

THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND CHINA'S YOUTH  
Peiping, Chung-kuo Ch'ing-nien-pao, 12 July 1966

[From an editorial entitled, "Strive To Be Steadfast  
Revolutionary Left-Wingers."]

The broad masses of the YCL members and the young people demanding revolution must strive to be steadfast revolutionary left-wingers of the proletariat.

Steadfast revolutionary left-wingers of the proletariat -- this is a high standard. This standard requires us to adopt firmly the proletarian standpoint, to fight all our lives for the greatest interests of the overwhelming majority of the people, and not to waver at any time, under whatever circumstances and in face of the enemy, however fierce and sly he may be. In order to be such revolutionaries, we must display a strong class feeling and a high degree of revolutionary awareness, read Chairman Mao's books, heed what Chairman Mao says, work according to Chairman Mao's instructions, and be Chairman Mao's good fighters...

The growth of the revolutionary youths must also undergo Marxist education. In order to become self-conscious revolutionaries, to know the classes and class struggle and the revolutionary tasks and to march forward steadfastly along the revolutionary road, they must master the thought of Mao Tse-tung...

Young people have not enough social experience and political experience, and they are easy to jump for the bait when confronted by the

treacherous and cunning dog-tricks of the class enemies. However, so long as we firmly adhere to the proletarian standpoint and look through this political telescope and microscope of the thought of Mao Tse-tung, all the plots and tricks of the class enemies can be uncovered...

The revolutionary left-wingers must carry out the struggle with unremitting effort. They must neither be misled by the fair words of the enemies nor cowed by the enemies baring their claws and teeth. They must forever remain steadfast in the struggle.

The steadfast revolutionary left-wingers of the proletariat must support and trust the party according to Chairman Mao's instructions and carry out work according to party policies...

The steadfast revolutionary left-wingers of the proletariat must unite the overwhelming majority of the masses and isolate the few enemies according to Chairman Mao's instructions. Chairman Mao has repeatedly taught us: "The people, only the people, are the motive force creating world history." He said that "the masses are genuine heroes" and "are really the wall of iron and bronze."

In the great cultural revolution, the steadfast guideline of the party is to freely arouse the masses. All revolutionary left-wingers must trust and rely upon the masses. They must be fierce to the enemies and mild to their own people. Within the revolutionary forces, it is necessary to unite not only those who agree with us but also those who disagree with us.

Sometimes, because the masses are deceived, the left-wingers may be gloriously "isolated" for a time. However, even under such a circumstance, we must also steadfastly believe that the overwhelming majority of the masses want revolution. Provided we patiently conduct education through persuasion, the masses will certainly awake and the deception of the enemies will certainly be exposed.

In the case of those who have made wrong statements or done wrong things, we must, according to the formula of unity/criticism/unity, help them overcome their shortcomings and rectify their mistakes. Among them, many persons -- who have been educated with the thought of Mao Tse-tung under the leadership of the party and have steeled and earnestly remolded themselves in practical struggle -- also can become revolutionary left-wingers.

Those who have no confidence in the masses cannot remain steadfast forever in the revolutionary struggle. The steadfast revolutionary left-wingers must, together with the overwhelming majority of the masses, build a revolutionary wall of iron and bronze to combat the enemies...

The revolutionary left-wingers among the youths have not enough political experience, are inadequately tempered in struggle, and have not much contact with the masses of the workers, peasants and soldiers. With

the struggle rapidly developing, there are many new problems and things. If they do not intensify the flexible study and application of the thought of Mao Tse-tung and if they slacken the struggle for the promotion of the proletariat and the destruction of the bourgeoisie in their brains, they cannot remain steadfast forever in the protracted, complex class struggle...