

British Working People Enthusiastically Study, Propagate Mao Tse Tung Thought

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[EROL Note: The "progressive friends" referred to in the Hsinhua article were associated with the Internationalists in Britain. The "small city" is probably Brighton.]

London, September 10 (Hsinhua Correspondent)

In his solemn statement "People of the world, unite and defeat the U.S. aggressors and all their running dogs!" issued on May 20, 1970, the Chinese people's great leader Chairman Mao pointed out: "The danger of a new world war still exists, and the people of all countries must get prepared. But revolution is the main trend in the world today." Chairman Mao also pointed out four years ago: "The proletariat and working people of Europe, North America and Oceania are experiencing a new awakening." What this correspondent has seen and heard in Britain fully bears out the absolute correctness of these brilliant theses of Chairman Mao's. Here are a few episodes recording the British working people's ardent study and propagation of Mao Tse Tung Thought. They shed a new light on the new awakening of the British working people.

A BOOKSHOP SELLING CHAIRMAN MAO'S WORKS

Last spring, progressive friends in a small city invited this correspondent to visit their bookshop selling Chairman Mao's works.

It was located in a worker's community. Though small in space, it was clean and properly decorated. Workers, students and other working people often came to read or buy Marxist-Leninist works.

The friends in charge of the shop told this correspondent that workers and students in the city had long wished to have a bookshop in the worker's community introducing the literature of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse Tung Thought. Now their hope had come true, he said elatedly. The bookshop was set up by the workers and students themselves according to Chairman Mao's teaching on self-reliance.

The first difficulty they met with was the lack of a house. Some unmarried young men offered their rooms while they themselves moved elsewhere. They said that as long as it was of some help to the dissemination of Mao Tse Tung Thought, they did not mind whether they had to live in crowded rooms or not. This settled the housing problem.

Then, they contributed funds for the purchase of paint, glass and other materials needed in the repair work. Several young workers and students spent more than 20 holidays making bookshelves and window-frames and whitewashing the walls and ceiling.

The bookshop was finally opened on May 1 this year. The small shop looked all the brighter that day as rows of new bookshelves were filled with works by Marx, Lenin and Chairman Mao.

The friends running the bookshop said excitedly that they would make more efforts to disseminate Mao Tse-tung Thought among the workers. In addition to selling books, they did other propaganda work as well. One of them said that in order to do the propaganda work well in the concrete conditions in Britain, they themselves must study well Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-tung Thought. They studied Chairman Mao's works in such a way that each time they concentrated on one topic in the light of their revolutionary practice. Discussions were held regularly. In so doing, they reaped good results.

They said: "New problems and difficulties might crop up in the propaganda work, but we will do our best to tackle them by following Chairman Mao's teaching: 'Be resolute, fear no sacrifice and surmount every difficulty to win victory.'"

Similar bookshops have been opened in recent years in many other cities, with some of the cities having more than one such shops. It shows that Mao Tse-tung Thought is being disseminated more extensively among the British people.

STUDY CHAIRMAN MAO'S WORKS CONSCIENTIOUSLY

On holidays, a group of workers and students often gather in a shabby house in the suburbs of a city to study Chairman Mao's works.

One day, this correspondent was invited to their house. As he entered the room, he saw on the wall a portrait of the great leader Chairman Mao flanked by quotations from Chairman Mao and revolutionary slogans. A large desk at the window was covered with Chairman Mao's works and other publications with revolutionary content. A member of the group said: "The room has a big attraction for us despite its smallness and shabbiness, because we often come here to study the revolutionary truths in Chairman Mao's teachings. Most of the group members live in places quite far away but they always came on time even in bad weather and were never absent."

A mechanic worker who lives in another city often came by train after work to join the group study. Sometimes, he studied and discussed with his comrades till late at night and rushed back to work after a short rest. He said that he had deeply understood after long study that "Mao Tse-tung Thought is the Leninism of our era! When Mao Tse-tung Thought is grasped by the masses of the world's people, imperialism, revisionism and all reaction will be smashed, and a bright new world will be built." Inspired by this conviction, he forgot tiredness and fatigue and studied conscientiously and with ever increasing keenness.

A printer actively propagated inviolable Mao Tse-tung Thought among the masses of workers while studying hard himself. Fearing the spread of Mao Tse-tung Thought, the capitalists sanded him under the pretext that no "discussion of politics" was allowed in the factory. But he refused to submit. With this specific problem in mind, he studied Chairman Mao's teaching: "In a society rent by class struggle, if there is freedom for the exploiting classes to exploit the working people, there is no freedom for the working people not to be exploited, and there is no democracy for the proletariat and other working people." With the support of many other workers, he fought the capitalists of the factory for a long time. He expressed the determination to devote himself to the revolutionary practice of overthrowing the rule of the monopoly capitalists.

Recently, these workers and students studied again and again Chairman Mao's solemn statement of May 20 in support of the struggle of the world's people against U.S. imperialism. They said to this correspondent joyfully: "Chairman Mao's great and brilliant instruction that 'Revolution is the main trend in the world today' has given us great inspiration. We must assiduously study and apply Mao Tse-tung Thought, take an active part in the struggle against U.S. imperialism and all its running dogs and make our contribution to world revolution."

DAUNTLESS IN FACE OF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY VIOLENCE

One afternoon, several young men in a major British city spread Mao Tse-tung Thought among the workers in their spare time. They went to the worker's quarter in high spirits, each wearing a Chairman Mao badge and bringing with them "Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung", other works by Chairman Mao and books on China's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.

They were warmly welcomed. Many of the workers and their families sat round those young men and engaged them in lively discussions on the great significance of Mao Tse-tung Thought to the revolutionary struggle of the working class and the oppressed people of the world and on the tremendous influence of China's cultural revolution in the world. Some of them vied with each other to read or buy Chairman Mao's works.

The workers' ardent love for Mao Tse-tung Thought threw the reactionary authorities into great alarm. At dusk, groups of police were sent to the place to disperse the workers. Batch after batch of police arrived on cars with blinding headlights and police whistles made a terrific din. The youths and workers did not

show the slightest fear in face of police terror. They argued calmly and soberly with the police and denounced their fascist acts.

Accused by the angry masses, the police found themselves devoid of all arguments and in great embarrassment. They resorted to counter-revolutionary violence. A number of people were shoved into police cars after much pushing and beating. When the cars began to drive away, noble revolutionary slogans were shouted by those inside: "Down with monopoly capitalism!" "Down with Fascism!" "Victory belongs to the working class!" "Long live Chairman Mao!"

Those innocent people were put into prison and cruelly tortured. Some of them were beaten until they fainted. But their fighting morale became even higher and they waged a still more heroic struggle in prison. They sang loudly "The Internationale" and other revolutionary songs which echoed throughout the whole prison. They accused the warders wrathfully face to face, exposing the hypocrisy of the so-called "free society", throwing the warders into dismay.

As a result of the stubborn struggle of the youths the authorities failed to label charges against them for further persecution. They were finally released after being fined. After their release they said that their personal experience had helped them to realize more keenly the truth of Chairman Mao's teaching that "All reactionaries are paper tigers. In appearance, the reactionaries are terrifying, but in reality they are not so powerful. From a long-term point of view, it is not the reactionaries but the people who are really powerful."

Having summed up the experience of their struggle, these young men are now continuing to disseminate Mao Tse-tung Thought among the masses in a more vigorous and effective way.

RESOLUTELY EXPOSE AND OPPOSE BOURGEOIS "PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY"

Referring to "parliamentary democracy" in the capitalist countries, the great leader Chairman Mao pointed out more than a decade ago that "this so-called two-party system is nothing but a device for maintaining the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie; it can never guarantee freedom to the working people."

At the "general election" of the British government last June, British workers applied this brilliant thinking of Chairman Mao's to their energetic struggle to expose and oppose bourgeois "parliamentary democracy".

One day, this correspondent was invited to take part in a gathering of a number of workers to criticize and repudiate

"parliamentary democracy". On the wall of the meeting room were the portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and the portrait of Chairman Mao and posters with revolutionary slogans. After the meeting was declared open, workers took the floor one after the other to denounce severely the monopoly capitalist tricks of "two-party system" and "parliamentary democracy". They made more than ten charges against the so-called two-party system. Speaking from personal experience, an old worker accused the monopoly capitalist class of ruthless crimes against the workers through political oppression and economic exploitation. They came to unanimous conclusion that "parliamentary democracy" is a bourgeois instrument for hoodwinking and enslaving the workers and other labouring people; that the working class will never take part in such "elections" because the two bourgeois parties coming in power in turn do their utmost to serve monopoly capital; that the working class must mercilessly expose the hypocrisy of "parliamentary democracy and energetically arm itself with Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-tung Thought in the struggle to overthrow the rule of monopoly capital and establish state power of the working class.

At the gathering, a worker told this correspondent: "We workers not only hold meetings to criticize and repudiate "parliamentary democracy", but also distributed propaganda materials in the streets and worker residential quarters to persuade more workers to refuse to take part in voting. He said gladly that their propaganda in workers' quarters had achieved good results. Many workers agreed with their views and refused to go to the poll.

During the "general election", this correspondent also witnessed the British working class struggling against monopoly capital and its agents in diverse ways. When the chiefs of the two parties made their election speeches, British workers held demonstrations. Carrying copies of "Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung, they exposed face to face the crimes monopoly capital and shouted revolutionary slogans, driving some reactionary members of parliament off the platform.

A worker said proudly that the "broad and fierce struggle of the British working class against bourgeois "parliamentary democracy" is an important mark of its new awakening. A journal published by workers pointed out that this is "the most political expression of the power of the working class and a step forward in the years of British working class history".