their past misery with their present happy life, he succeeded in arousing tremendous enthusiasm for socialism among the poor and lower-middle peasants. This dealt a heavy blow at the class enemies' attempts to restore capitalism.

He visited poor and lower-middle peasants, paid high tribute to their examples of self-reliance and hard work, and enthusiastically supported their determination to take the socialist road. He commended four production brigades in the county as examples of such revolutionary spirit and determination.

The poor and lower-middle peasants of Lankao, with soaring enthusiasm and a fearless spirit, waged a heroic struggle against nature. After three years of hard work, they succeeded in the main in controlling sandstorms and floods and transforming the alkaline land. In Lankao, which had been stricken by natural calamities year after year, a good harvest was won for the first time.

Extremely grateful to Chiao Yu-lu, the people of Lankao said: "Secretary Chiao did exactly what Chairman Mao teaches. He was close to us poor and lower-middle peasants."

After Chiao Yu-lu died in May 1964, Chang Chin-li, the deputy party secretary of Lankao, continued to go forward in accordance with Chairman Mao's teaching "Never forget class struggle." He joined the poor and lower-middle peasants in fighting to build a new socialist Lankao.

Still the struggle between the two classes, two roads, and two lines in Lankao did not end. The new county party secretary named Chou, who succeeded Chiao Yu-lu, tried to negate the achievements of Chiao Yu-lu who had been commended by Vice Chairman Lin Piao in an inscription. He objected to giving publicity to the people's heroic fight against nature.

After Chiao Yu-lu's deeds were reported in the press, many people from all over the country visited Lankao. But the new party secretary showed little enthusiasm when the visitors asked him to tell them about Chiao Yu-lu's contributions. When Chang Chin-li tried to tell the story, Chou smeared him for "making political capital." Thus the struggle between the two lines in Lankao became increasingly acute over whether or not to publicize Chiao Yu-lu.

After the cultural revolution started in June 1966, the handful of capitalist-roaders in Lankao directed their spearhead at Chang Chin-li, attacking him as a "counter-revolutionary revisionist" and a "political swindler." The poor and lower-middle peasants, who had suffered tremendously in the old society and who have a high level of socialist consciousness, could no longer remain silent. They knew very well that both Chiao Yu-lu and Chang Chin-li were members of Chairman Mao's headquarters and were solidly on the side of the poor and lower-middle peasants. They saw that the capitalist-roaders, in trying to smear Chiao Yu-lu and Chang Chin-li, were in fact opposing Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line and the poor and lower-middle peasants.

Then, the decision of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party concerning the great proletarian cultural revolution, endorsed under the personal guidance of Chairman Mao, was made public. And Chairman Mao issued the great call "You should concern yourselves with affairs of state and carry through the great proletarian cultural revolution to the very end!"

Members of the four brigades which had been commended by Chiao Yu-lu immediately got together and set up a revolutionary mass organization in his defense. Poor and lower-middle peasants in other parts of the county promptly followed suit. Similar organizations were also established by the workers in the county seat, cadres of the county party and government offices, and pupils of a middle school.

The revolutionary workers, peasants, students, and cadres were unanimous in their determination to defend Chiao Yu-lu and Chang Chin-li. As Chairman Mao says: "The peasants are clear-sighted. Who is bad and who is not . . . -- the peasants keep clear accounts. . . ."

From their own experience, the poor and lower-middle peasants knew that Chiao Yu-lu and Chang Chin-li were leading them along the socialist road while Wang and Chou were trying to push them onto the capitalist road.

Defending Chang Chin-li therefore meant defending Chiao Yu-lu and Chairman Mao's revolutionary line. They declared unequivocally that Chou was the top capitalist-roader in the county and must be overthrown, whereas Chang Chin-li was a revolutionary leading cadre and must be protected.

In January 1967, the 66 revolutionary mass organizations in Lankao, encouraged by the "January storm" in Shanghai, joined forces and seized all power from the handful of capitalist-roaders in the former county party committee and people's council. But, as Chairman Mao says: "The day of rejoicing for the masses of the people is a day of woe for the counterrevolutionaries." Not reconciled to their defeat, the handful of capitalist-roaders in Lankao, backed by those in the provincial and area (comprising several counties) party committees, mounted a counterattack shortly after the seizure of power.

They threw many poor peasants, members of the Communist Party and Young Communist League, and revolutionary leading cadres who fought for Chiao Yu-lu into jail and labeled Chang Chin-li an "active counterrevolutionary." They slandered the four outstanding brigades as "revisionist brigades," and put economic pressure on those who stood on the side of Chang Chin-li. Thus the decisive battle between the two classes, two roads, and two lines unfolded on a greater scale and in greater depth.

The poor and lower-middle peasants of Lankao proved to be the real heroes in this sharp struggle. They always remembered Chairman Mao's teaching: "Without the poor peasants there would be no revolution. To deny their role is to deny the revolution. To attack them is to attack the revolution. They have never been wrong on the general direction of the revolution."

They said that whoever went after the poor and lower-middle peasants was opposed to Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and was a follower of China's Khrushchev. They sat round oil lamps far into the night during the most difficult days and read quotations from Chairman Mao over and over again. This gave them new strength and courage to carry on the struggle. They flatly rejected them when the capitalist-roaders tried to make them change their minds. "We poor and lower-middle peasants would give up our lives to defend Chairman Mao." one of them declared.

All the households in one production team of the Nanmachuang brigade, the "hard-bone team," opposed the capitalist-roaders. The team was thus regarded as an "enemy-occupied area" by the capitalist-roaders, who threatened to arrest team leader Chang Ying-tang.

Chang Ying-tang was a beggar before liberation. He burst into tears each time he recalled his past suffering. He loved the new society and worked heart and soul for the production team. In the days of the white terror, some fellow commune members urged him to hide. He replied: "No! I'll stay here and fight it out!"

Chou Yu-hua is an old woman in the Shuangyangshu brigade. Her father was driven to his death by a landlord and her mother died of hunger in the old society. Her elder brother was killed by the Japanese. She had never known happiness until liberation. A mother of eight, she told everyone she met: "I'll never forget Chairman Mao!"

During the cultural revolution, when she heard that a handful of people opposed Chairman Mao and wanted to restore capitalism, she vehemently said: "No! We must never again take the capitalist road."

"I'll rebel against anyone who thinks differently from Chairman Mao!" and she joined a revolutionary mass organization to defend Chairman Mao's revolutionary line. She travelled many miles every evening to seek revolutionary experience and encourage fellow peasants to rise in revolt. One of the quotations from Chairman Mao which she recited most frequently in those days is: "In times of difficulty we must not lose sight of our achievements, must see the bright future, and must pluck up our courage."

The capitalist-roaders had a morbid hatred for her and were also mortally afraid of her. They called her a "diehard" and incited some followers to launch attacks on her. She persisted and said: "Revolutionaries are not cowards. I'm ready to die for the revolution. I'll hold Chairman Mao's red banner still higher and fight on!"

Yen Hsieh-chung, an activist in studying Chairman Mao's works and vice chairman of the Lankao County association of poor and lower-middle peasants, was one of the first revolutionaries to rise up against the capitalist-roaders in Lankao in the cultural revolution. He is known for his utter devotion to the public interest. When U.S. imperialism began bombing Vietnam, his family saved 100 kilograms of wheat to help their Vietnamese brothers, while they themselves ate coarse grain and vegetables. He also generously helped families in difficulty.

The capitalist-roaders and their followers recklessly attacked Yen Hsieh-chung. They plastered his village walls with big-character posters condemning him. Yen Hsieh-chung refused to give in under this pressure. He said: "I stand for Chang Chin-li because he is a good cadre. And I oppose Chou because he is a bad one. Chairman Mao's revolutionary line is our very life. I vow that I'll defend Chairman Mao to my death!"

In debating with the capitalist-roaders' followers, he recalled his past suffering. He told them how he had begged for a living in the old society and how Chairman Mao had brought him today's happy life. "Try and think why we poor and lower-middle peasants were condemned when we rose in revolution in response to Chairman Mao's call. Why do you believe in the sinister elements and turn your spearhead against us?" His words helped many people, who had been misled, to see the capitalist-roaders' true colors.

The children of Lankao acted courageously and intelligently in the fierce fight between the two classes, the two roads, and the two lines. They have proven themselves children of the Mao Tse-tung era and worthy sons and daughters of the poor and lower middle-peasants.

One of the favorite stories now making the rounds in Lankao is about the children of Han village. All but one of the 29 households of the Han production team opposed the capitalist-roaders. The capitalist-roaders sent a 32-member work team to the village to make them change their minds. It told the peasants: "You have been hoodwinked. You are wrong in supporting Chang Chin-li. He is a counter-revolutionary!"

This enraged the villagers, young and old. They told the work team to get away and refused to feed it. The children would come at meal time and tell the members of the team: "We stand for Chairman Mao's revolutionary line, you are for the line of China's Khrushchev. You cannot have our food." "You say Chang Chin-li is a 'counterrevolutionary.'"

"Then we are 'counterrevolutionary' commune members and our food is 'counter-revolutionary' food! Don't eat it!" The work team finally gave up and left.

In the tit for tat struggle against the reactionary line, many children organized themselves and volunteered to stand sentry for the adults.

They were both fighters and agitators. On the threshing grounds and the roads they wrote huge slogans: "Down with the capitalist-roaders!" and "Long live Chairman Mao! A long, long life to him!"

The battle continued for more than five months. The handful of capitalist-roaders found themselves marooned in the vast ocean of the heroic people of Lankao. In July 1967, under the guidance of Chairman Mao and the party's Central Committee, the proletarian revolutionaries of Honan won a decisive victory in the battle and the situation throughout the province was excellent.

Leaders of the party's Central Committee in Peking received Comrade Chang Chin-li and representatives of the proletarian revolutionaries in Lankao.

When the good news reached Lankao, the whole county was astir. Poor and lower-middle peasants from all over the county streamed into the county seat, shouting "Long live the victory of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line! Long live the victory of the revolutionary people!"

From the Lankao railway station to the tomb of Comrade Chiao Yu-lu on the ancient Yellow River dikes, the route was thronged with people who beat drums and gongs, set off fire-crackers and expressed their feelings in songs and shouts of "Long live Chairman Mao!"

The heroic, militant people of Lankao, however, are not overwhelmed by their success. They are continuing their advance under the leadership of the new Lankao county revolutionary committee and holding the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought high. They are following in the steps of Comrade Chiao Yu-lu, Chairman Mao's good pupil, in the fight to build a new socialist Lankao, resplendent with the thought of Mao Tse-tung.