
Interview: Yue Wu



'The wind that heralds the rains is rising'

Yue Wu is the vice president of the Independent Union of Chinese Workers, which was created at Tiananmen Square. Jacques Cheminade, the president of the Schiller Institute in France, met with Mr. Yue Wu last month just after he had returned from a clandestine trip to the interior of his country. Yue Wu considered that it was necessary to take such great risks in order to reorganize the struggle for democracy on the ground, distinguishing him from others who restrict their efforts to making speeches in Washington or Paris. Yue Wu is a supporter of the presidential campaign of Lyndon LaRouche in the United States, and supports his economic conceptions, as well as those of Sun Yat-sen. The interview has been translated from French.

EIR: We are very happy to greet you after your trip to mainland China. What are the leading impressions you had?

Yue Wu: I am very happy to meet with you, because you helped me to leave Vietnam under very difficult conditions, as I had just left China without valid identity papers. The Schiller Institute, and you, in particular, through your efforts, have saved my life.

In China the authorities are fearful. The collapse of the communist system, in the countries in the East and in the U.S.S.R., was a great shock to them. The Chinese people, for their part, are up to date on the international situation, and remain better informed than one would think in the West. They know that communism cannot remain in power for long in China.

EIR: How is the resistance organized?

Yue Wu: Presently, it's not possible to say there is a unified resistance with "backbone," ready for battle. However, contacts between students and intellectuals remain numerous and active. The workers are organizing strikes, often wildcats. The peasants are refusing to pay their taxes and deliver their harvest to the state stores, because they are underpaid.

EIR: How are the workers putting up resistance? Are they striking, or using passive resistance, work "slowdowns"?

Yue Wu: In China there are two forms of resistance. First, last year, there were 1,500 major strikes. Then, there was a very large number of wildcat strikes. Seeing this, the Chinese

authorities wanted to crack down more harshly, because they fear that a trade union movement would spread throughout China, like Solidarnosc in Poland, causing the communist regime to fall.

EIR: Was there coordination among the intellectuals, students, workers, and peasants?

Yue Wu: The government wants to set up barriers between the workers and intellectuals. If the intellectuals try to make contact with the workers' leadership they are immediately punished by the authorities. The authorities know very well that, for them, the danger lies in cooperation between the workers and intellectuals to form a vast popular movement. Also, they are cracking down. Conditions are therefore more difficult in China for the Democracy Movement than they were for Solidarnosc in Poland.

EIR: What is the situation in the Army?

Yue Wu: After the fall of Ceausescu in Romania, a firm grip was imposed on the Army in China; it was intensely mobilized. The officers found themselves prohibited from visiting their own families! So, there was a great deal of resentment against the regime among numerous officers and non-commissioned officers, much more at the officer level, where the quality of recruits is better and one finds among them more and more intellectuals. These officer-intellectuals kept current with international politics, and I am convinced that, when a popular movement breaks out in China, many of these officers will be helping the people overthrow the regime.

EIR: Are there cities where the resistance is better organized—Beijing, Shanghai, Canton, for example?

Yue Wu: The resistance movement is very deeply rooted among the population in Beijing, but people don't dare express their disaffection with the government for fear of repression, especially after Tiananmen and what followed. In Canton as well, there is a large resistance movement, due to the relative economic development, which caused an awakening of people's consciousness. The defiance movement is equally strong in Tibet and Xinkiang, where it takes the form of a true national resistance movement against the Great Han racism of the government. In Inner Mongolia, there is a need

for independence which is being expressed, all the stronger since Outer Mongolia acts as an example.

EIR: And the youth, the new generation?

Yue Wu: A part of the young people only thinks about finally leading a happy life, while another part agitates more or less overtly for the Democracy Movement, and the national liberation movement. Thus, the government, which is a government of elderly opportunists, fears the young people, and with them, it employs the policy of the carrot—authorizing some liberalization of morals in the cities—and the stick—striking down those who defy the regime.

EIR: They say that the government strategy is to mix “savage liberalism” and “communist” dictatorship, and to set up a sort of “Pinochet model” with money from Taiwan. Is this true?

Yue Wu: Completely. This is completely the case. The Chinese situation resembles that in Chile during the Pinochet years. The Chinese government, like that of Pinochet, on one hand, wants to have the “free market,” and on the other, maintain the dictatorship. In Chile, it was a fascist dictatorship, whereas here it’s a communist dictatorship, but the way to look at these things is very similar. Our advantage is that, since China is such a large country, the scandal appears all the greater.

EIR: Does the malthusian policy of forbidding families from having more than one child continue?

Yue Wu: It continues, and it is imposed by force. The population is terrorized; the regime imposes forced abortions, and sometimes, to “make an example,” has the house of the “law-breaker” demolished. In China, there are 3-4 million human beings who are fleeing this repression by wandering from one province to another.

EIR: They say there is a trade in children, that children are bought and sold. Is this true?

Yue Wu: Yes. For example, children are bought in Szechuan and resold in Hunan. Children can cost thousands of ren min pin. [The ren min pin is roughly equivalent to 20-25¢. Mr. Yue Wu is talking about a considerable sum for a Chinese—ed.]

EIR: They also say that there are workers who submit to virtual servitude, even near-slavery.

Yue Wu: There are many workers who are not “normal workers”; they are forced to undertake extremely heavy labor, extremely painful. They come from very poor regions; these are often mountain people who emigrate to other regions in China. They work mostly in construction and in the coal mines. Among them, each year, there are more than a million deaths—yes, a million—because of the inhuman working conditions. There is no social security, no medical care. For example, in May 1990, in Shanxi, there were 300

deaths because of a gas explosion in the shaft of a coal mine. The working conditions were the same as those that existed in France in the mid-19th century.

EIR: What are the effects and the consequences of the great flooding from last year?

Yue Wu: The flooding last year extended into 18 provinces; this was the most serious flooding in the last 40 years. Why were the effects so terrible? Because, for about 10 years, the construction and upkeep of dikes was systematically abandoned or neglected. The protection for fields and the population was no longer ensured, whence the number of victims and the growing losses.

For example, when I was a child, in my town there was a river, and one could cross this river in a boat. Since then, the river was diverted, and land was gained for cultivating. That was good, but nothing had been done to contain the water in case of very heavy rains. Hence, whenever there is a flood, the water no longer finds a way to run off, and spreads out all over. Nothing was planned to protect either people or lands. There had also been excessive cutting of forests, without limit, which has desiccated the land and stripped the countryside. However, when it rains, and even though the rains are rare occurrences, it always rains with extreme violence, and there is not, as there used to be, a system for the water runoff, nor the capacity for the soil to absorb it.

EIR: What are the factional struggles at the center of power?

Yue Wu: Within the central power, there are groups, antagonistic forces. On one part, there is a “conservative” group of hardline communists, and, on the other part, a group of advocates for moving faster toward the “free market” and the “market economy,” of course, all the while protecting their power. There is also a division following the regional lines of these groups. This creates tensions in the party and is perhaps a factor which will accelerate considerably the collapse of communism in China.

EIR: Lyndon LaRouche said after Tiananmen that a river of blood separates the democrats from the totalitarians and all their accomplices in the West. Is this felt by the Chinese population today?

Yue Wu: The Chinese government has always been against democracy, against liberties, and has caused the deaths of many innocent people since June 4. It fears that the people will settle accounts; it knows that one day, the people will settle accounts.

When Honecker, the former dictator of the Democratic Republic of Germany, was turned out by the Soviet authorities, the Chinese authorities were very frightened. They feared punishment, they feared they would no longer find a refuge if they lost power.

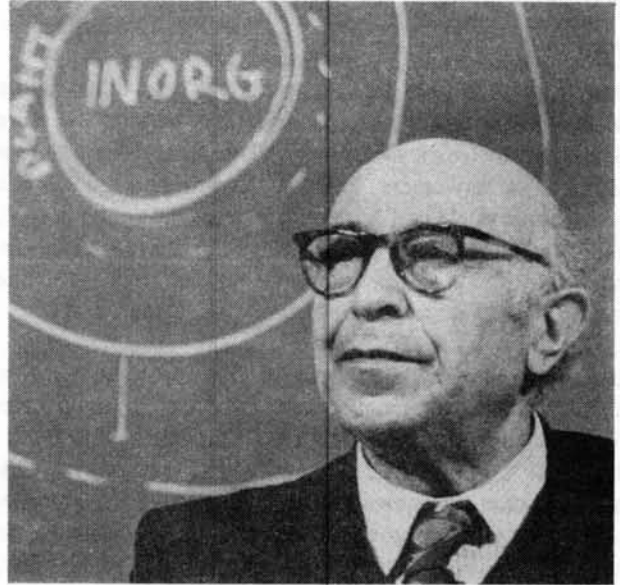
EIR: The people then do see this “river of blood” between

In Memoriam: Ali Mazaheri

We have just learned of the death of one of the century's leading Orientalists, Prof. Ali Mazaheri, who taught at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes in Paris for several decades, after having served as curator of Oriental Manuscripts in the Bibliothèque Nationale for many years. His depth of knowledge was almost unbelievable, particularly in the area of theology and ancient philosophy; to those of us who are more ignorant, he seemed a man of mystery and secrets, whereas in fact, no one was more outspoken in his views, nor more dedicated to open diplomacy. He read and worked in over a dozen ancient and modern tongues.

A Persian, Professor Mazaheri was the incarnation of everything good in his country's intellectual life; in particular, he did not share the western academic's purported distaste for political action. As opposed to Anglo-Saxon historiographers, who disguise their propaganda aims under a thin veil of "objectivity," Ali Mazaheri always baldly stated that he wrote history to bring out its positive aspects and shape the future. In his work, which was rigorously scientific, he sought to show, not only to the outside world but also to his countrymen, that the true, underlying nature of Persia was not that of an imperial backwater, but a nation of scientists, inventors, and statesmen.

Professor Mazaheri was deeply depressed by the events in Teheran in 1979, and still more by what followed, though he was not so naive as to be in the slightest surprised by the role England and the United States played in that disaster. But he never accepted that Persia's downfall would be permanent, and therefore became a strong supporter of Lyndon LaRouche. He shouted, after reading LaRouche's writings on epistemology for the first time, "I have discovered Columbus's egg!" He said that he had virtually given up hope on the United States until he had picked up leaflets in the Paris streets on the crisis in Iran, distributed by LaRouche's associates. At that point, he said, he decided that perhaps the American Revolution had meant something after all, and he decided to go back and look up the writings of the Founding Fathers.



He was a very witty man. Although he attained a great age, probably over 80, when asked he always gave his age as 69. It was indescribably droll to see this great scholar bolting through the Vatican museum, standing before a vast Renaissance painting, and suddenly cackling wildly at some detail, simply in order to throw everyone off guard: "Look! He is wearing spectacles and reading a newspaper! He is wearing spectacles and reading a newspaper!" When everyone burst into laughter, he would look bemused.

Another time, in Rome, at a meeting convened by the Schiller Institute in 1989 to mark the 550th anniversary of the Council of Florence, after a number of learned scholars had spoken, Professor Mazaheri stood up and said in a tiny, piercing voice: "That was beautiful! But it reminds me of the Persian proverb, of the scholar whose head was so much in the stars, that one night he watched and walked and fell into a well. If we do not get LaRouche out of jail, we will walk and talk and fall into a well." And he proceeded to issue a passionate denunciation of those forces which had imprisoned LaRouche in the United States.—*Katherine Kanter*

the ruling power and them—

Yue Wu: Yes, absolutely. The people see this river of blood.

EIR: Last question: If you had to refer, as your compatriots so often love to do, to classical Chinese literature or to a historical situation in China, which would you use to characterize what is happening today?

Yue Wu: The expression I would use to describe the Chinese situation today is: "Before the rains come, the wind blows strongly through the house."

EIR: This quotation comes from the very beautiful poetry of the Tang period. Let's make the wind blow a bit stronger, and soon the rains will come.