

Moreover, the cannibalization of machinery is a long-term Maoist practice, making it likely that if China's plant and equipment were properly discounted for its actual wornout condition today, Net National Product might approach a zero real growth rate!

What is the growth rate of the Chinese economy? Most probably, nobody knows. China issues virtually no quantitative statistics. The cited CIA report fraudulently revised an earlier figure of 3.3 per cent annual growth of GNP for 1958-74 upward to 5.2 per cent, based on grossly incompetent statistical manipulation of thousands of fragmentary percentage increase figures for miscellaneous items released periodically in the Chinese press over varying time periods.

But these numbers are always above-average figures, and most have probably been released by the Maoists for internal political reasons, to "refute" their opponents' charges that Maoist policies hurt production. Moreover, the CIA estimate does not even attempt to account for Maoist distortions of the internal proportions of the economy since 1960, or for the falling quality.

Do the Chinese themselves know how their economy is doing? Probably not. China destroyed her Soviet-modeled statistical system in 1958, and those who tried to reconstitute it in early 1960 have all been purged. Given the incessant exhortation to ignore all obstacles, increase output, and view failure as proof of "rightism," there is tremendous incentive to fabricate or inflate figures at every level, from the farm or shop floor up to top management. The resulting statistical chaos and unreliability was indicated by top economic planner Li Hsien-nien as recently as 1972, when he commented to a Japanese delegation that three different economic ministries estimated China's population at 750, 800, and 830 million respectively.

Such statistical disarray implies the degree of anarchism, chaos and inefficiency throughout the country. Without fairly reliable statistics for quantity, quality, depreciation, etc., long-range planning is little more than an exercise in numerology. Just such a total breakdown occurred during

Mao's "Great Leap Forward" escapade, and he has never abandoned either the rhetoric or the methodology of that period.

The problem is further compounded by the application of Maoist "local control," with peasants and workers "democratically" deciding how to carry out production, even in defiance of experts on the scene. A Western observer witnessed an incident on the Shanghai docks in which 50 workers decided to saw off a propeller from a fixture, even though both were to be junked. The foreman knew it was entirely wasted labor, but dared not intervene for fear of being charged with "rightism" and "elitism." Such incidents are assuredly duplicated countless times a day throughout China, leading to enormous wastage.

The Road to Collapse

Mao, desperate to maintain support for himself, has pushed radical decentralization of the country since 1956 for reasons as much political as economic: he has "won votes" from regional party and military leaders at crucial moments by giving these leaders some degree of local economic and political power. He has thus deliberately reintroduced the bane of Chinese dynasties since 1000 B.C. — feudalism, "local control" of provinces by warlords. That this problem, if not checked, threatens to imminently fragment the country was revealed by Teng himself at a July 14, 1975 Military Commission meeting, where he warned, "Provincialism is dominating the Liberation Army. Because sectionalism has been brought into the military, there are internally divided troops. There used to be faithful acceptance of orders. Things have changed. Individuals and even whole troops at times are not taking orders."

It is clear that the "Chinese model" is a one-way ticket to murderous economic collapse and political fragmentation. Unless the Tengist faction wrests total control from the Maoists in the near future and recommences large-scale capital development, the World Bank-Maoist model will reveal itself to even the most credulous as nothing more than the three-millenia-old formula for dynastic breakdown, chaos, warlordism, starvation, and genocide.

Teng: "Communism Won't Exist If There Is No Constituency."

June 2 (NSIPS) — Statements made last year by recently purged Chinese vice-premier Teng Hsiao-ping reveal both the breadth of the Teng faction's attack on the central features of Maoist policy — neglect of steel and other heavy-industrial production, destruction of education and culture, empty slogan-shouting — and the havoc this policy has wrought. The statements were recently publicized in anti-Teng wall posters put up in Peking last March.

On Production and the Economy

*"If our army is to win wars, what we really need is iron and steel...National economic construction must be pursued earnestly..."

*"People even say that our living standards have been improved day by day. Only devils believe it."

*"To undertake construction is something different from pasting up labels or boasting...Communism won't exist if there is no construction...At present, most college students have only one brush in their pockets, which is used for writing big character posters. They can do nothing else...Every day you engage in struggles against the 'Five Categories' (of 'bad elements' — Ed.). Can you reform them

in this way? It is meaningless to beat tigers day after day...Can shouting, yelling be called revolution? It can cheat nobody but yourself."

*"(Industrial construction) cannot be done without engineers. The Chemical Factory, which cost nearly 10 million yuans, was out of order even before it was formally put into production...Can this be called a great victory?"

On Education and Culture

*"The academic level of the students at the Steel Engineering College is only that of secondary school. No college student nowadays is really like a college student...the situation now is that students can get along without studying."

*"The present model plays (fostered by Mao's wife, Chiang Ching — Ed.) have nothing to do with art, only a group of people walking to and fro on stage...(Referring to a Vienna Symphony Orchestra performance:) Only this can be called spiritual adjustment. The present (Maoist) plays are plays of gongs and drums which make the spectators seem to be not in a theater but in a theater of war."