

## BRAVELY ADVANCE IN THE TEETH OF CLASS STRUGGLE

[Following is a translation of an article by Lin Chieh (2651/2638) in the Chinese-language periodical Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Peiping, No 5, 30 March 1967, pp 44-47.]

The great proletarian cultural revolution is surging ahead like a roaring, swift current that sweeps across thousands of miles. It can be rightly claimed that China's great proletarian cultural revolution, judging from its extensive scale and great power, the broad masses it has mobilized, and its profundity, is unparalleled in history.

Chairman Mao has said: "Among all the things in the world, the people are the most valuable of all."

One of the great achievements of the great proletarian cultural revolution is that it has brought forth large numbers of young revolutionary pathbreakers. Nurtured by the great thought of Mao Tse-tung, every one of them is full of vitality. They are good at planning, courageous, and capable of accomplishing the tasks they set themselves. Thus, they have rendered meritorious service to the great proletarian cultural revolution.

They are the first to answer the great call issued by Chairman Mao. Raising aloft the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought, they have launched fierce attacks on the handful of party persons in authority taking the capitalist road, while relentlessly exposing the actual crimes perpetrated by the bourgeois reactionary line and resolutely implementing the proletarian revolutionary line represented by Chairman Mao. They have founded the powerful and vital revolutionary mass organization of Red Guards, fought courageously with dauntless revolutionary spirit wiped out the monsters and freaks, destroyed

the four olds, and made a clean sweep of the filthy sludge left behind by the old society.

After the "January revolution" in Shanghai the young Red Guard fighters, acting in accordance with Chairman Mao's teachings, have united the proletarian revolutionaries and formed a revolutionary "three-way alliance," courageously seized power from the handful of party persons in authority taking the capitalist road, and pushed the great proletarian cultural revolution to a new stage. In the course of the struggle to seize power and when they proposed to seize power from the handful of party persons in authority taking the capitalist road, they advance the most significant slogan to themselves to simultaneously seize power from the ideas of "self-interest" that were in their minds and the important proposal that the proletarian revolutionaries wage the rectification campaign while carrying on the fight . . .

At every stage in the course of the movement they invariably took the lead and fearlessly advanced before the masses along the road pointed out by Chairman Mao. Their general orientation has been correct all the way.

The "Decision of the CCP Central Committee concerning the great proletarian cultural revolution," which was formulated under the personal guidance of Chairman Mao, points 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. In such a great revolutionary movement it is hardly avoidable that they should show shortcomings of one kind or another, but their main revolutionary orientation has been correct from the beginning."

The actual practice of revolution over the past six months has fully testified to the correctness of this conclusion.

To insure that our party and country will not change color it is necessary to cultivate large numbers of reliable successors to the cause of the proletarian revolution. This is a strategic task of great significance.

The great proletarian cultural revolution is the best school for the creative study and application of Chairman Mao's works and for the training of large numbers of successors to the communist cause. It is only through the storm of revolution that one may be able to really understand the meaning of class

struggle and proletarian dictatorship, learn how to analyze the class relations in the complicated struggle among the political forces of different groups, distinguish between enemies and friends and between enemies and ourselves, and learn how to grasp the general orientation of struggle and the strategy and tactics of the struggle.

It is only by undergoing the class struggle that one will be able to break with "self" and establish complete devotion to the "public" and temper himself into a revolutionary fighter with a high degree of communist morality. In a word, it is only through the stormy class struggle that one can really learn the invincible thought of Mao Tse-tung.

Lenin said: "What can be learned by the large numbers of people within a week during the revolutionary period is much more than what they learned in one year of their ordinary and aimless lives." This is true of the young fighters, who have tremendous political instinct. Pounded by one storm of the class struggle after another, they are urged to immediately master the real skill of class struggle.

All of us have the same feeling: Since the great proletarian cultural revolution, the changes are indeed tremendous! Within a brief period of time the masses have seen and heard of so many major events which they never saw and heard of before and personally experienced countless earth-shaking struggles worthy of praise and sympathy. Many things that no one dared to think of, speak of, or accomplish have emerged and have been accomplished "unexpectedly." Young people previously regarded as "children who know nothing," are now furnishing their ideas through articles to discuss major affairs of state; other young people, previously unknown, are becoming leading figures in charge of the revolutionary movement in factories, rural areas, colleges, middle schools, and government organs through several months of tempering. Large numbers of communist successors loyal to Mao Tse-tung's thought and the proletarian revolutionary cause have emerged like bamboo shoots after a spring rain, and matured and become stronger.

In the process of growth it is impossible for the young Red Guard fighters not to commit shortcomings or certain mistakes. Some of them may even commit comparatively serious mistakes. This is because first they are young and inexperienced and second they are under, to various degrees, the influence of various nonproletarian ideas. But to wage a struggle against mistakes and shortcomings is the necessary prerequisite through which the young revolutionary fighters may be able to temper themselves to become stronger and more intelligent.

The attitude of each different class toward the growth of young revolutionary pathbreakers is drastically different. With profound hatred for our young Red Guard fighters, the handful of party people in authority taking the capitalist road and the landlords, rich peasants, counterrevolutionaries, bad elements, and rightists who are pursuing the reactionary stand have adopted all possible means to take advantage of young Red Guards' shortcomings to launch vicious attacks on them. As soon as certain mistakes made by young Red Guards are discovered they take great pleasure in magnifying such mistakes in an attempt to deal them a fatal blow.

Someone ruthlessly denounced the young Red Guard fighters by saying: "In the past you vilified me for committing mistakes in orientation!" The general orientation in the attack by revolutionary pathbreakers has always been correct and the spearhead of struggle has all along been aimed at a handful of party people in authority taking the capitalist road. In such a great mass movement it is absolutely understandable that people on our own side may be overcriticized from time to time. If the criticized one is a revolutionary comrade he should treat the young revolutionary fighters in the spirit of "blame not the speaker, but be warned by his words," and sincerely accept the young revolutionary fighters' criticism and assistance to himself.

Those who take advantage of the young revolutionary fighters' shortcomings to vilify and launch counterattacks on them and to reverse the previous correct decisions are not revolutionary comrades but enemies of the revolution. This also serves as vivid proof that the attack launched by the young revolutionary fighters is absolutely correct.

Some comrades who are deceived by the influence of the bourgeois reactionary line have also followed the class enemies in expressing fallacious views. These comrades should realize and correct their errors immediately, stand on the side of the proletarian revolutionaries, and support the young revolutionary fighters.

"You have supported the wrong persons!" -- this is a remark made by some people in viciously attacking the proletarian headquarters which supported the revolutionary pathbreakers.

Young revolutionary fighters are a newborn force. The proletarian revolutionaries, who always keep close watch on new things and give them the most resolute support, should enthusiastically lead them to march forward, praise the birth of such a new force, support their struggle, pave the road for their advance, and rejoice at their victories. To support the revolutionary pathbreakers means to support their general orientation

in revolution; to support the general orientation in revolution means to support the revolution.

With reasons which cannot bear the light of the day, some persons have grasped certain shortcomings and mistakes of the young revolutionary fighters and directed the spearhead at the proletarian headquarters which supported the young revolutionary fighters. Such action should absolutely not be tolerated!

A diligent gardener always expeditiously discovers and protects the new sprouts. The struggle for life itself leads to the selection of the sprouts with great vitality. With the resolute support of proletarian revolutionaries in cultivating the young revolutionaries emerging from the movement, the most resolute revolutionaries will be selected through the process of the class struggle.

We want to solemnly warn those who viciously attacked the young revolutionary fighters: To deny the young revolutionary pathbreakers is to deny the great proletarian cultural revolution; to attack the young revolutionary fighters is to attack the great proletarian cultural revolution. The newborn force cannot be defeated. Your arbitrary activities will only speed your own destruction.

At the time when the class enemies kept a firm hold on certain shortcomings and mistakes of the young revolutionary fighters to magnify and vilify such shortcomings and mistakes, some persons under the influence of the bourgeois world outlook became very foolish and always felt that the mistakes of young revolutionary fighters were numerous. These persons have adopted the wrong stand and method in looking at this question.

In handling a question, the main and side issues, the essence and phenomenon must be seen clearly. Speaking of the young revolutionary fighters, their shortcomings and mistakes are the side issue; compared with their merits, their shortcomings and mistakes are only 1 out of 10 fingers. Criticizing those who committed errors of the right opportunist line in realizing the agricultural cooperativization, Chairman Mao pointed out in 1955: "They do not look at the essential or main aspects but emphasize the nonessential or minor ones. It should be pointed out that these nonessential or minor aspects must not be overlooked and must be dealt with one by one. But they should not be taken as the essential or main aspects or we will lose our bearings." We must firmly bear this instruction in mind.

The great proletarian cultural revolution, initiated and guided by Chairman Mao himself, is a great revolutionary movement

to consolidate proletarian dictatorship, prevent capitalist restoration, and prevent our country from changing its color, and is also a primary event that affects the fate of our country and the world revolutionary movement. In this great movement the young revolutionary fighters have acted as undaunted pathbreakers and performed great exploits under the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought. They infinitely love Chairman Mao, have tremendous faith in Mao Tse-tung's thought, and possess profound hatred for the handful of party people in authority taking the capitalist road. This is the essence and main aspect of the young revolutionary pathbreakers.

With regard to their revolutionary spirit, one must first of all cast away the mantle of pretentiousness and study it in the spirit of humility. One will commit a very grave mistake if one fails to see the essence and main aspects of young revolutionary fighters but takes firm hold of their certain shortcomings and mistakes, or even denies their general orientation in revolution.

Chairman Mao has taught us: "Successors to the revolutionary cause of the proletariat come forward in mass struggles and are tempered in the great storms of revolution." We should, with the utmost enthusiasm and effort, be concerned with and encourage the revolutionary youths of the coming generation in their growth and select and bring up the successors of the revolutionary cause in the heat of the mass struggle.

The utmost hostility and the vicious attack against these revolutionary youths by the handful of people in power in the party and taking the capitalist road can only further strengthen them. The attacks and abuses of the enemy have not only helped the revolutionary youths to learn the art of defeating the enemy, but also to elevate their political consciousness and divorce their own ideas and work style from those of the exploiting class. From their bitter struggle they have come to realize deeply that all nonproletarian ideas can only benefit the enemy, not the revolutionary cause.

For the sake of victory in the revolutionary cause and in defeating the enemy it is necessary for them to study Mao Tse-tung's thought and wipe away anything unclean from their minds. Recently these revolutionary youths raised the slogan of overthrowing "self-interest" and consciously carried out rectification. This clearly shows that, under the brilliant illumination of Mao Tse-tung's thought, these young revolutionary pathbreakers have come to know fairly well the reason for this.

Marx has taught the working class: "You probably cannot avoid undergoing civil wars and international conflicts for

another 15, 20, or 50 years in order to change not only the existing conditions but also yourselves so that you will have the ability to exercise political control." This saying applies even more correctly to the revolutionary youths. During the period of transition from capitalism to communism, the struggle between socialism and capitalism, and between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie for the seizure of power, can never be ended. The proletarian revolutionary youths must undergo tempering in a long class struggle before they can become staunch proletarian revolutionaries.

Chairman Mao has told us: "You should be concerned with state affairs and carry the proletarian cultural revolution through to the end!" The situation in the proletarian cultural revolution is getting better all the time. However, the proletarian revolutionaries must maintain a clear political consciousness. The enemy "will never lay down their butcher knives, and they will never become Buddhas."

At present an adverse current of counterrevolutionary restoration has appeared. The handful of party people in power taking the capitalist road, in collusion with the ghosts and monsters in society, are directing the spearhead at the revolutionary youths in their counterattack. Some royalist organizations, after a spell of inactivity, have arisen and are itching for action. They have shouted: Our past "protection" was justified! We all know that they were only protecting a handful of persons in power in the party taking the capitalist road.

The young Red Guards must further step up the creative study and application of Chairman Mao's works, conscientiously carry out rectification, strengthen their revolutionary spirit, scientific approach, and sense of organization and discipline, maintain their revolutionary vitality, and further develop the proletarian revolutionary spirit of daring to think, to speak, to act, to break through, and to struggle, in order to repulse the new counterattack of the handful of people in power in the party taking the capitalist road, grasp the general orientation of the revolution, and march forward regardless of any attack or reverses.

Let the revolutionary pathbreakers of the younger generation, under the illumination of Mao Tse-tung's thought, bravely advance in the teeth of class struggle!

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