

EXCLUSIONISM--FACTIONALISM'S PRIME SYMPTOM

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[NEW ANHWEI DAILY 18 January editorial: "Exclusionism Is the Most Outstanding Symptom of Factionalism"]

[Text] Factionalism is like a malignant political epidemic, and its most noticeable symptom is exclusionism. Exclusionism is a reactionary phenomenon that runs counter to the principles of the proletarian party spirit. In other words, it is the Philistine style of bourgeois policy: taking sides with those who serve our interests and fighting against those who do not serve our interests. The practice of excluding others is conspicuous among some comrades in our revolutionary ranks who are seriously infected with factionalism.

In regard to the revolutionary great alliance, they always adopt the stand of "egoism" and look after the interests of their own group. In order to achieve power, they regard the other revolutionary mass organizations as conservative forces and enemies. They outwardly advocate the idea of forming alliances, but in practice they attempt either to destroy the other organizations or to assimilate them.

In launching revolutionary mass criticism and repudiation, they are always bent on fighting by themselves and are unwilling to fight shoulder to shoulder with other revolutionary mass organizations; they even go so far as to guard closely their own information, because they are afraid that a single word might be revealed to the other side.

The object of such behavior is to increase their own prestige, put the other side in an awkward position, and demonstrate to others that only the general orientation of their own group is absolutely correct.

In dealing with the question of cadres, they never bother to make a class analysis or act on Chairman Mao's cadre policy. Instead, they use factionalism as the only criterion for appraising cadres. In regard to those who are to be overthrown by the revolutionary mass organizations, they immediately give them high-sounding titles such as "revolutionary leading cadres," and they spare no efforts to put them in a good position. In regard to those who are to be emancipated by the revolutionary mass organizations, they indiscriminately label them capitalist-roaders, unhorse them, and have them step aside. They use cadres as "ammunition" to hit, exclude, and destroy the other side.

In dealing with comrades from the revolutionary mass organizations, they go to great lengths to round up materials to attack them instead of providing them with sincere solicitude, affection, and support. Furthermore, they collect information on the shortcomings and mistakes of others, exaggerate them without limit, and elevate them to the level of principles. What they really want to do is destroy others and increase their own prestige.

They will not allow anyone in their own organization to criticize them. They regard those who support their ideas as intimate friends. Those who dare to act on Chairman Mao's instructions, adhere to the party spirit, and criticize them are called "elements with ulterior motives" and "spies sent by the other side." They adopt all possible means to vilify and exclude them. [words indistinct] There are countless cases such as those mentioned above.

The exclusionist nature of factionalism is actually an expression of the reactionary bourgeois ideas of "suspecting all, negating all, excluding all, and overthrowing all." It appears that they never suspect, negate, exclude and overthrow themselves. If they do not abandon this wrong course, they will inevitably drift to the wrong side, and in the long run they themselves will be suspected, negated, excluded, and overthrown. Isn't it true that many cases such as this exist?

The exclusionist nature of factionalism does great harm to revolution. Chairman Mao has pointed out in his work "Rectify the Party's Style of Work": "Sectarian tendencies in internal relations lead to exclusiveness toward comrades inside the party and hinder inner-party unity and solidarity, while sectarian tendencies in external relations lead to exclusiveness toward people outside the party and hinder the party in its task of uniting the whole people. Only by supporting this evil in both its aspects can the party advance unimpeded in its great task of achieving unity among all party comrades and among all the people of our country."

If this evil is not uprooted, it will seriously split our revolutionary ranks, demoralize our revolutionary organizations, weaken our fighting spirit, undermine the consolidation and development of our revolutionary great alliance, and obstruct the realization of the revolutionary three-way alliance. It will also be impossible for us to carry out the revolutionary mass criticism and repudiation and the "struggle-criticism-transformation" task in depth. If we do not uproot the evil of factionalism, it will be impossible for us to carry out the great proletarian cultural revolution smoothly.

Chairman Mao has repeatedly taught us: "We must work conscientiously to unite with all those who can be united. The proletariat must emancipate not only itself but also mankind as a whole. Without emancipating the whole of mankind, the proletariat cannot finally emancipate itself." This instruction must be borne in mind forever by all our comrades.

Comrades seriously infected with bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism must regard the process of conquering factionalism and strengthening the proletarian party spirit as a process of creatively studying and applying Mao Tse-tung's thought, combating self-interest and repudiating revisionism, destroying self-interest and establishing complete devotion to public interest, and fostering the communist world outlook of emancipating all of mankind. Through this process we can become stalwart proletarian fighters with the determination to emancipate all of mankind.