

YE JIANYING

**SPEECH AT THE MEETING
IN CELEBRATION OF
THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE FOUNDING OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF CHINA**

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(September 29, 1979)

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CONTENTS

THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS THIRTY YEARS	6
A DECISIVE BATTLE FOR THE NATION'S DESTINY	29
ADVANCE TOWARDS THE GREAT GOAL OF THE FOUR MODERNIZATIONS	48

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Comrades and Friends:

We are gathered here today in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. On behalf of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and the State Council, I extend warm festive greetings to the workers, peasants, intellectuals and patriotic personages of the various nationalities working on all fronts for socialist modernization, to all cadres, to all commanders and fighters of the People's Liberation Army and to our compatriots of Taiwan, Xianggang (Hongkong) and Aomen (Macao) and our countrymen residing abroad.

On October 1, 1949, our great leader and teacher Comrade Mao Zedong hoisted the first five-star red flag over Tian An Men Square and proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic of China. China thereupon entered a new era of historical development. The several thousand years of history during which a tiny minority of exploiters ruled over the overwhelming majority were brought to a close and the working people, instead of being the oppressed, became masters of the new state and the new society. The century and more of enslavement of the Chinese people by colonialism and imperialism had come to an end. The Chinese people had stood up.

The victorious Chinese revolution was the most important event in the history of the international proletarian revolutionary movement since the Russian October Revolution and the most important event in world politics since World War II. China is the most populous country in the world and her victorious revolution changed the balance of power in world politics. China had been a backward semi-colonial and semi-feudal country. It was something quite new in world history for a multi-national people led by its proletariat to win victory in the new-democratic revolution and to establish the socialist system in a country such as

China. And this was created by the people under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party which based itself on the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism and acted independently and in accordance with China's social and historical characteristics. This fact shows that while it is not possible for the people of a country to win victory in a revolution in the absence of certain international conditions and of the support of the people of other countries, in the final analysis, they must rely on their own efforts and not on orders from another country or an international guiding centre. They themselves must find, decide and chart the road to revolution suited to the characteristics of their own country. No one else has the right to impose his will on them. The victorious Chinese revolution has given a new and powerful impetus to world politics and world revolution and opened up bright vistas.

The victorious Chinese revolution is a victory for Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought. Marxism-Leninism develops through the revolutionary struggles of the people in different countries. It cannot be monopolized or ossified by anyone in whatever form. Mao Zedong Thought is Marxism-Leninism as applied and developed in the Chinese revolution. It is the result of integrat-

ing the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism with the concrete practice of the Chinese revolution. Comrade Mao Zedong was a great Marxist and a great revolutionary and strategist. He early made important contributions to the founding of the Chinese Communist Party and to the development of our new-democratic revolution. After the failure of the Great Revolution in 1927, when conditions were very difficult, he creatively solved a series of essential problems concerning the Chinese revolution and found the correct road for it. He did this by proceeding from realities in China, not merely from books. He and his comrades-in-arms built the people's army, established revolutionary base areas and directed a protracted revolutionary war. It was under the leadership of the Central Committee of the Party headed by Comrade Mao Zedong that we surmounted the countless difficulties and obstacles on our road to progress, defeated powerful enemies both domestic and foreign, won complete victory in the new-democratic revolution, and then achieved great victories in socialist revolution and construction. We Chinese Communists and Chinese people call this development of Marxism-Leninism in the Chinese revolution Mao Zedong Thought. We hold that all our victories were achieved under the guidance of Mao Zedong

Thought, without which there would be no New China today. This is in full conformity with historical reality. Of course, Mao Zedong Thought is not the product of Mao Zedong's personal wisdom alone, it is also the product of the wisdom of his comrades-in-arms, the Party and the revolutionary people, and, as he once pointed out, it emerged from the "collective struggles of the Party and the people." It is the crystallization of the experience accumulated over the past half century in China's revolutionary struggles and in her building of a new society, the crystallization of the collective wisdom of the Chinese Communist Party. Comrade Mao Zedong was the most outstanding representative of the great Chinese Communist Party and the great Chinese people. The Chinese people will always remember his immortal contributions, and resolutely defend and develop the scientific system of Mao Zedong Thought.

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic, we cherish the memory of the pioneers of the Chinese revolution represented by Dr. Sun Yat-sen; we cherish the memory of Comrades Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and Zhu De and other departed proletarian revolutionaries of the older generation who made outstanding contributions to the founding and

development of the People's Republic of China; we cherish the memory of the deceased patriots of the democratic parties and of the non-party patriotic democrats who made important contributions to the founding and development of the People's Republic of China; we cherish the memory of all the revolutionary martyrs and soldiers who heroically sacrificed their lives in the different stages of the Chinese revolution and the revolutionary wars; and we cherish the memory of the deceased leaders and outstanding people on all fronts who made brilliant contributions to the socialist cause.

Eternal glory to the people's heroes! We assemble here today to pledge our determination to act with one heart and one mind, keep high their banner, carry forward our revolutionary traditions, win fresh victories in the new Long March for the four modernizations, and carry through to the end the socialist cause pioneered by the revolutionary martyrs.

THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS THIRTY YEARS

The past 30 years of the People's Republic of China have been glorious years, years of complicat-

ed struggle waged by the Chinese people against antagonistic forces both domestic and foreign, and years of tremendous victories in socialist revolution and socialist construction won despite twists and turns along the way. Earth-shaking revolutionary changes have taken place in our motherland and the gains have been consolidated in these 30 years.

We have set up the state power of the people's democratic dictatorship, that is, the dictatorship of the proletariat, led by the working class and based on the worker-peasant alliance. The great majority of the leading functionaries in all government organs from the central down to the grass-roots level and in all enterprises and establishments under government leadership come from the working people and strive to serve the interests of our multi-national people. The establishment of this political power throughout the country (excepting Taiwan) put an end once and for all to the prolonged divisions in China in modern times and brought about the great union and solidarity of all regions and all nationalities in China, a vast multi-national country. This union and solidarity had long been the common aspiration of the Chinese people. But none of the exploiting classes could possibly bring it about, and only the masses of the people under the leadership of the proletariat could make it a

reality. Obviously, there is room for improvement in the system and organization of our people's government, but in the last 30 years it has already played a vital role in uniting the broadest sections of the people for the construction of socialism and the struggle against enemies both at home and abroad. The heroic People's Liberation Army is the mighty pillar of the people's government. It has always been firmly subordinated to the leadership of the Party. Uniting with the people of the whole country, it has displayed patriotism, internationalism and revolutionary heroism in participating in and defending socialist revolution and socialist construction, and has rendered meritorious service while at the same time revolutionizing and modernizing itself. It is an army composed of worthy sons and daughters of the people and is the iron Great Wall of the motherland. The more than 50 fraternal nationalities in our country have formed a new, socialist relationship based on the identity of their fundamental interests and characterized by unity, fraternity, equality and mutual assistance. They are working for the gradual elimination of the inequalities that still exist as survivals from history. The revolutionary patriotic united front in our country has continued to develop in the period of socialism and has become

a broad political alliance of all socialist working people, patriots who support socialism and patriots who stand for the reunification of the motherland.

We have abolished the exploitation of man by man, transformed the system of private ownership by small producers, set up comprehensive socialist public ownership of the means of production and initially put into practice the principle of "from each according to his ability, to each according to his work," and thus it has become possible for the Chinese people who account for more than one-fifth of the world's population to enter socialist society. This has been the most tremendous and most profound change in the history of our country. Both the state-owned sector and the collectively owned sector of our economy (the latter including the rural people's communes and various enterprises in towns and cities) have grown significantly. Individual economy practised by urban and rural working people, which still exists on a limited scale, is already affiliated to the socialist public economy and serves it in an auxiliary and complementary way. As classes, the landlords, the rich peasants and the capitalists have ceased to exist in our country, and the great majority of those who are able to work have been transformed into working people earning their own living. The

workers, peasants, intellectuals and patriots of the various nationalities are masters of the country. Ours is still a developing socialist country. Our socialist system has to be improved and our economy and culture are still under-developed. But it will certainly continue to develop in spite of all difficulties. It will gradually be perfected and finally reach a level of productivity surpassing that of modern capitalist society. This is an irresistible historical trend; no force can stop it. Neither the setbacks suffered in the past, nor the shortcomings found in our current work, nor the difficulties to be encountered in the future can in the least shake this firm, scientific conviction of ours.

We have built up independent and fairly comprehensive industrial and economic systems upon the foundation of the "poverty and blankness" inherited from old China. Over the last 30 years, there has been a substantial increase in water conservancy projects and in the output of chemical fertilizer, farm chemicals, electric power for rural use and of farm machinery, and the conditions for agricultural production as well as the system and methods of cultivation have been considerably improved. In 1978 China's total grain output was 2.7 times and its cotton output 4.9 times those of 1949.

Among industries which have been very much strengthened are to be found steel, electric power, petroleum, coal, chemicals, machine tools and light industry (including textiles), and many new industries have started from scratch and developed from small to large. Before liberation, virtually no industries could be found in the vast hinterland including the regions inhabited mainly by the minority nationalities; now we have a great number of new industrial bases in these areas. At present, China has 350,000 industrial enterprises. The fixed assets of enterprises owned by the whole people amount to 320,000 million yuan (RMB), or 25 times the value of the fixed industrial assets accumulated over a hundred years in old China. Despite ups and downs, industrial production has increased at an average annual rate of 11.2 per cent during the period from 1952, when the rehabilitation of our economy was completed, to 1978. Our transport, freight, postal and telecommunications services have also made headway, changing the former backwardness of many previously inaccessible regions. Our internal commerce and foreign trade have steadily expanded with the growth of production. And with the growth of our industry, agriculture and commerce, the living standard of the Chinese people has

improved considerably compared with that before liberation. The tremendous achievements scored in the various branches of our national economy over the last 30 years have laid a fairly substantial material base for the four modernizations and created a reliable springboard for further advance.

We have made necessary reforms in the cultural and educational institutions left over from old China and have promoted science, education, culture, the press, publishing, public health and sports in the interest of the people. We have always maintained a programme of education in Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought among the whole people and have thus enormously enhanced their political consciousness. We already have a fairly large contingent of socialist intellectuals. Total enrolment in primary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education is 210 million, more than seven times the highest annual enrolment before liberation. There is still a wide gap between the level of China's science and technology and that of the developed countries, but, starting from scratch, we have nevertheless laid the foundation for a number of new sciences and technologies. Our successful experiments with the atom bomb, the hydrogen bomb and guided missiles, our launching of man-made earth satellites and their

recovery, and our synthesis of crystalline bovine insulin are clearly indicative of our attainments in science and technology. We have carried out mass campaigns in public sanitation and sports activities, established a free and co-operative medical care system, and have entirely or in the main eliminated severe infectious diseases, thus greatly reducing the mortality rate and raising the health standards of the people.

We have defeated the successive attempts of foreign forces of aggression to isolate and blockade China, frustrated their interference in our internal affairs and their provocations against us, and consolidated our independence. Standing firm and proud among the nations of the world, our great motherland has become an ever stronger force which nobody can ignore. The Chinese Government and people have steadfastly implemented the line and policies in foreign affairs laid down by Comrades Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai, and have ushered in a new epoch in our diplomatic history. Together with friendly countries we initiated the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. We have consistently fought against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism and for world peace and international justice and supported the struggle of