

MAKE A STRICT DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE TWO DIFFERENT TYPES  
OF CONTRADICTIONS, CORRECTLY HANDLE THE DECEIVED MASSES

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"On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People," the illustrious work of our great leader Chairman Mao, has scientifically summed up the experiences and lessons gained and learned in the revolutionary movement of the world proletariat, and developed with genius Marxist-Leninist materialistic dialectics, the theory of class struggle and proletarian dictatorship. It is a program document for guiding the proletariat to carry the socialist revolution through to the end after seizing political power.

In the great proletarian cultural revolution, this great work is the most powerful weapon for guiding us to see clearly the general orientation, distinguish the enemies from ourselves, unite the great majority, arouse all positive elements, and deal blows at a handful of those in authority taking the capitalist road within the party.

We proletarian revolutionaries of the Cultural Work Regiment of the Political Department of the Air Force have launched a resolute struggle against a handful of those in authority taking the capitalist road within the party by following the teachings of our great leader Chairman Mao in this work, studying, practicing and summing up things in struggle, and using the viewpoint of class struggle and the method of class analysis to differentiate strictly the two different types of contradictions and lay a firm grip on the general orientation of the struggle.

Meanwhile, through launching a powerful political offensive and carrying out painstaking politico-ideological work, we have won over, educated and united the great majority of the deceived masses of the conservative

organizations, brought into being the great revolutionary alliance, seized back the party, government, financial and cultural powers from the hands of a handful of those in authority taking the capitalist road within the party, and built a revolutionary committee with revolutionary representative and proletarian authority according to the revolutionary principle of "three-way alliance."

At present, the great proletarian cultural revolution of our regiment is advancing in triumph along the navigation route opened up by Chairman Mao.

## I

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 likewise a question of the first importance for the great cultural revolution."

The great proletarian cultural revolution is a great decisive battle between the two classes, the two roads and the two lines. The contradictions between a handful of those in authority taking the capitalist road within the party and us are contradictions between the enemies and ourselves, while more than 95 percent of the masses and the cadres are our comrades and friends. The contradictions between the deceived broad masses of the conservative organizations and us come under contradictions among the people. They are two different types of contradictions.

Proletarian revolutionaries must firmly bear in mind what has been pointed out in the Sixteen-Point Decision: "The main target of the present movement is those within the party who are in authority and are taking the capitalist road." "Contradictions among the people must not be made into contradictions between ourselves and the enemy; nor must contradictions between ourselves and the enemy be regarded as contradictions among the people."

Although those among the masses who have been deceived have joined the wrong ranks and done wrong things in the great cultural revolution movement, yet they are also the victims of the bourgeois reactionary line. While we have been persecuted by the bourgeois reactionary line, they also have been victimized by the bourgeois reactionary line. We can never direct the spearhead of struggle at them and handle them with the means which we use to handle the enemies. According to the principle that there is no precedence in revolution, we must be sympathetic to them, take good care of them, show concern for them, and patiently help them return to Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line. Only in this way can the great revolutionary alliance be brought into being to form a mailed fist which hits hard at a handful of those in authority taking the capitalist road within the party.

In order to achieve the object of waging struggle against a handful of those in authority taking the capitalist road within the party and at the same time educating the deceived masses, it is necessary to present facts, state reasons, persist in struggle by reasoning and oppose struggle by force

or coercion. As proletarian revolutionaries, the truth is in our hands, and it is entirely possible for us to overcome the enemies with struggle by reasoning. In order to present facts and state reasons, it is necessary to lay hold of factual data and carry out an abundance of arduous investigation and research work.

During the days we were persecuted by the bourgeois reactionary line, the young fighters of the revolutionary rebel detachment, with a red heart cherishing boundless fervent love for Chairman Mao, often had to break away from a siege through struggle and from those who shadowed them. They had to brave the cold and hunger, and walk several tens of li to carry out painstaking investigation and study so as to lay hold of the criminal deeds of a handful of those in authority taking the capitalist road within the party. After the revolutionary rebel detachment exposed the crimes of the handful of those in authority taking the capitalist road within the party with an abundance of facts, the latter were thrown into consternation. Many among the deceived masses were awakened. They clearly saw the general orientation and pulled out from the conservative organizations.

Within the short course of one month, our revolutionary rebel detachment, only 20 persons strong, armed itself with the invincible thought of Mao Tse-tung, firmly adhered to the method of presenting facts and stating reasons, made use of wall posters and personal chats to launch a political offensive, dragged out a handful of those in authority taking the capitalist road within the party, won over, educated and united the great majority of the deceived masses, and expanded and strengthened the ranks of the proletarian revolutionaries.

## II

In work to win over, educate and unite the deceived masses, the proletarian revolutionary masses must first solve the question of attitude and proceed from the desire for unity.

Because a handful of those in authority taking the capitalist road within our regiment carried out the bourgeois reactionary line of "hitting at a great many in order to protect a handful" and incited the masses to fight against the masses and the cadres, there has been grave antagonism among the masses. After fighting our way out from the persecution of the bourgeois reactionary line and gaining predominance politically and organizationally, whether we proletarian revolutionaries can adopt a comradely attitude toward those deceived masses who had encircled and attacked us, take the initiative to draw close to them, help them and unite them so as to enable them to return to Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line is a stern test for the proletarian revolutionaries.

When solving this question of attitude, we must abide by Chairman Mao's teachings, lay emphasis on the general situation, and can never give any thought to personal grudges.

Chairman Mao taught us: "We not only must unite with those who agree with us, but also must be good at uniting with those who disagree with us and those who have opposed us and have been proved to be wrong by practice." There was in the band a committee member of the party branch who had once been encircled, attacked and struggled against by some of the deceived masses. After the proletarian revolutionaries recaptured power, he was elected as a member of the revolutionary committee. At that time comrades who had a part to play in encircling and attacking him felt very embarrassed. That committee member of the party branch knew that as a true proletarian revolutionary he could never take personal gratitude or grudge into consideration when dealing with those comrades. He took the initiative to chat with them, and very soon he eliminated such estrangement and paved the way for unity.

Chairman Mao taught us: "Policy and tactics are the life of the party." When we deal with the deceived masses, we can never replace policies with sentiments.

After we seized power, some comrades were opposed to those among the deceived masses who had dealt blows at them and they said: "Although you had struggled against me in the past, I am not going to struggle against you today, but you will have no part to play in the great revolutionary alliance." They also said: "Our unit is unusual and is unable to unite more than 95 percent." In light of these living ideas, through launching a rectification campaign we seriously studied Chairman Mao's "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People."

We all know that in order to bring the great revolutionary alliance into being, the principal responsibility rests on the shoulders of us proletarian revolutionaries. We can never replace policies with sentiments and can never adopt a tooth-for-tooth attitude toward our class brothers. If we only think of venting one's spleen and do not try to win over, educate and unite the deceived masses, we would drive our own comrades to the enemy side and would be fooled by the class enemy.

Through study, we proletarian revolutionaries raised our policy level, bore the revolution in mind, paid attention to the whole situation, and acted firmly according to the policies of the party. Many comrades who had pulled out from the conservative organizations said: "We have all the time kept you under observation to see what policy you adopt toward us and whether the alliance is genuine or phoney. As we see now, you genuinely act according to the policies of the party and are proletarian revolutionaries."

The practice of struggle tells us that in carrying out work, whatever it is, we must act according to Chairman Mao's instructions and the policies of the party. Once Chairman Mao's instructions are understood, they must be firmly carried out, and even those which are not understood for the time being must also be firmly carried out so that we may gradually understand them in the course of executing them.

### III

Chairman Mao taught us: "The only way to settle questions of an ideological nature or controversial issues among the people is by the democratic method, the method of discussion, of criticism, of persuasion and education, and not by the method of coercion or repression." In order to win over, educate and unite the deceived masses, it is necessary to persist in the four firsts, carry out painstaking politico-ideological work, and patiently help them.

When carrying out politico-ideological work, we must be good at taking a firm hold of living ideas and giving the right remedy. Among a part of the deceived masses, the ideological burden is very heavy. Especially in the case of some older comrades, because they stood on the wrong side during the crucial moment of the great cultural revolution notwithstanding their having been educated by the party over a number of years, they feel that they are unable to face the party, and are unwilling to go out and meet other comrades. These comrades feel the burden and pressure because they have come to know their mistakes. At such a time, they can never be required to "reflect on one's misdeeds in private," much less to allow them to "ask for pardon." Instead, they should be encouraged to switch their orientation, actively throw themselves into battle, and educate themselves in struggle. In this way, these comrades will quickly part with their ideological burden and hit back at the handful of those in authority taking the capitalist road within the party.

After the collapse of the conservative organization in our regiment, a part of the masses were slow in turning around. Although they had severed relations with the conservative organization, yet they were still estranged from the proletarian revolutionaries. In light of this situation, we carefully studied things, located the crux of the problem, and untied the ideological knot of these comrades.

After his withdrawal from the conservative organization, a comrade was in a low mood. He contacted neither the conservative organization nor the revolutionary rebel detachment. During the great cultural revolution, this comrade all along wanted to play an active part in the movement. Because of his low politico-ideological level and lack of class viewpoint, he joined the conservative organization. After the collapse of the conservative organizations, he still felt ill-affected toward those comrades of the revolutionary organization. In light of his ideological condition, we patiently helped him see clearly the misdeeds which a handful of those in authority taking the capitalist road within the party made use of the conservative organizations to carry out. We then enlightened him with the miserable past and the happy present, and helped this comrade who was a cowboy by origin quickly to raise his awakening and change his stand.

Very often, there also will be reversals in work to unite and win over the masses. Some comrades originally shared our viewpoint. After the conservative organization seized power, they joined that organization. When the

revolutionary rebel detachment fought its way out, they once again closed ranks with that detachment, but very soon they fell for the conservative organization again. Some comrades among us had an antipathy to these persons, thinking that they were opportunistic and waving with the wind and could not be trusted. After due study, we were of the opinion that a number of causes were responsible for this phenomenon. After the proletarian revolutionaries rose on their feet, the handful of those in authority taking the capitalist road within the party still wanted to pull the wool over the eyes of the masses in the conservative organization so as to protect themselves. They spread rumors, created confusion, and enhanced the antagonistic feelings of the deceived masses toward us. Some persons fooled by the bad persons or with selfish ends wavered. Among them only a few were opportunists, but for the overwhelming majority of the comrades, the question was one of recognition. We should contact such comrades with greater warmth, expose the plots and tricks of the handful of those in authority taking the capitalist road, help them detect the enemy and draw a dividing line with that handful of persons. Before they were awakened, we should wait with patience. Facts showed that so long as we gave them genuine assistance, they would learn lessons in the struggle, see the orientation and finally stand on the side of Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line.

Chairman Mao said: "Today, the need of revolution to launch an attack against counterrevolution lies in organizing millions of the people and mobilizing a mighty revolutionary army." The great proletarian cultural revolution is the revolutionary movement of the masses, and only through arousing the revolutionary activism of the broad masses can the great proletarian cultural revolution be triumphantly carried through to the end. We should have political faith in those comrades who have been deceived but have since rectified or are in the course of rectifying their mistakes. We should boldly make use of them by allocating them work and tasks. Some of them have become members of leading groups in branches of the regiment. Many comrades have played a useful role in the struggle after their withdrawal from the conservative organization.

We are deeply aware that in the present great proletarian cultural revolution every victory scored by us is a victory for the great, invincible and boundlessly brilliant thought of Mao Tse-tung. At the same time, we also deeply feel that the victory we have scored at the moment is but the first step in the long march, and that work will be much harder in the future. We have not studied Chairman Mao's writings as we should and have not done enough to bring them into "application." There are still quite a number of shortcomings in our work to win over, educate and unite the deceived masses.

Today, as we commemorate the 10th anniversary of the publication of Chairman Mao's "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People," we are resolved to hold higher the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought, make further effort in the creative study and application of this illustrious article of Chairman Mao's, follow his teachings, make a strict distinction between the two different types of contradictions, correctly handle contradictions among the people, further unite the great majority, closely integrate

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 this unit, and carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end.

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