BLUEPRINT FOR AGGRESSION
THE 'PEOPLE'S WAR'

Armed Forces Information and Education • Department of Defense
FOREWORD

Time has not dulled the message of Lin Piao's article, "Long Live the Victory of People's War," which was published in Peking Review on 3 September 1965.

Lin Piao, Vice Premier and Minister of Defense of Communist China, wrote his article ostensibly commemorating the 20th anniversary of the defeat of Japan in World War II. Actually, it sums up and reaffirms Red Chinese strategy for Communist conquest of the free world.

This article is considered a significant statement of Red Chinese policy and is based on the writings of Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party. Abhorrent as these ideas may be, we ignore them at our own peril. Members of the U.S. Armed Forces especially need to know what Lin Piao said, to see how he has distorted U.S. aims and policies, and to comprehend the long-range plan for Communist domination of the world.

This pamphlet includes a digest of Lin Piao's article, followed by an analysis of the article by Deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus R. Vance. The full text of the Lin Piao article is available at your Armed Forces library under the title, Red Chinese Blueprint (DoD GEN-17).

We would not ignore the buzz of a rattlesnake! . . . We must not ignore the roar of the dragon!
This is the Chinese Communist Battle Plan

This is a condensation of the 18,000-word manifesto as expounded by Lin Piao, Vice Chairman of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, and Communist China’s Vice Premier and Minister of Defense, in September 1965.

All peoples suffering from U.S. imperialist aggression, unite! Hold aloft the banner of people’s war and fight for the cause of world peace, national liberation, people’s democracy, and socialism! Victory will certainly go to the people of the world!

War and Violence Are Essential

“Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun,” Comrade Mao Tse-tung has declared. The seizure of state power by armed force, he clearly pointed out, is the central task and the highest form of proletarian revolution.

We know that war brings destruction, sacrifice, and suffering to the people. But the sacrifice of a small number of people in revolutionary wars is repaid by security for whole nations and even for the whole of mankind. War can temper people and push history forward. In this sense war is a great school.

The Soviet leaders have tried to revise these Marxist-Leninist principles. They peddle a line called “peaceful co-existence.” They claim that if people compete peacefully the oppressed will be liberated and a world without weapons and wars will come into being. Rubbish! The oppressed peoples and countries which have won independence might just as well lay down their arms and place themselves at the mercy of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys!

People’s War Is the Road to Victory

How did China, weak and semi-colonial, defeat Japan, a powerful imperialist country? By a people’s war led by the Communist Party of China, Comrade Mao has explained.

Mao pointed out that the war, a long, protracted war, would pass through three stages: the strategic defensive, the strategic stalemate, and the strategic offensive. The protracted war was also to be a process of mobilizing, organizing, and arming the people. It was only by mobilizing the entire people to fight a people’s war that the struggle could continue and Japanese aggression be defeated.

The Strategy and Tactics of People’s War

During the war against Japan, Mao developed his strategy of the encirclement of the cities from revolutionary bases in the countryside. While the Russian October Revolution began with armed uprisings in the cities and then spread to the countryside, the Chinese revolution succeeded through the surrounding of the cities from the rural areas.

Mao’s strategy is tried and true. It can be applied today by the oppressed peoples of the world. If North America and Western Europe can be considered “the cities of the world,” then Asia, Africa, and Latin America make up “the rural areas.” And the cause of world revolution today hinges on the struggle of the “rural” Asian, African, and Latin American people against the “imperialism” of the “cities.”
Simultaneous struggles by different peoples against U.S. imperialism can reinforce each other in a worldwide tide of opposition. When the people in a country are awakened and armed they can overthrow the reactionary rule. And we Communists who have won a people’s war are duty bound to help others in their revolutions.

Using the tactics of guerrilla warfare, we mobilize and expand the people’s army, weakening the enemy. Whenever we gain a clear superiority of forces we switch to a mobile warfare. In either tactic, the goal of the people’s army is complete annihilation of the enemy. “Injuring all of a man’s fingers is not as effective as chopping off one,” Mao has pointed out, “and routing ten divisions is not as effective as annihilating one of them.”

You rely on modern weapons and we rely on highly conscious revolutionary people — an army based solidly on the politics of the proletarian revolution. You fight your way and we fight our way — land mine warfare, tunnel warfare, sabotage warfare. We fight when we can win and move away when we can’t. When you want to fight us, we don’t let you and you can’t even find us. But when we want to fight you, we wipe you out!

The Politics of People’s War

In fighting imperialism, the Communist Party must lead the masses in a United Front, rallying the patriotic—Communist and non-Communist alike—to the support of national and anti-imperialist causes. Within the Front, and within the people’s army, our Party maintains political independence. We of the Party lead the people in the tortuous national-democratic struggle against imperialism and its lackeys. Thus the way is paved for the socialist revolution of the proletariat which must logically follow.

Imperialists and Revisionists Cannot Prevent the People’s War

“Imperialists and reactionaries are paper tigers,” Comrade Mao has assured us. Though we must take full account of the enemy’s capabilities if we are to wage people’s war, we need not hesitate.

U.S. imperialism relies solely on its nuclear weapons to intimidate people. But nuclear weapons cannot be used lightly. And if the U.S. were to use them again, it would become isolated in the extreme and would expose its own people to the same threat.

Moreover, no matter how modern his weapons and equipment may be, the imperialist cannot defeat an indomitable people fighting at close quarters with courage and the spirit of sacrifice.

The Soviet revisionists worry that a single spark might touch off a world nuclear conflagration. But has a single one of the wars of national liberation in the years since World War II developed into a world war? No!

Yet the Soviet leadership and the U.S. imperialists are working together to extinguish the revolutionary flames of people’s war. They cannot do it. There are bound to be people’s wars and the revolutionaries of the world will sweep aside everything that stands in their way!

Vietnam Is a Test Case

The struggle of the Vietnamese people against U.S. aggression is now the focus of the struggle of the people of the world against U.S. aggression. No matter what U.S. imperialism may do to expand its war adventure, the Chinese people will support the Vietnamese people until every single one of the U.S. aggressors is driven out of Vietnam. The U.S. leaders are deeply worried that their defeat in Vietnam will lead to a chain reaction. But the more they expand the war, the greater will be the chain reaction and the more disastrous their defeat. The people in other parts of the world will see still more clearly that U.S. imperialism can be defeated and that what the Vietnamese people can do, they can do too.

Long live the victory of people’s war!
Lin Piao sees a major crisis in human society in the second half of the 20th century; he sees it taking place on the perimeter of the industrialized world—in Asia, in Africa, and in Latin America.

I think we can agree on that.

Let us examine why.

We can begin by reminding ourselves that the Communist mind is a curious combination of ideological rigidity—and tactical suppleness.

The Communist mind is, at one and the same time, philosophically closed—and pragmatically open.

In the past half century we have witnessed an imaginative display of aggressive Communist tactics.

The goal has always been the same: political domination. But the path to that goal has often switched direction.

In our own lifetime, Communist tactics have ranged through a broad and brutal spectrum: everything from outright occupation by the Red Army in Eastern Europe... through conventional aggression in Korea... to the guerrilla operations in Greece, Malaya, the Philippines, and now in Vietnam.

Communist tactics have sometimes fostered revolutions, and at other times have captured those initiated by others.

Communist tactics have learned to be as much at home with legal means, as with illegal means; with sophisticated societies, as with primitive ones; with rightist dictators, as with leftist demagogues.

Thus, if one surveys the total Communist movement of the past half-century, one cannot fail to be struck with a profound bit of irony; that the Communists in their ultimate view of history are almost insufferably dogmatic and doctrinaire. But in their efforts to manipulate that history, they are almost incredibly pragmatic and practical.

What, then, is our answer to the Communist manifesto of Mao Tse-tung, as written by Lin Piao?

First, our answer is that we agree that the "focus" of the challenge lies, at the moment, in Vietnam.

But the Government of Vietnam and the United States will not be defeated by Communist aggression from the North. We will continue our support of the people of South Vietnam until a just and reasonable settlement is reached—whether by agreement at a conference table or by a cessation of the aggression, as in Malaysia, the Philippines, and Greece.

Secondly, we agree with Mao that the lands arching across the southern half of the globe—Asia, Africa, and Latin America—are to play a decisive role in the future of humanity.

But we disagree that their role is to be hapless victims of Communist externally directed so-called "wars of national liberation." On the contrary, we believe that these nations desire to remain fully and freely themselves—uncoerced by subversion stage-managed and supplied from without. We believe that these nations desire, with wisdom and dignity, to seek their own national progress in their own national way. And we stand ready to assist them to do precisely that.

Thirdly, we agree that Mao's clear intent is that his brand of communism should eventually surround, encircle, and finally cut off and defeat Western Europe and the United States.

But we disagree that that is going to happen. Our defenses are strong, and we remain alert and ready for whatever the future may bring. But more important is the fact that the free nations of the world offer a better future for the individual, and a peaceful path to that future.

Finally, we agree with Mao that just as there are cities and countryside within nations, so the world at large—in its current uneven rate of technological advance—can be viewed as a series of industrialized centers, surrounded by a less-developed countryside.

But we disagree that the historical process suggests that the global countryside will storm these centers, and put them to the torch of Communist insurgency.

On the contrary, we believe that the historical process will be precisely the reverse; that the industrialized centers—the fortunate nations of the world—will increasingly seek to bring to the countryside—to the poorer nations of the world—the very assistance and skill that will help these nations to close the poverty gap. And the rich nations will do this by measures that will share talents and resources—by measures that will increase the self-confidence and self-reliance of the poorer nations to achieve their own self-sustaining political and economic growth.

In the United States we issue no global manifestos.

But we do indulge in one dream. 

*This text was taken from a speech by Deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus R. Vance.
Young Indonesian foes of communism weakened the grip of the PKI (Indonesian Communist Party) with mass demonstrations.
Hundreds of thousands of people in Latin America have demonstrated in the streets against the threats of communism to their peace and freedom.

Ecuador

Brazil

Bolivia

Students, favorite Communist targets, are rejecting the Moscow and Peking Pied Pipers. These students in Ghana support their army's coup against the Communist influenced Nkrumah dictatorship.
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
Washington
31 May 1966

Blueprint For Aggression: The “People’s War”

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