

Chairman Mao's "March 7" Directive Guides Victorious Advance of Great Cultural Revolution in Peking Schools

UNDER the guidance of the great leader Chairman Mao's "March 7" directive on giving military and political training to revolutionary teachers and students, the great proletarian cultural revolution in Peking's schools has been highly successful during the past year.

In his directive of March 7, 1967, the great leader Chairman Mao said: "The army should give military and political training in the universities, middle schools and the higher classes of primary schools, stage by stage and group by group. It should help in re-opening school classes, strengthening organization, setting up the leading bodies on the principle of the 'three-in-one' combination and carrying out the task of 'struggle-criticism-transformation.' It should first make experiments at selected points and acquire experience and then popularize it step by step."

He also said: "Sending army cadres to train revolutionary teachers and students is an excellent measure. It makes a world of difference whether there is such training. Through this training, they can learn from the Liberation Army, they can learn politics, military affairs, the 'four-firsts,'¹ the 'three-eight' working style² and the Three Main Rules of Discipline and the Eight Points for Attention,³ and strengthen their sense of organization and discipline."

In response to Chairman Mao's great call, the headquarters of the different services and branches of the P.L.A. and units under the Peking Command sent out large numbers of commanders and fighters to give military and political training to revolutionary teachers and students. In the past year, they have actively implemented the "March 7" directive and vigorously propagated Mao Tse-tung's thought. Mao Tse-tung's thought study classes have been widely instituted and Chairman Mao's latest series of instructions are being carried out in an all-round way. As a result, the schools and colleges have undergone a fundamental change politically. So far, 834 primary schools, 385 middle schools and a number of universities and colleges, involving a total of more than a million teachers and students, have received such training under the unified leadership and organization of the Peking Garrison's general headquarters for military and political training. As a result, revolutionary great alliances have been realized in all these primary and

middle schools and revolutionary committees have been set up in 98 per cent of them. This has also been achieved in a number of universities and colleges.

With proletarian feelings of boundless love for, confidence in, esteem for and loyalty to Chairman Mao, the commanders and fighters taking part in giving military and political training, together with the revolutionary teachers, students and school workers, have implemented and defended Chairman Mao's "March 7" directive. They have overcome many obstacles and swept away interference from the Right or the extreme "Left" in the course of the acute struggle between the two lines.

In carrying out the "March 7" directive, the P.L.A. men began by helping the revolutionary teachers and students stand firm against the onslaught of the reactionary trends arising from bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism, which aimed at splitting the revolutionary ranks. Then they guided the revolutionary teachers and students in unfolding a mass exposure and repudiation of the bourgeois reactionary line created by China's Khrushchov. This helped to heighten to a great extent the proletarian consciousness and the awareness of the struggle between the two lines on the part of the revolutionary teachers, students and workers who are directing their spearhead at this top capitalist roader in the Party.

The P.L.A. men made a comprehensive and penetrating scientific analysis of the two opposing groups of mass organizations in the middle schools. They maintained that both groups were proletarian revolutionaries who had courageously fought against the bourgeois reactionary line. There was no conflict of fundamental interests among them.

Chairman Mao teaches: "So long as both sides are revolutionary mass organizations, they should bring about a revolutionary great alliance in accordance with revolutionary principles." Following this instruction, the P.L.A. men helped the revolutionary teachers and students set up Mao Tse-tung's thought study classes at which they rid themselves of factionalism and enhanced the proletarian Party spirit through fighting self and repudiating revisionism. This resulted in the forging of revolutionary great alliances on the basis of classes or grades in all Peking's middle schools.

Likewise, the primary schools and some colleges have also formed revolutionary great alliances with the help of the army-men assigned to these schools. The other colleges are racing to catch up with them.

In carrying out Chairman Mao's "March 7" directive, a key issue was to encourage revolutionary leading cadres in schools and colleges to step forward and make revolution so as to set up leading bodies on the principle of the "three-in-one" combination. The army-men helped the cadres study and apply Mao Tse-tung's thought in a creative way in the course of mass struggle, encouraging them to make revolution consciously and examine and correct their mistakes in a thoroughgoing way. At the same time, the army-men explained Chairman Mao's cadre policy to the students, urging them to **have faith in and rely on the majority of the cadres.** And they encouraged the latter to shoulder their revolutionary responsibilities as cadres.

In order to win all-round victory in the great proletarian cultural revolution in schools, the army-men helped the revolutionary teachers and students to reopen classes and to carry forward the proletarian revolution in education. Following Chairman Mao's teaching "**put destruction first, and in the process you have construction,**" the revolutionary teachers and students launched a mass movement to repudiate the counter-revolutionary revisionist line in education pushed by China's Khrushchov. On this basis, lessons were resumed. At the same time, content and methods of teaching are being transformed and the students and teachers are summing up their experience and raising it to higher levels through the process of "**practice, knowledge, again practice, and again knowledge**" as Chairman Mao teaches.

Arising from the preliminary experience gained from practice in struggle, committees based on the school class have been set up in many middle schools. They consist of revolutionary students, teachers, workers and cadres. Proletarian politics is now put to the fore, and the revisionist concept of "putting academic study above everything else," which represented the bourgeois orientation, is being eliminated. As part of the democratization of teaching, the old method of teaching and studying by cramming has given way to teaching and studying through enquiry and reasoning things out. Both teachers and students give lectures and, in this way, teach and learn from each other with the result that the quality of teaching and study is improved. As regards content, all that is feudal, bourgeois and revisionist is being thrown out, and Mao Tse-tung's thought is being vigorously established. Chairman Mao's works are used as basic teaching material for the arts courses and Mao Tse-tung's thought is put in command in compiling and editing new teaching material for the science courses.

In accordance with Vice-Chairman Lin Piao's instructions on the creative study and application of Mao Tse-tung's thought, the army-men have been educating the revolutionary teachers and students in loyalty to

Chairman Mao, to Mao Tse-tung's thought and to his proletarian revolutionary line and in having boundless love for, faith in, esteem for and devotion to Chairman Mao. A mass movement was launched to expose and condemn the towering crimes of fiercely opposing Mao Tse-tung's thought committed by China's Khrushchov and the handful of other top capitalist roaders in the Party. P.L.A. heroes have been invited to speak on their experiences in creatively studying and applying Mao Tse-tung's thought and in revolutionizing themselves ideologically. As for the army-men on military and political training duties, they always take the lead in revealing their selfish ideas and fighting self, thus passing on the good traditions of the P.L.A. to the schools.

As a result of all this, the revolutionary teachers and students have become very keen about studying Mao Tse-tung's thought. A system of regular daily study has been widely introduced and innumerable groups and classes for studying Mao Tse-tung's thought have been formed. Thousands of outstanding activists in the study of Chairman Mao's works have come to the fore.

Chairman Mao teaches: "**To make the policy of the Party the policy of the masses requires effort, long and persistent effort, unrelenting and strenuous, patient and painstaking effort. Without such effort, we shall achieve nothing.**" The year's struggle shows that the P.L.A. men assigned the task of giving military and political training in Peking have followed this teaching in an exemplary way. They are determined to hold still higher the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought and work still harder to ensure the all-round implementation of Chairman Mao's "March 7" directive.

NOTES

¹ The "four-firsts" are: First place must be given to man in handling the relationship between man and weapons; to political work in handling the relationship between political and other work; to ideological work in relation to routine tasks in political work; and, in ideological work, to the living ideas in a person's mind, as distinguished from ideas in books. That is to say, first place to man, first place to political work, first place to ideological work and first place to living ideas.

² The "three-eight" working style: The Chinese P.L.A., under the leadership of the Communist Party and Chairman Mao, has fostered a fine tradition. This fine tradition is summed up by Chairman Mao in three phrases and eight additional characters, meaning firm, correct political orientation; a plain, hard-working style; flexibility in strategy and tactics; and unity, alertness, earnestness and liveliness.

³ Chairman Mao laid down the following rules of discipline for the P.L.A. **The Three Main Rules of Discipline** are: a) Obey orders in all your actions; b) Do not take a single needle or piece of thread from the masses; and c) Turn in everything captured. **The Eight Points for Attention** are: a) Speak politely; b) Pay fairly for what you buy; c) Return everything you borrow; d) Pay for anything you damage; e) Do not hit or swear at people; f) Do not damage crops; g) Do not take liberties with women; and h) Do not ill-treat captives.