

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF 11TH PLENUM RECALLED
(8 August 1967)

[Full text of an editorial entitled "A Great Milestone."]

Last August, at a crucial moment in the great proletarian cultural revolution, the 11th plenum of the Eighth CCP Central Committee took place under the personal guidance of our great leader Chairman Mao. It was a meeting of epochmaking importance in the history of our country's proletarian revolution and of farreaching influence on the international communist movement. It was a great milestone in the revolution occurring in our country under the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The immortal contribution of this plenum to the history of our party was its scientific exposition of the immense significance, the important place of Mao Tse-tung's thought in the development of Marxism-Leninism, and thus the absolute authority of Mao Tse-tung's thought was further established. The plenum stressed that "Comrade Mao Tse-tung is the greatest Marxist-Leninist of our era. Comrade Mao Tse-tung has inherited, defended, and developed Marxism-Leninism with genius, creatively and in an all-round way, and has raised it to a completely new stage."

A special cause for congratulation is that this plenum established as our deputy supreme commander Comrade Lin Piao, the closest comrade in arms of our great leader Chairman Mao, the comrade who has consistently held aloft the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought in the struggle between the two lines within our party, and who has defended and implemented Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line most loyally, resolutely, and thoroughly.

It was at this plenum that Chairman Mao published his big-character poster entitled "Bombard the Headquarters," a document of historic significance which served to expose the defeat the bourgeois headquarters, headed by China's Khrushchev, hidden within the apparatus of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

This plenum adopted the "Decision of the CCP Central Committee concerning the great proletarian cultural revolution" -- the 16 points -- drawn up under the personal guidance of Chairman Mao. It issued the "Communique of the 11th plenum of the Eighth CCP Central Committee." These two vital historic documents explain the theory, line, principles, methods, and policies for carrying out revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat. They indicate the bright road along which the socialist revolution can be pursued to the end and socialism can be pursued to the end and socialism can advance to communism.

The success of this plenum is a great triumph for Mao Tse-tung's thought, a great triumph for Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line.

A whole year has elapsed since the 11th plenum of the Eighth Central Committee. During these 12 months hundreds of millions of revolutionaries, led by our great supreme commander Chairman Mao and guided by the brilliance of his proletarian revolutionary line, have engaged in a great revolutionary mass movement on a scale unprecedented in world history and have smashed the frenzied counterattacks of the handful of party persons in authority taking the capitalist road. They have scored great successes and accumulated rich and valuable experience, and all the various fronts have taken on a new look.

During these 12 months China's Khrushchev and a handful of counter-revolutionary revisionists have been exposed, and bourgeois headquarters has been shattered, in the great storm of the struggle between the two classes, two roads, and two lines. An army of strong proletarian revolutionaries has become tempered, tens of millions of young revolutionary pathbreakers have come forward and a great number of revolutionary leading cadres have been tested in the course of the great revolution. A healthy generation of successors to the proletarian revolutionary cause is growing up.

The PLA, founded and led by our great leader Chairman Mao and commanded by deputy supreme commander Lin, has achieved new merit in its work of supporting the left, in assisting industry and agriculture, in exercising military control and in carrying out military and political training. The ties between the army and the masses have grown much stronger and the army

has experienced a great new tempering. Such an unparalleled people's army is the strongest and most reliable guarantee that we shall be able to carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end.

During these 12 months the revolutionary masses have conducted the mass movement of studying and applying Chairman Mao's works in a living way, in combination with their practical experience of struggle in the great proletarian cultural revolution. During this year the invincible thought of Mao Tse-tung has been popularized and disseminated very widely and has entered more and more deeply into the hearts of the people. Mao Tse-tung's thought, the spiritual atom bomb of infinite strength, once it has been grasped by the masses and has stimulated the revolutionization of man's thinking, becomes a tremendous material force changing the objective world. It is confidently expected that this great revolution will certainly push China's socialist construction forward to a new upsurge.

The great proletarian cultural revolution now under way in our great country, which embraces a quarter of the world's population, has shattered imperialist and revisionist illusions about a "peaceful evolution" and capitalist restoration in our country; it has given immense support and encouragement to the proletarian revolutionaries and other revolutionary people throughout the world, so that they can fight against imperialism and revisionism with still more vigor.

It has been an earth-shaking year. Comrade Lin Biao has summed it up in these words: "The losses are of the smallest while the gains are of the biggest." This victorious outcome has brought about an excellent situation in the great proletarian cultural revolution. It is the main current. The great proletarian cultural revolution is forging ahead triumphantly along the general orientation in the struggle.

Again and again our great leader Chairman Mao has told us that in assessing any situation we should "look at the essential or main aspects." He adds that the "nonessential or minor aspects must not be overlooked and must be dealt with one by one. But they should not be taken as the essential of main aspects, or we will lose our bearings." In analyzing the situation in the great proletarian cultural revolution, we must arm ourselves with this revolutionary dialectical viewpoint.

At present, the proletarian revolutionaries and other revolutionary people must now make sustained efforts, and even redouble their effort, and go ahead vigorously with the thorough refutation -- politically, ideologically and theoretically -- of the handful of party persons in authority taking the capitalist road, headed by China's Khrushchev, and smash their bourgeois headquarters. This is the most important, the most honorable, central task which the country's proletarian revolutionaries are called upon to fulfill.

The 16-point decision declared explicitly: "The main target of the present movement is those within the party who are in authority and taking the capitalist road." They "must be fully exposed, refuted, overthrown, and completely discredited and their influence eliminated."

The revolutionary mass criticism and repudiation is a great strategic measure for the thorough overthrow of the handful of top party persons in authority taking the capitalist road and the destruction of their bourgeois headquarters. The only way to overthrow them politically, ideologically, and theoretically and destroy their bourgeois headquarters is through full exposure, repudiation, and discrediting of their counterrevolutionary crimes, and complete eradication of the poisonous influence of their counterrevolutionary revisionist line in all spheres.

The revolutionary mass criticism and repudiation in which hundreds of millions of the revolutionary masses are taking part provide the best classroom for nurturing staunch and reliable successors to the proletarian revolutionary cause. The proletarian revolutionaries and young revolutionary fighters who have battled their way forward in the sharp struggle between the two lines must go further in grasping the great thought of Mao Tse-tung and learning how to "criticize the bourgeoisie," how to distinguish between those in authority who are of the proletariat and those who are of the bourgeoisie, how to differentiate the proletariat from the bourgeois headquarters and how to engage in revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat. They should be good at combining criticism and repudiation of the handful of top party persons in authority taking the capitalist road with the "struggle-criticism-transformation" movement in their own areas, departments, and units, and with the struggle to win over the masses who were deceived, so as to achieve the revolutionary alliance and the revolutionary "three-way alliance" and seize and exercise power well.

The campaign of mass repudiation of the handful of top party persons in authority taking the capitalist road is entering a new upsurge. Comrades, let us hold still higher the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought, march forward courageously along Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line, and carry the great proletarian cultural revolution to the end.