

Shanghai City Service in Mandarin 0000 GMT 30 Jan 68 B

[Text] The 30 January LIBERATION DAILY carries an editorial entitled "It is impermissible to bring factionalism into the revolutionary committees," with subtitle "The revolutionary committees in the course of struggle should set up proletarian authority." It says:

Under the direction of Chairman Mao's policy on the revolutionary three-way alliance, many units in various troops of the city have set up revolutionary committees. One of the militant tasks confronting these newborn revolutionary committees is to arm themselves with the invincible thought of Mao Tse-tung and continue their resolute, uncompromising struggle with bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism. This reactionary social trend must not be permitted to run amok in the proletarian power organs.

Recently, the proletarian revolutionaries and revolutionary masses fought a people's war of "encirclement and suppression" against factionalism. The setting up of a larger number of revolutionary committees is the result of victories in the strengthening of party spirit and overcoming factionalism. However, would this thing, this factionalism, become exhausted? Never! Class enemies still exist, and they will try in every way to inflame factionalism for the purpose of sowing dissension, splitting our ranks, and subverting our political power. On this question, we must never relax the required vigilance.

Furthermore, bourgeois and petty-bourgeois ideas still exist. This is the foundation for the birth and development of factionalism. If our comrades do not pay serious attention to remolding their world outlook or solving the contradiction between self-interest and public interest, if they cannot vigorously destroy self-interest and give complete ascendancy to public interest, then it is quite possible for them to pick up factionalism and bring it into the revolutionary committees.

Proletarian fighting headquarters lead the masses in their struggle with class enemies. Such proletarian fighting headquarters and bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism are as irreconcilable as fire and water. If we permit factionalism to go unchecked, the revolutionary committees will not have a united will, united action, or united discipline. How can such revolutionary committees lead the masses in the struggle against class enemies?

If factionalism is allowed to develop unchecked, there is the possibility of a second split. Such a condition has already existed in individual units. Some people will criticize others on a certain point, discarding all other considerations, whenever things are not favorable to their own faction. They will kick up a big fuss and attack others with all their might. They will not hesitate to go at such lengths as would topple their revolutionary committee. Can we permit the appearance of such subversive elements?

The editorial adds: This reactionary thing, factionalism, has very greatly hampered the realization of the revolutionary great alliance and the revolutionary three-way alliance. If it is allowed to continue, it will gravely hinder the consolidation of the new political power. Its reactionary nature is particularly prominent.

If the comrades afflicted with the chronic disease of factionalism are unwilling to submit to medical treatment and keep on with their mistakes, listening to nobody's words, accepting nobody's opinion, and continuing to engage in factional activities, they can be very easily exploited by the class enemies and led onto the wrong path of opposing the proletarian headquarters.

Over 20 years ago, Chairman Mao pointed out to us the danger of asserting independence against the party. Chang Kuo-tao was one of those asserting such independence, and, as a result, he became a renegade and a special agent. Comrades with the chronic disease of factionalism must pay attention to this danger.

Of course, in opposing factionalism, we do not mean the forbidding of opinions different from ours in order to preserve the vulgar style of perfect harmony. Different opinions should be fully and vividly debated, and mistakes or shortcomings should be unreservedly criticized. However, this kind of debate and criticism must conform to a principle: primary consideration should be given to the interests of the people, but not that of individuals or small groups. Such debate and criticism are the manifestation of party spirit which should be encouraged.

The editorial says in conclusion: the struggle against bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism is a protracted task. The newborn revolutionary committees must be on guard against the corrosion the reactionary trend of factionalism. We must wage unrelenting and uncompromising struggles against this reactionary trend as soon as it rears its head. We must incessantly strengthen our fighting power and set up proletarian authority in the course of struggle.