



Christian Anti-Communism Crusade

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FAMINE IN RED CHINA--FIFTY MILLION DEAD?

It is extraordinarily difficult to learn what is really happening in Communist China. The official reports are designed for propaganda purposes and are untrustworthy. China is a vast country, and it is quite possible that Mao himself does not know what is taking place in distant parts of the country. This was certainly true of Stalin. Khrushchev stated that famine, with cannibalism, existed in certain regions of Russia while Stalin was exultant because the Russian people were eating so well.

The reports of tourists must be viewed with skepticism. They see only a minute portion of the country and that portion is usually selected for them. They usually see through rose-tinted glasses. It is informative to review reports of conditions in Russia in 1931-32 by prominent world figures after they had visited that country. Famine was so severe in the Ukraine that 5 million died, but most of them assured the world that famine did not exist. The few acute observers who dared to see and speak, such as Eugene Lyons and Malcolm Muggeridge, were laughed to scorn.

Nevertheless, over the years the truth tends to seep out and this appears to be the case with Communist China. Reports are now appearing that state that China was the victim of a massive man-made famine in 1960-62 in which 50 million died.

One report has just appeared in the magazine, *WORLD VIEW*, which is published by the Council on Religion and International Affairs (CRIO). This is not an anticommunist publication and does not indulge in sensationalism. The editorial board consists of leading academic and religious figures.

The first part of a three-part article appears under this caption in the *May, 1976*, edition:

THE OTHER CHINA Hunger: Part I The Three Red Flags of Death

Marion London is research associate in Soviet and Chinese studies and Ivan D. London is Professor of Psychology at Brooklyn College of the City of New York. Significant extracts from this report follow:

"In this China there has been a major famine, and beggars still roam from disaster areas in the North into the more fortunate South... And here we must pause, deferring to the reader's possible surprise or perplexity. For however disconcertingly the 'reality' of China has tended to dissolve, only to rematerialize and redissolve, during the restless era of Maoist communism, one premise has been taken as invariant by many observers: the famine-ravaged land of the past is gone.

"Hunger in contemporary China is, nevertheless, the subject of this paper.

"In 1958 a visionary Mao Tse-tung prepared for the instant transformation of a 'poor and blank' China into the utopia of Communist dreams... In the countryside not only would agricultural miracles be performed, but within the newly organized communes a sociopsychological transmutation of the peasant would occur, with collective facilities displacing private lives and personal cares. Money would become unimportant, food (served in common mess halls) and clothing would be free, and the peasants would no longer be bent in rapt servitude to the capricious soil, bound to the wheel of the seasons, but would be liberated for other diverse activities enhancing communal well-being.

Manmade Disaster

"Alas. The vast experiment... seemed horribly and mistakenly to have adopted the blueprint of another, subterranean mythical region. The Great Leap Forward... led directly into the Three Years of Natural Disasters (1960-62)--to cite the widely accepted official euphemism. Heaven and the Soviet Union were blamed by the authorities for the national misery following the Leap... The sad truth is, however, that only planned human intervention could and did manage such thoroughgoing, nationwide disaster. In every province misguided Party zeal and amateurism prevailed over both agricultural science and old peasants' wisdom. Indiscriminate application of the methods of intensive cultivation (deep plowing, close planting, and heavy fertilization), under the supervision of inexperienced young cadres, produced catastrophic crop failures even in the normally fertile rice paddies of South China. Ill-conceived projects, undertaken to irrigate the dry wheat-growing plains in North China in order to convert them into high-yielding rice paddies, led to fatal alkalization of large areas of arable land. Within the commune itself the psychological dislocation of the peasantry induced a physical slowdown. Along with his personal belongings, the newly regimented peasant seemed to have shed also his feeling of personal responsibility. Control had been mysteriously assumed by a suprafarmer; things were presumably to be done for him anyway, whether he exerted himself or not... The peasant, however, soon saw what was coming, long before the central authorities--beguiled by falsely inflated reports of bumper harvests from compliant cadres below--read the signs of disaster.

"What the Chinese peasant saw in 1958 was the approaching specter of famine.

Fifty Million Deaths

"In the August 10, 1962, issue of CHINA NEWS ANALYSIS the noted authority on China, L. LaDany, ventured a 'realistic estimate' of fifty million deaths from starvation and deficiency diseases within that period. The estimate was based on letters received from the mainland and on refugee reports.

"Our research over a ten-year period indicates widespread hunger during those critical three years, ranging from acute food shortage to what LaDany calls 'real black famine.' The situation was far worse in the countryside than in the cities, particularly the major cities, which were supplied at the cost of the countryside. It was also worse and more prolonged in the North than in the South.

"The following excerpts are a sampling from our interviews conducted annually from 1965 to 1975 with persons who shortly before had fled or legally emigrated from China. It should be

pointed out that several of the statements recorded below were made spontaneously during the course of the interview, particularly in 1965-68 when our research was focused on topics unrelated to famine. The cumulative impact of such unsolicited material led us later to inquire systematically into the nature and scope of hunger in China.

"A peasant from Kwangtung: It was just like in the army; you were ordered to work--any time of the night even, you had to go. When you went to work, you had food to eat. The farming plan, according to the commune, was to plant 'small' so there'd be 'high productivity,' a big harvest. So, many people worked on a small piece of land, leaving a lot of land untilled, then we were supposed to plant like this: 'a sky full of stars' (meaning rice plants all close together) 'a pair of dragons setting out to sea' (pairs of rows closer together instead of all equidistant); 'ants starting to move' (close spacing within each row). We used all the fertilizer on a small piece of land. But there was no 'high productivity' as the slogan said. There were many plants, no doubt, and very tall. But no yield. It just couldn't work; it had to change... Actually many of us didn't like the idea, but we couldn't help it. The plan came from 'above'. They said, 'Plow deep three feet underground and each mou will yield 10,000 catties.' Before, the water level in the paddy used to be above the ankle, now it went above the knee. But deep down the soil is no good, too compact. Only 4-5 inches on the surface are good. It wasn't correct, but we couldn't help it. We got orders... So there came a time when there was no oil, no food. Everyone had to go hungry. No one ever dared say famine. The 'above' asked people to use sugarcane waste for food, to eat sweet potato leaves, also some wild plants on the mountainside. People squeezed oil out of rice husks... It's not that people actually died of hunger. Just some people swelled up and got sick and died of sickness. During those years there were very few births.

"A peasant from Kwangtung (Waiyeung County): The worst time was 1959-62, with 1960 worst of all. I was very young at the time--about 11-12 years old. It was terrible for me--I would search everywhere for any blade of grass or leaf to eat. I also ate live crickets. People got only 2 ounces of rice a day. They ate things like mountain aspen leaves and young banana stems. In my large brigade there were about 2,000 people, and almost half of them died. It was like this: Someone dies in the morning, I carry him to the mountain to bury him. In the afternoon someone else will take me to the mountain for burial.

"An itinerant herb-medicine healer and temporary worker from Kwangtung: During the Great Leap Forward in 1958, Chairman Mao ordered that people should get three meals a day. After a few months there was little rice left, so people ate gruel. When there was no more rice, some had to eat cassava, a starchy tuber, which is poisonous if eaten alone in quantity. In my native village about thirty persons died of poisoning from eating cassava. There were many cases of beriberi. Later I was sent to a large brigade in the countryside where 80 persons had starved to death... The causes of the famine were very complicated... The central authorities' agricultural research had done something wrong; they'd ignored the traditional and historical way of sowing. 'Central' thought that one seed becomes one plant, which gives many seeds. So they ordered people to plant seeds without much interspacing. It was too crowded, too close together, and the plants died. But the lower cadres reported a good harvest to 'Central,' saying the plan really worked. 'Central' then asked for the grain. So the lower cadres sent them reserve grain, but even this was insufficient, so they counted on the grain from the next harvest, to be sent later. In that way the famine intensified.

"A student from Hainan Island (Kwangtung): Between 1959 and 1962 conditions in the villages

were critical. There was a lack of basic foods. At the end of 1959 rice distribution was 2.2 ounces a day for an adult, half that for a child. But the new year, 1960, brought worse: No more rice was distributed, and the peasants had to dig for roots in the mountains. The best foods we had were things like sweet potato leaves and pumpkin leaves. There were repeated rumors in 1960 that human meat (cannibalism) was being sold on the black market in Haikou City.

"A medical assistant from Kwangtung (Yunfu County): [In 1959] the communes had already run into trouble, and there was universal famine. Hunger caused a prevalence of edema and also fatal enteritis in children... The famine ended in 1962. According to the county commune statistics, several tens of thousands of people had died. All the older people passed away.

"A peasant from Fukien (Changlo County): The commune started in 1958, followed by three years of famine. I'll never forget those dates in a thousand years: 1959-1961! Many people swelled up from hunger. The cause of the famine was very simple. First, the cadres went from house to house to remove all stored grain. Then they set up public mess halls (7-8 cooks in the smaller one, 10 in the larger)... The public mess lasted only about half a year, and then people were made to eat at home again, and control was restored by issuing everybody a fixed measure of rice--3.3 ounces a day.. In our own small brigade, no one starved to death. Only, about six girls under twelve years of age were sold by their parents to better-off small brigades near the coast for sweet potatoes and rice. That is, they were 'married off,' but actually sold. The worst-off in our commune was the Lingnan Small Brigade, which was in the same brigade as ours. In 1960 more than 60 people died there of hunger... Poor as the situation was in Fukien, we were better off because Fukien is close to Kinmen [Quemoy] and Matsu [Nationalist-held islands]. Other provinces were worse off--like the part of Kiangsu north of the Yangtze River, or parts of Shantung. But worst of all in all China was Anhwei!

"A peasant from Fukien (Lienchiang County): On the coast where we were it was a little better during the famine, because people could get some fish to eat and our commune issued some dried sweet potatoes for relief. But in the villages near the mountains people were more starved, and many swelled up and died... In our village we ate everything edible. We peeled bark off the iron tree (cycas revoluta), soaked the inside white pith in water, chopped it into little pieces, and boiled it.

"A peddler and petty speculator from Fukien: It was very bad in 1960. I myself knew of more than 100 people who died of hunger within Lienchiang City limits. We lived on wild plants because we were given sa little rice--we had to cook it into a thin gruel.

"A construction worker from Yunnan (Hsuanwei County): The hardest years in China were 1960 and 1961, when many people starved to death. People ate wild plants when they ran out of food. The older people bore the hunger worst, and a large number swelled up and died.

Cannibalism

"A peasant woman from Chekiang (Yiwu County): I was only thirteen in 1960 during the famine... During the first year of famine your body could still take it, but after two years, people became too weak to work and production fell off. In 1960 around eight out of 100 or so people in my small brigade died after swelling up... A neighbor, an old man, heard once there was meat in the marketplace. So he went there and saw a crowd buying meat from a booth and eating it on the spot. People didn't know where the meat was from; they thought probably from some wild animal. It was delicious. It was only when someone found a human finger joint and nail that

they realized what they were eating... I heard many stories of cannibalism practiced in secret. Children were warned about being kidnapped and butchered.

"A student from Kiangsu: During the big famine in 1960-62 the Party asked people to eat 'Leap Forward flour,' which consisted of corncobs, corn silk, rice husks, and wheat husks ground together. This flour was described as highly nutritious and rich in vitamins. The peasants quipped that the vitamins would keep the Party alive, not them... Many people got edema and died on such food.

"A People's Liberation Army soldier from Shantung: Many died of hunger then... I remember myself eating tree leaves and chaff. My grandmother didn't let me go outside as I pleased. She told me a story about cannibalism to frighten me.

"A geological worker from Chengtu (Szechwan): I was assigned to Szechwan after the Cultural Revolution, but I couldn't leave right away for my post, because it took longer there to bring violent struggles under control. In 1970-71 I heard talk in Szechwan about the difficult times there ten years before. The circumstances were like this: a conversation started among friends about how many people had been killed during the Cultural Revolution in Szechwan... Well, it was estimated that a shockingly large number had died. Then someone thought to compare this with the number of people who'd died of starvation ten years before. That figure was also very shocking. In some places, they said the number approached five figures... Finally, the death rate became so alarming that, perhaps to avoid any political consequences, military storehouses were opened, and frozen food was released to the populace... Jung County had also suffered badly. According to one person who had lived there, the population was 800,000 in 1960, but so many died during those difficult times that by 1970 the population had still not been restored to that level. In that county there was said to have been cannibalism.

"An Indonesian Chinese student from Lanchow (Kansu): When I first entered China in 1960, I stayed in Canton around a half a year. During that time all our activities were organized-- visits to different places, even picnics. I couldn't go by myself. So, in Canton, I didn't know anything about the disaster in the whole country... Then I was assigned to a middle school in Kweilin, Kwangsi. Living together with my schoolmates, I began to understand the situation more. It was only then that I learned there had been a disaster in 1960. On the streets of Kweilin I saw a lot of beggars; mostly they seemed over 40 years old... I couldn't understand why there were so many beggars, so I asked my teacher. He said that most of the beggars were of bad class background. He kept on talking on the subject of class background, but didn't explain any further... In 1964, when I was transferred north to Lanchow in Kansu, I found the situation much worse. There were more beggars in Lanchow in 1964 than there had been in Kweilin during 1961-63. These beggars had their children with them and begged for food or money at the railroad station... Later I found out that conditions in Lanchow were actually the best in Kansu;... During the great famine some people ate a kind of clay called 'Goddess of Mercy' clay, which was eatable but really indigestible. Your belly would swell up after eating it. As a result, many died in Kansu... I didn't hear any talk, however, of cannibalism.

"A Russian worker from Harbin (Heilungkiang): Nineteen sixty-one was a terrible year. People starved to death in Harbin by the thousands. Black markets flourished." (Pages 4-9)

It is paradoxical that a system which produces famine and extreme regimentation should be widely regarded as a desirable model for underdeveloped countries.

SWEDEN LEANS TO ONE SIDE--THE COMMUNIST SIDE

When Sweden's prime minister, Mr. Olof Palme, visited Moscow in April, PRAVDA published an article praising Sweden's policy of "Active Neutrality" and called it "an important contribution to the strengthening of European security."

Mr. Palme's Social Democratic Government remains in power because it receives the votes of 19 communist deputies. The communists are certainly receiving large rewards for their support. Consider the Swedish aid program. The main beneficiaries include:

"Vietnam: In August, 1974, Mr. Palme's government promised to supply aid worth \$190 million to help Vietnam in its economic reconstruction program after the war, and has subsequently embarked on the biggest aid project ever undertaken by Sweden. Last year, Swedish aid for the new communist rulers of South Vietnam totalled \$13 million and the projected figure for this year is \$25 million.

"Cuba: According to figures recently published by the Swedish International Development Authority, Sweden's aid to Cuba has risen from a figure of \$750,000 in 1970 to \$17.5 million in 1974, \$15 million in 1975, and a projected \$17.5 million this year. Opposition spokesmen have demanded that this aid program should be abandoned, since it may constitute indirect support for Cuban military intervention in Africa.

"Africa: Sweden has contributed for many years to the funds of African guerrilla movements, some of which have now become independent governments. Support for Frelimo in Mozambique rose from \$1,400,000 in 1973 to \$3 million in 1974 and \$13.5 million in 1975, the year of independence. Projected aid for this year is \$17.5 million. Swedish aid to the PAIGC in Guinea-Bissau was worth \$11.5 million until 1974, \$10 million in 1975, and a projected \$11.2 million this year. The MPLA in Angola has also received aid from the Swedish government, and a total of \$300,000 has been made available to the African National Council in Rhodesia, the Swapo group in South West Africa, and the South African African National Congress.

"Sweden has also become well known as a haven for exiled revolutionaries, with a fast-growing Latin American contingent among them. The number of political refugees admitted to Sweden each year is around 500. But a pressure group known as the Latin American Refugee Fund has been lobbying to get the quota raised to 1,000. Among recent Latin American arrivals in Sweden is Nelson Gutierrez, formerly the second-in-command of the Chilean guerrilla group, MIR, and a Mexican terrorist, Gonzalez Carrillo, who had been sentenced to 40 years imprisonment in his own country and arrived in January on a one-way ticket from Havana.

"Sweden has been a favored base for the operations of both the Japanese Red Army group and the West German Baader-Meinhof gang. Terrorists have frequently entered Sweden by ferry, crossing over from Sassnitz in East Germany to Trelleborg.

"There are also allegations that Sweden is being used as a major base for Soviet block espionage activities. According to local intelligence sources, there are about 300 KGB and GRU (Soviet military intelligence) agents in Sweden. The key KGB agents are thought to be Alexander Telminov, Konstantin Trebiakov, and Vladimir Kopytov. In addition to the embassy itself, the KGB resident maintains an important base in a Russian-owned house at Kotervagen 5, Baggeby, Lidingo.

"The East Germans and Czechs are also active in Sweden. The Czech intelligence service is said to use the sales company used to market the Zetor tractor as a cover." (Information from Foreign Report, published by The Economist, June 15, 1976)

THE CHINESE COMMUNIST DEFINITION OF EXCELLENCE

The present premier of Communist China is Hua Kuo-feng, the former leader of the internal security forces. He displaced Teng Hsiao-ping who was dismissed in disgrace after his supporters rioted in Peking; and who is presently the focus of an intense campaign of abuse and slander. It is natural to wonder how long it will be before Hua is disgraced and destroyed. Maybe his term in office will extend beyond the death of Mao Tse-tung, but his future is unpredictable.

The April 23 edition of the PEKING REVIEW publishes a speech made by Hua at a banquet in honor of a visiting Egyptian delegation led by the Vice-President, Housny Moubarek. It reveals the peculiar Chinese Communist concept of excellence. Two significant statements by Hua are:

"The current situation in the Middle East and the world can be summed up as follows: The situation is excellent, there is great disorder under heaven, and factors for both revolution and war are growing.

"The situation in China is excellent. The struggle initiated and led by our great leader Chairman Mao personally to criticize Teng Hsiao-ping's counter-revolutionary revisionist line and repulse the Right deviationist attempt to reverse correct verdicts has already won great victories and is further developing depth. It is a serious class struggle, a continuation and deepening of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution." (Page 8)

The Chinese Communists consider strife, revolution and war to be excellent developments. This is consistent with their dialectical doctrine which teaches, "Strife is life." To them, war is desirable because it is a purifying experience. As Mao writes, "Revolutionary War is an anti-toxin which not only eliminates the enemy's poison but also purges us of our filth." (Quotations from Chairman Mao, page 60)

The Chinese Communists welcome a world war. They believe that they will emerge from the war, even a nuclear war, in a position to put their theories into practice. The slaughter taking place in Cambodia doubtless confirms these convictions. After all, as Tito relates, Mao expressed equanimity at the prospect of the death of three quarters of the world's population since he was confident that the communists would create from the residue a civilization vastly superior to anything the world has ever known.

Those professed liberals who applaud the attitudes and actions of the Chinese Communists are cheerleaders for famine, ruthless regimentation, and limitless slaughter. They are actually cheerleaders for their own destruction. It makes one wonder how much truth there is in the allegation that an unconscious urge for self-destruction directs many conscious attitudes and acts.

It is impossible to believe in civil liberties, freedom of speech, due process and the right to life, and to also approve communist practices. To consider communist rule suitable for the Chinese and unsuitable for the U.S.A. is blatant racism.

The Chinese Communist concept of excellence should provoke every true liberal to revulsion and anguish and to the determination that communism shall not prevail.

If you wish a free copy of this newsletter, write to:

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Dr. Fred Schwarz, Editor

U. S. COMMUNIST PROGRESS

Italy is not the only western country where the communists are making progress. They are also progressing in the U.S.

The following is a report of an election rally in New York City on behalf of Gus Hall and Jarvis Tyner, communist candidates for President and Vice President:

THOUSANDS JAM RALLY FOR HALL AND TYNER

By MIKE ZAGARELL

NEW YORK, June 14 — Gus Hall, Presidential candidate of the Communist Party, told supporters at a Manhattan Center rally yesterday that without the Communists on the ballot this election would offer "only the freedom of fish caught in a net."

Hall was speaking to a crowd of over 2,000 who turned out to launch the campaign for the New York elections and to protest the FBI's national conspiracy to keep the Communist Party off the ballot.

The enthusiastic crowd threw red roses on to the stage as Hall and his running mate, Jarvi Tyner, attacked the politicians of the two old parties as "con artists and political muggers."

Youths wearing the blue shirts of the Young Workers Liberation League lined the front rows.

Throughout the hall, other participants, many with their children, sported straw hats with scarlet bands bearing the names of Hall and Tyner. The crowd had a family-like quality, with some young couples carrying babies, and an occasional toddler wandering through the aisles.

Amid jubilant and growing applause, Hall lashed out at the New York politicians.

"Why not close a military base in South Korea to open the college doors in the South Bronx," he asked. "Why not close a U.S. military hospital in Japan to keep a

hospital open in Harlem? Why not put a halt to military housing construction in West Germany and start low rent housing construction in Brooklyn? Why not close the Clark Airforce Base in Manila and build a thousand recreation and sports centers in metropolitan areas?"

(Substantial excerpts from Hall's and Tyner's speeches will appear in the Daily World later this week.)

Speaking about the two-old-party primaries, Hall said the people can be thankful for one thing — "that they are over."

Hall called the primaries a "political con game with a stacked deck against the people."

Warning that the political traps are baited, he said, "Big business will win with Ford and they cannot lose with Carter."

Continuing on the theme that there was no choice in the primaries, he said that 80 to 90 percent of the voters voted against all the candidates by "staying away."

Referring to the closed door maneuvers now taking place in the two parties, he said it was "Wallace, Jackson and Mayor Rizzo

and Mayor Daley who are now nominating Carter."

He added that "the non-committed delegates are deciding between Ford and Reagan" by "selling their votes to the highest bidder."

High court assailed

He saved his sharpest attacks for the Supreme Court, which, he said, was "constructing a new legal framework for racism," through the concept that the victim of discrimination "must prove a racially discriminatory purpose behind all racist actions and practices."

Hall said that based on these recent Supreme Court decisions, executives, landlords, school boards and many others will be able to justify their racist acts by claiming that the purpose of these acts was not discriminatory, even though the effects are.

Hall went on to discuss the crucial issue of putting limits and controls on nuclear weapons, saying that the two-party politicians treat the issue "as if it was some local pork-barrel sewer project."

Referring to this as "criminal insanity," Hall said the people "want to put our country back on the road to peace and sanity."

He urged an end to U.S. restrictions on trade with socialism. "Such trade would add three or four million new jobs for U.S. workers," he said.