

Always Follow Chairman Mao and Advance Amid Great Storms

ON July 16 last year, braving winds and waves, our most respected and beloved great leader Chairman Mao had a good swim in the Yangtse River. This left us with an unforgettable and happy memory. It greatly encouraged the people of China and of the whole world to advance courageously in the teeth of the great storms and waves of the class struggle.

Chairman Mao teaches us: **"Even great storms are not to be feared. It is amid great storms that human society progresses."** **"The Yangtse is deep and its currents are swift. This can help steel one's body and will."** The torrent of the great proletarian cultural revolution surges forward like the 10,000-li long Yangtse River. It is a mighty force driving the "ship of history" forward, and the best school for training hundreds of millions of new people in the spirit of communism.

"People say that the Yangtse is a very big river, actually bigness is nothing to be afraid of. Is not U.S. imperialism very big? We gave it a rebuff and that was that. So there are some big things in the world that are really not to be feared." It is precisely in accordance with this great teaching of Chairman Mao's that millions upon millions of young revolutionary fighters have given full play to their dauntless revolutionary spirit. Fighting shoulder to shoulder with the worker, peasant and soldier masses, they have relentlessly criticized and repudiated the bourgeois reactionary line, vigorously rebelled against the handful of Party people in authority taking the capitalist road, and exposed and overthrown the Khrushchov of China. In this they have made immortal contributions to the great proletarian cultural revolution. At the same time, in this revolutionary tempest they are remoulding their own ideology and developing their revolutionary qualities.

As early as last August, the Decision of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party Concerning the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, drawn up under Chairman Mao's personal guidance, wisely pointed out: **"Large numbers of revolutionary young people, previously unknown, have become courageous and daring pathbreakers. They are vigorous in action and intelligent. Through the media of big-character posters and great debates, they argue things out, expose and criticize thoroughly, and launch resolute attacks on the open and hidden representatives of the bourgeoisie. . . . their general revolutionary orientation has been correct from the beginning."**

The emergence in the thick of struggle of large numbers of these vigorous, courageous and intelligent young revolutionary fighters represents a mighty achievement of the great proletarian cultural revolution. These millions of young revolutionary fighters are valuable assets for our Party and state. They are firm and reliable successors to the revolutionary cause of the proletariat.

Making revolution is not an easy thing. It is difficult for young revolutionary fighters to avoid swallowing mouthfuls of water when learning to swim in the ocean of this great revolution which is without parallel in history. There is nothing strange in their committing mistakes of one kind or another in the course of the struggle, and these mistakes are not hard to rectify. The question is how we should help them learn to swim by swimming and learn to struggle in the course of struggle.

Two entirely different attitudes can be adopted towards their shortcomings and mistakes. One is to proceed from the standpoint of the people and enthusiastically give them help, **"help them to unite, to make progress, to press ahead with one heart and one mind, to discard what is backward and develop what is revolutionary."** The other attitude is just the opposite: deal with the young revolutionary fighters in an antagonistic way; grossly exaggerate any shortcoming discovered in them or mistake they might have made and "elevate it to the level of principle"; attack a person for a single fault, without taking other things into account. The first attitude is correct and the second wrong. We must hold fast to the first and oppose the second.

The dialectics of history is inexorable. Having gone through difficult and tortuous struggles, the proletarian revolutionaries will inevitably and completely defeat the bourgeoisie and its representatives. Those people who attack and harm the young revolutionary fighters, who are bent on setting themselves against them, will come to no good end in their attempts to strangle the new-born revolutionary forces and prevent the advance of the wheels of history.

Supporting and protecting proletarian revolutionaries involves an important political principle in the great proletarian cultural revolution. Comrades of the People's Liberation Army, who are supporting the Left and aiding industry and agriculture, exercising military control and helping with military and political

training, and the revolutionary leading cadres should be filled with class feeling and cultivate and foster the younger generation in the great revolution.

But protecting and cherishing our young revolutionary fighters does not mean accommodating them and heaping praise on them in an unprincipled way. It means that proceeding from the long-range interests of the cause of the proletariat and with a high sense of political responsibility, we support and help them and raise their level with Mao Tse-tung's thought. We educate and guide our young revolutionary fighters with the theory, line, principles and policies formulated by Chairman Mao for the great proletarian cultural revolution so that they firmly maintain the general orientation of the struggle.

While carrying out revolution against the handful of Party people in authority taking the capitalist road, young revolutionary fighters must at the same time make revolution against the self-interest in their minds and overcome their own bourgeois and petty-bourgeois ideas. Under the guidance of Mao Tse-tung's thought, they should, in the interests of the people, persist in doing what is right and correct what is wrong, and constantly strive to eliminate self-interest and foster devotion to the public interest and remould their world outlook. Only thus can they rapidly mature politically and temper themselves into staunch proletarian revolutionaries.

Our great leader Chairman Mao places boundless hopes on the revolutionary young people. He says:

"The world is yours, as well as ours, but in the last analysis, it is yours. You young people, full of vigour and vitality, are in the bloom of life, like the sun at eight or nine in the morning. Our hope is placed on you."

Young revolutionary fighters, we must not disappoint Chairman Mao! We must always be loyal to the Party, the people, Chairman Mao and Mao Tse-tung's thought. We must strive to study and apply Chairman Mao's works creatively in the course of the struggle, establish the communist world outlook of whole-hearted devotion to the public interest, serve the workers, peasants and soldiers heart and soul and always remain sons and daughters of the working people. We must continue to carry forward the revolutionary spirit of daring to think, break through, act and rebel and so perform new meritorious deeds in the mass criticism and repudiation of the handful of top Party persons in authority taking the capitalist road, in the struggle to promote the revolutionary great alliance and the revolutionary "three-in-one" combination, and in the work of struggle-criticism-transformation [see footnote on p. 12 — *tr.*] in our own units.

"I care not that the wind blows and the waves beat;

It is better than idly strolling in a courtyard."

Young revolutionary fighters, let us always follow our great leader Chairman Mao and advance in the teeth of great storms and waves!

("Renmin Ribao" editorial, July 16.)