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[WEN HUI PAO 29 January editorial: "On the Obstinate Nature of Factionalism"]

[Text] Bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism is not only reactionary but also obstinate. All comrades should realize that some units and localities were involved in "civil war" for a considerably long period of time on account of factionalism, while factionalism in certain units and places have not yet been wiped out or discredited. As a result, factionalism is still quite rampant there.

It is wrong for us to believe that factionalism can be eliminated easily. In localities where the great revolutionary alliance has in the main been formed, "business deals" have been made by those who stirred up factionalism; they outwardly insisted on wiping out the mountain-stronghold mentality but actually hoisted the flag of small-group mentality so they could raise high the banner of factionalism when the condition is ripe and again split the revolutionary ranks.

Is factionalism inactive where revolutionary committees have already been established? No. Instead of taking a rest and stepping down from the historical stage, factionalism will most likely challenge the newly born red political power again. Is it not true that, due to the rekindling of factionalism, various factions have emerged in places where revolutionary committees have been formed, dragging the revolutionary great alliance and revolutionary three-way alliance to the brink of a split? Taking advantage of certain shortcomings and mistakes in work committed by the revolutionary committees of certain units, persons imbued with factionalism have once again raised a hue and cry and have gone all-out in making slanders; they replaced normal criticism and self-criticism with factionalist struggle.

What is worthy of our attention is the fact that, under the current conditions, some persons have taken over the "antifactionalism" slogan and covered up their own factionalism by calling on others to overthrow factionalism. They specialize in overthrowing factionalism of other groups, but they never allow others to touch their own factionalism. They become very indignant whenever their own factionalism is touched by others.

In a word, factionalism prepares for a stubborn resistance under the mighty attack by the revolutionary masses. Factionalism immediately disguises itself as soon as the first camouflage is laid bare; whenever a method fails, a new one is immediately adopted; when there is no hope on one certain issue, a new problem is to be immediately brought up; having suffered defeat at one stage, factionalism waits for the opportunity to find a new breach to fan the flames of disorder so as to stir up new disturbances.

We must attach importance to the new forms of factionalism and prepare ourselves to continuously struggle against it. It can be said with certainty that no matter what forms of factionalism they may use, those imbued with it will inevitably be exposed. The reason is quite simple. Since they advocate the ideas of factionalism, they cannot help speaking the language of factionalism, committing the deeds of factionalism, and acting along the path of factionalism. What they are suffering is the disease of "obstinate" factionalism.

Bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism is a trend of reactionary idea in society. Our struggle against bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism actually represents an important part of the struggle between two classes, two roads, and two lines in the [words indistinct] sphere. As for the comrades who insist that the struggle against factionalism is nothing but a struggle between two different lines, they must realize that should they continue to do so, they will consciously or unconsciously take the stand of the bourgeois reactionary line to stubbornly oppose the proletarian revolutionary line. As a result they stand on the side of the enemy.

Obstinate factionalism is not a disease physically. It is actually an ideological disease originating from self-interest. In a certain sense, it is more difficult to overthrow self-interest in one's own mind than to fight against a handful of capitalist-roaders. Therefore, to cure some persons imbued with factionalism it is necessary for us to make great efforts. However, this does not mean that persons suffering from obstinate factionalism are incurable. They can be cured through many different means.

We are deeply convinced that, so long as we implement Chairman Mao's latest instructions without delay, trust the majority of the masses, and handle those suffering from obstinate factionalism through criticism, assistance, and education, the overwhelming majority of them can definitely stand on the side of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line. Now the broad masses of the people have clearly perceived the reactionary nature of factionalism, whereas the backward ones are making vigorous efforts to catch up with the advanced. Such efforts have become an irresistible current. The handful of persons pursuing factionalism will surely find themselves in ever greater straits and become more isolated.

The proletarian party spirit will surely defeat bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism. We can find good examples in this aspect from the forming of great revolutionary alliance and revolutionary "three-way" alliance in many units of Shanghai which had unfinished and difficult problems in the past. Under the new situation of striving for all-around victory in the great proletarian cultural revolution, our struggle against bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism is an important question of whether or not we should carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end or abandon it halfway, of whether we should tread along the road of socialism or capitalism, and of whether we should consolidate and strengthen the proletarian dictatorship or split and disintegrate it.

Having understood this important point, all proletarian revolutionaries must carry the struggle against bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism through to the end. All proletarian revolutionaries must unite to carry forward the revolutionary acumen of the proletariat and overthrow bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism lock, stock, and barrel!