

From this it is easy to move on to the assertion that though war causes destruction and sacrifice, these will be much greater if no resistance is offered to imperialist armed aggression and "the people become willing slaves." The sacrifice of a small number in revolutionary war brings security for whole countries, and "even the whole of mankind's temporary suffering is repaid by lasting or even perpetual peace and happiness."

There follows another impressive formulation: "Revolutionary people never take a gloomy view of war. Our attitude toward imperialist wars of aggression has always been clear-cut. First, we are against them, and secondly, we are not afraid of them. We will destroy whoever attacks us."

Marshal Lin proceeds to make the point that though revolution in any country has to proceed from the demands of its own people and "in this sense, revolution cannot be imported," this does not exclude support from other countries. The process will continue and the people "will wipe off the earth once and for all the common enemy of all peoples, United States imperialism and its lackeys."

Unshakable determination on the part of the Chinese people to support the Viet Cong war is proclaimed. Lin asserts that the United States imperialists are indeed clamoring for another large-scale ground war in Asia. Even if the United States commits "a few million aggressive troops" to such a war, several hundred million Chinese in arms will submerge them. *"If you want to send troops, go ahead. The more the better. We will annihilate as many as you can send, and can even give you receipts."* (Italics mine.)

On such grounds the dawn of peace is envisaged as not far away: "We are optimistic about the future of the world. We are confident that the people will bring to an end the epoch of wars in human history." This is followed by

another direct quotation from Mao Tse-tung to the effect that the monster of war "will be finally eliminated by the progress of human society. And in the not too distant future, too. But there is only one way to eliminate it and that is to oppose war with war, to oppose counter-revolutionary war with revolutionary war."

There will be a strong temptation on the part of groups and individuals in this country to use this frank and specific declaration as a justification for their dim view of Communism, or at least of Chinese Communism, and as a justification also for war of some sort or degree against Communist nations. Certainly the Marshal Lin dissertation will be used to justify the current United States policy in Vietnam and toward Peking, or even to demand a harder line than the Johnson Administration is pursuing at the moment.

In non-governmental circles, individuals and groups that are critical of some aspects of the Administration's Vietnam policy and of its civil rights and economic measures as "not going far enough," but who are also highly critical of many aspects of Communism, and inclined to regard the "free world" as essentially superior to the Communist, will be strengthened in their position by the Lin manifesto. So will peace-minded people and those pacifists who, when it comes to assessing addiction to "violence," regard Communist and democratic regimes as equally guilty. Some of these may be confirmed in the conviction that Communist regimes are virtually identical with Fascist regimes and more openly and deeply committed to violence, whether in their domestic affairs or foreign relations, than democratic countries.

I have no desire to play down the oppression and violence which are to be found in the Communist regimes. I am puzzled by those who seem to think that Communist