Occasional Paper No. 6

WORKERS AND COMMISSARS
Trade Union Policy in the People's Republic of China

Merton Don Fletcher

1974
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface ......................................................... iii

Abbreviations ............................................... iv

Chapter I: Introduction ...................................... 1

Chapter II: The Honeymoon Period, 1949-1952 .......... 19

Chapter III: China's First Five-Year Plan and the Soviet Model, 1953-1955 ..... 33

Chapter IV: Socialization of Industry and the Role of the Unions, 1955-1957 ........ 41

Chapter V: The Great Leap Forward, 1958-1960 ......... 57


Chapter VII: The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution .......... 69

Chapter VIII: The Reappearance of the Trade Unions, 1973 .......... 79

Chapter IX: Summary and Conclusions ...................... 89

Appendixes .................................................. 103

Notes ......................................................... 109

Bibliography ................................................ 135

About the Author ............................................ 148
PREFACE

This study is not an organizational or sociological work on trade unions in China. It is primarily a case study illustrating how changes in Chinese Communist Party political and economic orientations over time have been reflected in the Party's policy toward trade unions.

The All-China Federation of Trade Unions and its branch organs ceased to function in December 1966, victims of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. Only in 1973, following the rebuilding of the Party and the subsequent rehabilitation of mass organizations such as the Young Communist League, have trade unions reap­peared. Thus, union policy in China continues to mirror broader policy developments.

Much of the work for this study began with my doctoral dissertation, "Trade union in Communist China: A functional comparison with the Soviet Union" (University of California, Berkeley, 1968) under the chairmanship of Professor James Townsend. While preparing the final draft, I received encouragement from Professor Charles Hoffman. Research in Hong Kong was supported by a travel grant from the Government Department, University of Queensland.
ABBREVIATIONS

ACFL  All-China Federation of Labor
ACFTU  All-China Federation of Trade Unions
CB  Current Background, U.S. Consulate-General, Hong Kong
ECMM  Extracts from China Mainland Magazines, U.S. Consulate-General, Hong Kong
SCMP  Survey of China Mainland Press, U.S. Consulate-General, Hong Kong
URS  Union Research Service, Union Research Institute, Hong Kong
WHP  Wen Hui Pao (Cultural Contact Daily), Shanghai