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## Reforms in School Education and Sports in China under Hua Kuo-Feng System

By *Kohsuke Sasajima*\*

The cultural revolution started in 1966 showed signs that China would be placed under the control of the cultural revolution party. However, struggles continued between the cultural revolution party led by the so-called gang of four the members of which were Chiang Ching, Wang Hung-Wen, Chang Chun-Chiao and Yao Wen-Yuan, and the practical affairs party led by Chou En-Lai.

Since August 1973, the cultural revolution party began attacks on the practical affairs party. However, the attacks failed in driving away the practical affairs party.

Again, the People's Representatives' Meeting convened in January 1975 ended with the victory on the part of the practical affairs party. Of the twelve posts of vice premiers, six were occupied by the cultural revolution party. However, the posts of the heads of the twenty-six departments of the National Affairs Board and those of the chairmen and ministers of the three committees were almost occupied by those who had been military men and by the members of the practical affairs party. Only a few posts were just occupied by the members of the cultural revolution party. However, the post of the Chairman of the National Physical Education and Sports Committee was occupied by a member of the cultural revolution party.

At the People's Representatives' Meeting, Chou En-Lai made a declaration of the realization of "modernization of four things."

Failing in the cultural revolution movement, the cultural revolution party started thereafter attacks on Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-Ping who came back to power. Chou En-Lai died on January 8, 1976, entrusting Teng Hsiao-Ping with future affairs. The activities of Vice Premier Teng made after Premier Chou had been taken ill were remarkable. The rise of Teng Hsiao-Ping produced a feeling of crisis on the cultural revolution party.

On April 8, Hua Kuo-Feng assumed the office of premier. However, Teng Hsiao-

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Ping, attacked by the cultural revolution party, lost his position again.

After the death of Mao Tse-Tung on September 9, 1976, struggles for power were started between the cultural revolution party and the Hua Kuo-Feng party, and Hua Kuo-Feng determinedly apprehended the members of the gang of four. After their apprehension, Hua Kuo-Feng, by starting criticism of the members, began movements to drive away the members of the cultural revolution party. There were some localities which feel in confusion for some time, affected by such criticism.

In July 1977, Teng Hsiao-Ping came back again to be a vice premier, and many of the members of the practical affairs party and the moderate party, who had lost their positions, came back to power again. Hua Kuo-Feng took over Chou En-Lai policies, and in March 1978, he made a revision of the Constitution, and the premier, by making modernization of four things, is trying to rerevise what were revised in the cultural revolution movement. In the cultural revolution movement, there were made great changes in the school education, i.e., the term of learning was shortened, the subjects were made simple, and, in principle, the terms of learning were made to be five years at elementary schools, two years at junior high schools, and two years at high schools and two to three years at universities. In some localities, there were differences in such terms, and as for special subjects at some universities, four years were assigned for the study of such subjects.

To enter universities, participation in labor for more than two years was an essential prerequisite and mass recommendation was necessary. Up to 1972, no entrance examinations had been conducted. However, since 1973, examinations have been conducted for the purpose of knowing examination receivers' basic knowledge. As a result of the blank paper incident that occurred in the same year, which was taken up by the gang of four, all the schools discontinued giving intellectual examinations, producing a phenomenon under which entering with no examination and graduating after making no study became possible. As a result, the scholastic ability of the university graduates lowered.

As the gang of four also asserted emphatically that a basic theory was not useful, in some universities, basic subjects were discarded. Some students were admitted entrances to faculties of art, foreign language and physical education with no experience of labor.

After the banishment of the gang of four, four policies for modernization were established for education. (Five years at elementary school and five years junior

high school + high school.) Since 1977, entrance examinations have been revived at universities and colleges, the condition of two years' labor or more has been abolished, and even senior middle school students have been allowed to undergo entrance examinations if their school records are excellent. The universities have been classified into those which are able to enroll students from all over the country and those authorized to enroll students only from certain districts.

In 1977, 5.7 million students underwent entrance examinations, and 278 thousands of them succeeded in the examinations. There has been placed a limit on new high school graduates, which stipulates that their rate of success should be 20 to 30 percent of all the successful students.

In the case of literary course, students should study for the term of four years, while for scientific course, they should study for five years. There has been a remarkable increase in the number of school hours, and promotion examinations have been revived at all of the universities.

Changes were effected in the school physical education. "Nation-widely Uniform General Rules for the Conduct of Physical Education" are expected to be issued in the fall of 1978, and tentative drafts are now being prepared in districts. "The Law on the Standards of National Physical Education and Training" which was issued in 1975 will also be enforced positively. In some districts, the items for tests laid down in this law are being used as items for testing practical techniques.

As to the sports after the exile of the gang of four, the basic route was shown at the nation-wide physical educator's and sport leader's meeting held in January 1978. According to the basic route, the objective of physical education is to train champions to compete with world champions. In order to achieve this objective, what are to be done are the spread of sports, perfection of instructors and sports facilities and holding of competitions. Revisions are to be effected on the system for technical grading and on the system for the commendation of those establishing national records; also, revisions are to be made on the rules for spare-time athletic school.

These policies were carried into effect immediately, the system for the grading of champions, referees and coaches which had been abolished in the cultural revolution having been revived. As to the grading of champions, the draft which was revised in July 1978 so as to match the domestic level with the world level has been put in use. The standards provided for in this draft are far higher in comparison

with the standards established in 1958. As for referees, they are graded according to their abilities, and a grading system will soon be adopted for coaches. It has been decided that a system to commend those who have established new records will be put into effect commencing in 1978.

Competitions of various kinds are being held extensively; in 1978, all-China championship meets were held in medium and small cities with the objective to raise the levels in localities. Meantime, competitions with foreign champions are being held enthusiastically, and invitations of foreign coaches are being made.

The application for reversion submitted to I.O.C. in 1975 has not obtained passage at its general meeting as yet. However, China has reverted to the I.F.s (International Sports Federation) from which China withdrew due to the question of the existence of two Chinas, and also has gained memberships in other I.F.s. The number of I.F.s with which China was affiliated in 1972 was four, and the number increased to ten in 1977. A reversion to International Amateur Athletic Federation and the Council of International Gymnastics Federation were made in October 1978.

China has a membership in the World Badminton Federation which was established in February 1978 by the countries dissatisfied with the policy of International Badminton Federation, which refused China to gain a reversion.

Many revisions have been effected on the physical education and sports in China since the establishment of the Hua Kuo-Feng system, and these are making advances along the policy established for the modernization of four things.