

REALIZE THE GREAT ALLIANCE OF REVOLUTIONARIES,
RETURN TO SCHOOL TO MAKE REVOLUTION

[Following is a translation of an article by a certain unit of the Navy of the Chinese People's Liberation Army attached to the Military Training Group of the 89th Middle School in Peking in the Chinese-language periodical Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Peking, No 11, 9 July 1967, pp 43-46.]

In response to Chairman Mao's call, a certain unit of our Navy came to the 89th Middle School of Peking Municipality to help give military training in March this year. It also participated in work bearing on reopening the school, overhauling the organization, setting up a leadership organ based upon threeway alliance, and carrying out struggle, criticism and reform. After we came to the school, we first investigated and studied things, and made penetrating and painstaking effort to find out the situation of the great proletarian cultural revolution in this school. We carried out a lot of politico-ideological work and helped them realize the great alliance of revolutionaries and the "threeway alliance", and return to school to make revolution.

Draw Clearly a Dividing Line Between the Enemies and Ourselves,
Grasp the General Orientation of the Struggle

During the great proletarian cultural revolution, because the former Party branch and work group of this school carried out the bourgeois reactionary line, confused the class front, encircled and suppressed the revolutionaries, and incited the masses to fight against the masses, there were serious estrangement and antagonism between the teachers and students, and between different sectors of teachers and students.

Before we came to the school, the revolutionary teachers and students also had criticized and repudiated the bourgeois reactionary line. However, because the general orientation of the struggle had not been grasped, some teachers and students who had been persecuted had this to say: "Those who have carried out the bourgeois reactionary line should be criticized and

repudiated." "Where there is pus, that place must be punctured." Those teachers and students who had carried out the bourgeois reactionary line were ill affected, and some of them said: "Granted that we did make mistakes, we are still better than they are." Because of this, the antagonism between them grew more serious. The "civil war" went on day after day, but the enemies were left aside.

In view of this state of affairs, we organized them to study Chairman Mao's "Analysis of the Classes in Chinese Society," "Our Study and the Current Situation" and other articles. Chairman Mao taught us: Who are our enemies? Who are our friends? This is a question of the first importance for the revolution, and is also a question of the first importance for the great cultural revolution. We must strictly distinguish and correctly handle the two kinds of contradiction of different character, unite our friends and attack the real enemies.

On the basis of general study and discussion, we separately went deep into classes to hold conversation with the broad masses of teachers and students. According to those we talked with and their state of thought, we carried out painstaking persuasion and education to enable those teachers and students who had been persecuted to cherish a genuine desire for unity and those who had carried out the bourgeois reactionary line to show real sincerity in making self-examination.

In order to raise further the class consciousness of the teachers and students, deepen their understanding of the bourgeois reactionary line and clarify the general orientation of the struggle, we organized the teachers, students and their guardians to expose, criticize and repudiate the crimes of the old society and the bourgeois reactionary line. As they recalled the miserable past and made accusations, they presented facts, listed the crimes, discussed the dangers, unearthed the root causes, sharpened their eyes, and gained a clear picture of the substance of the bourgeois reactionary line. The bourgeois reactionary line sought precisely to subvert our proletarian dictatorship, enforce capitalist restoration and make us retrace our steps to our past miserable life once again. Everybody linked the bourgeois reactionary line with the miserable life of the old society, the old animosities with the new ones, and concentrated all animosities on a handful of those in authority taking the capitalist road within the Party.

Through a series of work, the broad masses of the revolutionary teachers and students learned to distinguish the enemies from ourselves ideologically. They knew that the contradictions between the persecuted masses and the deluded were those among the people, and that they should be correctly settled with the method of "unity -- criticism -- unity" as taught by Chairman Mao. It was wrong to leave the enemies aside and wage the "civil war." With the general orientation of the struggle clarified, the "civil war" ground to a halt.

There was a teacher who had been branded as a "monster" at the early stage of the movement because he wrote a wall poster against the former Party branch. In the past he bore grudges against those deluded teachers and students who had encircled and attacked him. After he received a course of class education, he said with excitement at an accusation meeting: "Those teachers and students who have encircled and attacked me are also victims of the bourgeois reactionary line. We should join hands to attack our common enemy."

A teacher who had participated in the encirclement and attack of the revolutionary masses said remorsefully: "When I examined my own mistakes in the past, although I set higher and higher principles and made bigger and bigger accusations on each occasion, yet I failed to straighten my thought. Now that I have straightened my thought, I cannot sit tight without making self-examination."

Many deluded students also said: "The bourgeois reactionary line has done us much harm by disuniting us and making us fight the 'civil war.' We hate it and the handful of those in authority taking the capitalist road within the Party to the bone." They fought back in a big way, made a clean break with the bourgeois reactionary line, and returned to the side of Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line. With the goal coinciding and with the estrangement eliminated, the political foundation for realizing the great alliance of revolutionaries was laid.

Eradicate Self-interest To Make Way for Public Interest,
Realize the Great Alliance of Revolutionaries

Chairman Mao taught us: "We must be good at guiding the petty-bourgeois ideas among our ranks to the orbit of proletarian revolution. This is a question holding the key to the great proletarian cultural revolution."

Before we came to the school, several attempts to form a great alliance had been made in that school, but every time the attempt failed basically because self-interest was making trouble. Therefore, it is necessary to get rid of self-interest to make way for public interest in our minds, eradicate bourgeois ideas and promote proletarian ones in a big way before we can tightly grasp the general orientation of the struggle, realize the great alliance of revolutionaries, and promote on a large scale the criticism and repudiation of the top person in authority taking the capitalist road within the Party, and struggle, criticism and reform in one's unit.

Bold steps must first be taken to expose thought in order to get rid of self-interest and promote public interest. At first, quite a number of persons among the masses harbored three kinds of fear for exposing thought: first, they feared disgrace and pain; second, they feared that others would find fault with them; third, they feared sarcastic ridicule. With these fears, everybody hid up his ideological problems. Without exposing self-interest how could it be eradicated?

One of our comrades who was an activist in the study of Chairman Mao's writings gave others a concrete account of his various ideological activities after coming to the school, and told them how he ceaselessly eradicated self-interest and promoted public interest through creatively studying and applying Chairman Mao's writings. Other PLA comrades also told their personal experience in promoting ideological revolutionization through eradicating self-interest to make way for public interest.

Our making a clean breast of ourselves in this way created a great shock among the teachers and students. They said: "The PLA men refuse to overlook any budding self-interest, and they insist on bringing it to light and openly fighting it in front of the masses. We also must follow the example of the PLA."

With their misgivings removed, the masses came forward one after another to bare their minds. One comrade said: "I want to be a leader and it is my fear that should the great alliance swallow up my fighting detachment, I would cease to be its leader." Another said: "I love to lead a free life and am afraid that the great alliance would restrict my freedom." Yet another said: "I am fond of finding fault with other people and I am antagonistic to those who oppose me." A teacher said: "I do not want to work in this school and also have no desire to work as a teacher. I am ready to leave." The cadres who had been persecuted by the bourgeois reactionary line also came forward to bare their minds.

In view of these living ideas, we guided them to solve these ideological problems through making creative study and application of Chairman Mao's writings. The broad masses of revolutionary teachers and students ardently love Chairman Mao and are best able to heed what he says. Chairman Mao has said: "Numerous revolutionary martyrs have sacrificed their lives for the interests of the people, and we feel very sad whenever we think of them. Can it be said that there are still any personal interests which we cannot sacrifice and any mistakes which we cannot forsake?" The overwhelming majority of the students in this school are children of the working people. Chairman Mao's words have aroused their class feelings and made them understand that all kinds of self-interest are in contravention to the people's interests and are therefore wrong. They have expressed that they will act according to Chairman Mao's instructions.

We also helped the students carry out such ideological mutual-aid activities of a mass character as one helping another to form a red pair. We guided them to learn to make criticism and self-criticism and correctly handle contradictions among the people. Since the great cultural revolution, some students had become antagonistic to each other and were not on speaking terms. After studying Chairman Mao's writings, they made self-criticism to eliminate estrangement, and many former "opponents" have become red pairs. They study Chairman Mao's writings together, criticize and repudiate the bourgeois reactionary line together, chat and perform good deeds together. There are ever more activities based upon one helping another to form a red pair every day.

Groups for studying Chairman Mao's writings have evolved on the basis of chatting and conducting mutual-aid activities. These study groups are actually militant groups of the masses for conducting ideological revolutionization through eradicating self-interest to make way for public interest. The masses with ideological problems bring up same in their respective groups for self-education. They make use of the sharp weapon of Mao Tse-tung's thought to sweep away assorted bourgeois and petty-bourgeois ideas and clear the way of ideological stumbling-blocks for realizing the great alliance of revolutionaries.

The young revolutionary fighters of one class in the third year grade scored prominent success in eradicating self-interest to make way for public interest, and a great alliance was first realized in the whole class. We summed up their experience for popularization in the whole school. At the end of April, the whole school realized the great alliance of revolutionaries with the Left as the core and the teaching classes as the foundation. Following this, the "4 May" Corps, a united organization of the Red Guards of the whole school, was formed, and detachments were set up in various teaching classes. The alliance of classes and grades led to the alliance of various revolutionary organizations, and the alliance of various revolutionary organizations also consolidated the alliance of classes and grades. On 9 May, the revolutionary "threeway alliance" was brought into realization and the revolutionary committee was formed at the 89th Middle School.

Respond to Chairman Mao's Call, Return to School To Make Revolution

On the basis of realizing the revolutionary great alliance and "three-way alliance," the teachers and students of the whole school were in high spirits, and they drove the great proletarian cultural revolution of the school to the new stage of returning to school to make revolution.

How to reopen school for making revolution? The masses put forward many questions. The teachers were dominated by fear. They feared that the students would lay a bulldog's grip in them should they make some mistakes in teaching. They feared that the students would not submit to discipline and there would be no way to hold class. Quite a number of students wanted to roam around to exchange experience and were unable to sit tight. Some teachers and students had the misgivings that should mathematics, physics and chemistry be taught all day long as in the past, the reopening of class would come into conflict with the revolution.

We were of the opinion that the presence of these ideological problems among the teachers and students was in the final analysis due to their inadequate understanding of the great significance of reopening school for making revolution, their underestimation of the ideological revolutionization of man brought about by the great proletarian cultural revolution, and their inability to eliminate self-interest from their minds. We repeatedly propagated among them the great significance of Chairman Mao's call for reopening school

to make revolution, and organized them to study Chairman Mao's pertinent articles, "The CCP Central Committee's View on Launching the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in Middle Schools" and other documents. We rectified some blurred knowledge and erroneous ideas so as to make them understand that reopening school for making revolution was integrated with promoting on a large scale the criticism and repudiation of the top person in authority taking the capitalist road within the Party, and with the practice of struggle, criticism and reform in one's unit, and that reopening school meant resumption of class for the class struggle, the great cultural revolution, and the thought of Mao Tse-tung. With these ideological problems resolved and consciousness raised, reopening school for making revolution was also underway.

"The masses are real heroes." Reopening school for making revolution must depend on the teachers and students themselves to create experience in practice.

The revolutionary teachers and students of the eight classes of the first year grade were the first to reopen class. They eradicated the old teaching methods in a big way, set up a new teacher-student relationship and teaching order, and converted the classroom into a center for propagating the thought of Mao Tse-tung. They closely integrated the large-scale criticism and repudiation of the top person in authority taking the capitalist road within the Party with the practice of struggle, criticism and reform in the school. The method adopted by the eight classes of the first year grade gave an impetus to various classes, and a surging tide in reopening class for making revolution quickly came into shape throughout the school.

Guided by the ever-victorious thought of Mao Tse-tung, the broad masses of revolutionary teachers and students took up pens in lieu of swords and guns, and they directed the spearhead of struggle at a handful of top persons in authority taking the capitalist road within the Party. They exposed, criticized and repudiated the crimes of the latter in promoting the counter-revolutionary revisionist educational line and cultivating bourgeois successors. The teachers and students made use of their personal comprehensions to level accusations against the counterrevolutionary revisionist educational line which had harmed them in various ways.

For quite a number of years, there was circulated among the students the saying that "marks determine the life of students, while examinations and tests are the teachers' magic weapons." Materials of instruction were laden with feudalist, capitalist and revisionist stuff, and the "Self-Cultivation" of China's Khrushchev was also inserted into a middle school textbook for spreading its harmful influence among the youths. From the numerous surprising facts revealed, the broad masses of revolutionary teachers and students learned a profound lesson in regard to the struggle between the two classes, the two roads and the two lines.

Chairman Mao has taught us that "there is no construction without destruction, no flow without damming, no motion without rest." We have eradicated bourgeois ideas and promoted the thought of Mao Tse-tung in a big way.

In the past, groups of this or that kind were organized in the school, but no group had been organized for studying Chairman Mao's writings. Pace-setters of this or that kind were established, but no pace-setters had ever been established in regard to the study of Chairman Mao's writings. In the course of reopening school for making revolution, the revolutionary teachers and students have organized 97 groups for studying Chairman Mao's writings and cited activists in the study of such writings. Quite a number of study groups have made effort to insure the fulfillment of four concrete provisions in regard to study content, attendance, time table and result. Some groups also draw up weekly plans, make arrangements every day, and organize exchange of experience every week. Many students come to school half an hour earlier every day in order to find more time for studying Chairman Mao's writings. After study, the broad masses of revolutionary teachers and students have shown a deeper affection for Chairman Mao's writings, the thought of Mao Tse-tung and the great leader Chairman Mao.

The 89th Middle School has changed its looks, and the spiritual features of its teachers and students as well as its human relationships have also changed profoundly. The past antagonistic relationship between the teachers and students has gradually changed into a new type of relationship in which the students honor their teachers and the teachers cherish their students. The 89th Middle School which was once enslaved and poisoned by revisionism has gained a new lease of life under the sunshine of Mao Tse-tung's thought, and a new generation is gaining strength and growing up.

Since the school has just reopened for making revolution, there is still much work to be done. We must hold high the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought, guard against arrogance and rashness, make greater achievement, surmount shortcomings, and win a new victory.

CSO: 3530-D