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"Gang of Four" ultra-left, says American Sinophile

By JAMES BRENNAN

The recently purged "Gang of Four" are ultra-leftists according to William Hinton, American farmer, Sinophile and author of the book *Fanshen*, who presented his analysis of current political events in China last Friday at the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education (OISE).

Hinton's talk, one of the final events of "China Week", at the University of Toronto, spanned the rise and fall of the so-called "Gang of Four", their role in the Cultural Revolution and their ideological relationship to Mao Tse Tung.

Hinton has spent many years in China. He was witness to the victory in 1949 of the Chinese Communist Party over the Kuomintang, and later wrote of the revolutionary development of Long Bow, the village in which he lived. In 1971 he returned to China at the invitation of Chou En-Lai, to observe conditions after the Cultural Revolution.

In his talk, Hinton essentially supported the current leadership of Hua Kuo Feng in its denunciation of the Gang of Four, led by Mao's widow Chiang Ching. Unlike the American press who regard the Gang of Four as proponents of Mao's political line, Hinton sees them as ultra-leftists—"If you held up a red flag, their's would be redder." For the bulk of his talk, Hinton discussed what he considered to be the contradictions between the actions of Chairman Mao and the Gang of Four.

In the Cultural Revolution, Mao emphasized the importance in distinguishing contradictions between enemies and contradictions between friends. The Gang of Four according to Hinton, was more inclined to denounce anyone who opposed them as "capitalist roaders" and "revisionists".



The man whose death sparked the current turmoil in China, Mao Tse-Tung.

According to Hinton, Mao advocated socialist ideology believing production would inevitably flourish, while the ultra-lefts emphasized ideology almost to the exclusion of technological development. They were thus accustomed to attacking individuals for being too production-oriented.

With their control of culture and the press claimed Hinton, the Gang of Four had extraordinary power. Ching Ch'ing in effect became the "Czar of Culture", permitting very few plays and operas to be released unless they were of "ideological purity".

Following the death of Chou En-Lai, the Gang of Four, as powerful elements within the government, cut short the period of mourning, removing wreaths and suppressing news items referring to his death.

Instead they renewed the purge of Teng Hsiao P'ing which they had been carrying out before Chou's death.

Shocked workers later welded some wreaths of steel, leaving them at the shrine of the revolutionary martyr. When these too were removed, rioting broke out in Tien An Men square. The army was called in and large numbers of people were arrested.

Hinton pointed out that the Tien An Men demonstration which was denounced by the government (and the Gang of Four) as a "counter-revolutionary incident", was itself aggravated by the Gang of Four who then blamed Teng Hsiao P'ing for instigating it.

According to Hinton, Mao used the Gang of Four at the beginning of the Cultural Revolution to stir up the masses. They were later unable to provide the leadership necessary to handle the upheavals that developed. Initially positive elements in the Cultural Revolution, Hinton believes that they began pushing China into a cul-de-sac and should now be considered degenerated and counter-revolutionary.

According to Hinton, the most difficult question to answer about recent events in China, is why the Gang of Four were not deposed earlier. He suggested that while Mao was alive, no one was particularly concerned about them; people believed that Mao probably had a plan and would deal with them in good time.

Macdonald appointed to Confederation ctte.

By RONEN GRUNBERG

York President, H. Ian Macdonald has been appointed chairman to an advisory committee, working with a new Provincial cabinet committee which has established by Premier William Davis, to discuss and develop policies on the problems of Confederation.

Macdonald worked closely with Davis in the past as former deputy minister of treasury, economics and intergovernmental affairs.

Macdonald said the advisory committee is concerned with giving suggestions, and thinking of ways to tackle the problems posed by Confederation. He also added that the question of "separatism cannot be separated from the broader question of Confederation."

SHORT TIME

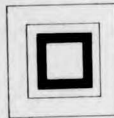
He did say, however, that the problems posed by separatism can no longer be looked upon merely on a theoretical basis. The election of the PQ government in Quebec could have "immediate consequences", and therefore "shortens the time for action."



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