

DECISION OF THE CCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE,
THE STATE COUNCIL,
THE MILITARY COMMISSION OF
THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THE
CULTURAL REVOLUTION GROUP
UNDER THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
CONCERNING THE RESOLUTE SUPPORT
OF PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY FOR THE
REVOLUTIONARY MASSES OF THE LEFT

To all regional bureaus of the Central Committee, all military regions, all provincial, municipal, and autonomous regional Party committees, and people's councils, and, through them, to the Party committees, and people's councils at various levels, military districts and military subdistricts:

Under the leadership of Chairman Mao, the great proletarian cultural revolution has entered a new stage. The main characteristic of this stage is that the proletarian revolutionaries have formed a great alliance to seize power from the handful of Party power-holders taking the capitalist road and diehards clinging to the bourgeois reactionary line. This struggle for seizure of power is a general counter-attack of the proletariat against the frantic attacks over the last 17 years by the bourgeoisie and its agents within the Party. This is a general class struggle in the whole country; it is a great revolution in which one class overthrows another.

The People's Liberation Army is a proletarian revolutionary army personally created by Chairman Mao and is the most vital tool of bourgeois dictatorship. In this great struggle of the proletariat to seize power from the bourgeoisie, the PLA must firmly take the side of the proletarian revolutionaries and resolutely support and help the proletarian revolutionary Leftists.

Recently, Chairman Mao directed: The PLA should support the broad masses of the Left. From now on, the demands of all true revolutionaries for support and assistance from the army

should be satisfied. The so-called "non-involvement" is false, for the army was already involved long ago. The question, therefore, is not one of involvement or non-involvement. It is one of whose side we should stand on and whether we should support the revolutionaries or the conservatives or even the Rightists. The PLA should actively support the revolutionary Leftists.

All commanders and fighters of our army must resolutely execute Chairman Mao's directive.

(1) All past directives concerning the army's non-involvement in the great cultural revolution in local areas and other directives which violated the above-mentioned spirit are all null and void.

(2) Active support must be rendered to the broad masses of revolutionary Leftists in their struggle to seize power. When genuine proletarian Leftists ask the army for help, the army should send out troops to support them positively.

(3) Counter-revolutionaries and counter-revolutionary organizations who oppose the proletarian revolutionary Leftists must be resolutely suppressed. Should they resort to force, the army should strike back with force.

(4) The directive reaffirms that the army must not be an air raid shelter for the handful of Party power-holders taking the capitalist road and diehards who persist in the bourgeois reactionary line.

(5) The whole country should be given a penetrating education on the struggle between the proletarian revolutionary line represented by Chairman Mao and the bourgeois reactionary line represented by Liu Shao-ch'i and Teng Hsiao-p'ing.

This directive must be transmitted in full to every fighter of the PLA.

The CCP Central Committee
The State Council
The Military Commission of the
Central Committee
The Cultural Revolutionary Group under
the Central Committee

January 23, 1967