

CHAPTER I

CONSTITUTION OF THE CHINESE SOVIET REPUBLIC

THE first All-China Soviet Congress hereby proclaims before the toiling masses of China and of the whole world this Constitution of the Chinese Soviet Republic which recites the principal purposes to be accomplished throughout all China.

The accomplishment of these purposes has already begun in the existing Soviet districts. But the First All-China Soviet Congress recognizes that this Constitution can be given full virtue and effect only after the rule of imperialism and the Kuomintang shall have been finally overthrown and the Soviet Republic shall have established its power throughout all China. Then alone will the Constitution as hereby drawn up find more concrete application and become in all its detailed provisions the Constitution of the Chinese Soviet Republic.

The First All-China Soviet Congress calls upon all Chinese workers, peasants and toilers to proceed to put this Constitution into operation throughout all China, under the guidance of the provisional government of the Soviet Republic, and to fight for the realization of the following principal aims :

1. It is the purpose of the Constitution of the Chinese Soviet Republic to guarantee the democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and peasantry in the Soviet districts and to secure the triumph of the dictatorship throughout the whole of China. Our goal is the establishment of this dictatorship throughout China. It is

the aim of this dictatorship to destroy all feudal survivals, to annihilate the might of the war lords of China, to unite China, systematically to limit the development of capitalism, to build up the economy of the state, to develop the class-consciousness and organization of the proletariat, to rally to its banner the broad masses of the village poor in order to effect the transition to the dictatorship of the proletariat.

2. The Chinese Soviet Government is building up a state of the democratic dictatorship of the workers and peasants. All power shall be vested in the Soviets of Workers, Peasants and Red Army men and in the entire toiling population. Under the Soviet Government the workers, peasants, Red Army men and the entire toiling population shall have the right to elect their own deputies to give effect to their power. Only capitalists, landlords, the gentry, militarists, reactionary officials, *tukhao*, monks—all exploiting and counter-revolutionary elements—shall be deprived of the right to elect deputies to participate in the government and to enjoy political freedom.

3. In the Chinese Soviet Republic Supreme Power shall be vested in the All-China Congress of Soviets of Workers', Peasants', and Red Army Deputies. In the interval between Congresses the supreme organ of power shall be the provisional All-China Central Executive Committee of the Soviets; the Central Executive Committee shall appoint a Council of People's Commissars, which shall conduct all governmental affairs, pass laws, issue orders, etc.

4. All workers, peasants, Red Army men and all toilers and their families, without distinction of sex, religion or nationality (Chinese, Manchurians, Mongolians, Mahometans, Tibetans, Mao, Li as well as all Koreans, Formosians, Annamites, etc. living in China) shall while on Soviet territory, be equal before the law and shall be citizens of the Soviet Republic. In order that the workers, peasants, soldiers and toiling masses

may actually hold the reins of power, the following regulations concerning Soviet elections shall be established :

All the above-mentioned Soviet citizens who shall have attained to the age of sixteen shall be entitled to vote and to be voted for in the elections to the Soviets. They shall elect deputies to all congresses of Workers' Peasants' and Red Army Deputies (Soviets) ; they shall discuss and decide all national and local questions. The workers shall elect their deputies in the factories ; the peasants, artisans and urban poor shall elect deputies according to their several places of residence. Delegates to the soviets shall be elected for a definite term ; they shall participate in the work of one of the organizations or commissions attached to the town or village Soviets and shall periodically submit reports to their electors concerning their activities. The electors shall have the right at all times to recall their deputies and demand new elections. Since the proletariat alone can lead the broad masses to Socialism, the Chinese Soviet Government grants special advantages to the proletariat in the elections to the Soviets by allowing it a greater number of deputies.

5. It shall be the purpose of the Soviet Government radically to improve the standard of living of the working class, to pass labour legislation, to introduce the eight-hour working day, to fix a minimum wage and to institute social insurance and state assistance to the unemployed as well as to grant the workers the right to control industry.

6. In setting itself the task of abolishing feudalism and radically improving the standard of living of the peasants the Soviet Government in China shall pass a land law, shall order the confiscation of the land of the landlords and its distribution among the poor and middle peasants, with a view towards the ultimate nationalization of the land.

7. It shall be the purpose of the Soviet Government

in China to defend the interests of the workers and peasants and restrict the development of capitalism, with a view to liberating the toiling masses from capitalist exploitation and leading them to the socialist order of society. The Soviet Government in China shall free the toiling masses from all burdensome taxation and contributions introduced by previous counter-revolutionary governments and shall put into effect a single progressive tax. It shall adopt every conceivable measure to suppress all attempts at wrecking and sabotage on the part of either native or foreign capitalists; it shall pursue an economic policy which shall be directed towards defending the interests of the worker and peasant masses, which shall be understood by these masses and which shall lead to socialism.

8. The Soviet Government in China shall set itself the goal of freeing China from the yoke of imperialism. It shall declare the complete independence of the Chinese people, shall refuse to recognize any political or economic privileges for the imperialists in China and shall abolish all unequal agreements and foreign loans made by the counter-revolutionary Chinese governments. No foreign imperialist troops, whether land, sea or air, shall be stationed on any territory of the Chinese Soviets. All concessions or territories leased by the imperialists in China shall be unconditionally returned to China. All customs houses, railways, steamship companies, mining enterprises, factories, workshops, etc., in the hands of the imperialists shall be confiscated and nationalised. It shall be lawful for foreign capitalists to renew their leases for their various enterprises and to continue the operation of the same, provided these capitalists shall fully comply with the laws of the Soviet Government.

9. The Soviet Government in China does its utmost to bring about the culmination of the workers' and peasants' revolution in its final victory throughout the whole of China. It declares that it is incumbent upon

every toiler to participate in the revolutionary class struggle. The gradual introduction of universal military service and the change from voluntary to compulsory military service shall be worked out specially. The right to bear arms in defence of the revolution shall be granted only to workers, peasants and the toiling masses ; all counter-revolutionary and exploiting elements must be completely disarmed.

10. The Soviet Government in China guarantees to the workers, peasants and toilers freedom of speech and the press as well as the right to assembly; it is to be opposed to bourgeois and landlord democracy, but is in favour of the democracy of the workers and peasant masses. It annihilates the economic and political might of the bourgeoisie and the landlords, in order to remove all obstacles on the road to freedom for the workers and peasants. The workers, peasants and toiling masses alone shall enjoy the use of printing shops, meeting halls and similar establishments as a material basis for the realization of these rights and liberties. Furthermore, all propaganda and other similar activities by reactionaries shall be suppressed and all exploiters be deprived of all political liberties.

11. It is the purpose of the Soviet Government in China to guarantee the emancipation of women ; it recognizes the freedom of marriage and puts into operation various measures in the defence of women to enable women gradually to attain to the material basis required for their emancipation from the slavery of domestic work, and to give them the possibility of participating in the social, economic, political and cultural life of the country.

12. The Soviet Government in China shall guarantee to all workers, peasants and the toiling masses the right to education. The Soviet Government will, as far as possible, begin at once to introduce free universal education. The Soviet Government defends the interests of youth and gives youth every opportunity

of participating in the political and cultural life of the country with a view to developing new social forces.

13. The Soviet Government in China guarantees true religious freedom to the workers, peasants and the toiling population. Adhering to the principle of the complete separation of church and state, the Soviet Government neither favours nor grants any financial assistance to any religion whatsoever. All Soviet citizens shall enjoy the right to engage in anti-religious propaganda. No religious institution of the imperialists shall be allowed to exist unless it shall comply with Soviet law.

14. The Soviet Government in China recognizes the right of self-determination of the national minorities in China, their right to complete separation from China and to the formation of an independent state for each national minority. All Mongolians, Tibetans, Miao, Yao, Koreans and others living on the territory of China, shall enjoy the full right to self-determination, i.e., they may either join the Chinese Soviet state or secede from it and form their own state as they may prefer. The Soviet Government in China will do its utmost to assist the national minorities in liberating themselves from the yoke of the imperialists, the Kuomintang militarists, the princes, lamas and others, and in achieving complete freedom and autonomy. The Soviet Government must encourage the development of national culture and of the respective national languages of these peoples.

15. The Chinese Soviet Government offers asylum to Chinese and foreign revolutionaries persecuted for their revolutionary activities; it guides and assists them in restoring their vigour so that they may fight with increased strength for the victory of the revolution.

16. All foreign toilers living in districts under the jurisdiction of the Soviet Government shall be ensured an equal enjoyment of all rights granted to toilers under the Soviet law.

17. The Soviet Government in China declares its readiness to form a revolutionary united front with the world proletariat and all oppressed nations, and proclaims the Soviet Union, the land of proletarian dictatorship to be its loyal ally.