

CADRES SHOULD UNITE WITH MASSES

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[From a reprint of a 24 June Chieh-fang-Jih-pao Editorial,
"Do Not Be Separated from the Masses for a Single Moment."]

"Serve the people wholeheartedly, and do not be separated from the masses for a single moment." Can the revolution win? And can the victory be consolidated? One of the keys to these questions is whether we can follow this teaching from Chairman Mao and unite with the masses closely.

In the current great proletarian cultural revolution, the proletarian revolutionaries of Shanghai, creatively studying and applying Chairman Mao's works and closely uniting with the broad revolutionary masses, have won a great victory in the struggle to seize power. At present, the revolutionary situation in Shanghai is excellent. We should highly treasure this excellent

situation. But we must not feel elated and be satisfied with the status quo. Treasuring the excellent situation means developing an even higher spirit of revolutionary rebellion and making new contributions to the great proletarian cultural revolution.

An important problem that is now placed before us is how to further creatively study and apply Chairman Mao's works, continue to unite with the masses closely, keep and use power well, and carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end.

To obstruct the progress of the great cultural revolution, the class enemy, unwilling to die, are trying by every possible means to corrupt, with bourgeois thought and style of work, our cadres and the responsible persons of revolutionary mass organizations, in an effort to sabotage the relations between the cadres and responsible persons of revolutionary mass organizations and the masses. This is an important aspect of the present struggle between the two classes, two roads, and two lines.

In "Some Regulations Laid Down by Shantung Provincial Revolutionary Committee Concerning Serious Change of Style of Work," this question is opportunely brought up and certain concrete provisions are made. This document and the article, "Prevent Erosion by Bourgeois Thought," by a Hung-ch'i magazine commentator, together constitute a sharp weapon with which we may unite closely with the masses and wage a struggle against the class enemy. They deserve to be seriously studied by the proletarian revolutionaries of Shanghai, particularly by members of the revolutionary committees at various levels and the responsible persons of various revolutionary committees at various levels and the responsible persons of various revolutionary mass organizations. A decision in this respect has already been taken by the Shanghai Municipal Revolutionary Committee. Members of revolutionary committees at various levels and responsible persons of various revolutionary mass organizations should act immediately to produce marked results in changing their style of work and closely uniting with the masses.

To unite with the masses closely, it is necessary first to become one with the masses in thought, thinking what they think and sharing their anxieties and worries. At present, it is the pressing hope of the broad revolutionary masses to bring about a revolutionary grand alliance and revolutionary "three-way combination" through big criticism and repudiation, carry out successfully struggle, criticism, and reform in one's own unit, and carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end. A power-holding comrade who wants to unite closely with the masses must fully reflect this demand by the revolutionary masses for continuous revolution, stand at the front of the masses, and lead them in carrying the great cultural revolution through to the end. If we set aside the current task of struggle, busy ourselves in fighting "civil war," and indulge in individualism and small "mountain stronghold" tendencies, then we shall surely be separated from the masses.

We should regularly go into the masses, struggle together with them, and imbibe the revolutionary fervor of the masses. Chairman Mao teaches us: "A very great socialist activism is concealed in the masses." To go regularly among the masses, listen to their views, set aside some time in which to receive personally visitors from the masses and deal with letters from them, and take part in labor together with them -- all these are not just trivial matters that make no difference at all whether they are done or not, but an important way by which to realize a union with the masses ideologically.

To unite closely with the masses, it is necessary to treat correctly the relationship between the individual and the masses. Chairman Mao teaches us: "It is the people, and the people alone, who constitute the motive force for creating world history." This is the most fundamental principle of historical materialism. If the leading members of a revolutionary committee or the responsible persons of revolutionary mass organizations exaggerate the role they play as individuals, and do not try to stop others who are blowing their own trumpet by putting up big-character slogans, having themselves photographed, and giving themselves publicity in the press, thinking that these things are natural, that will show that they do not know this fundamental principle of historical materialism. Such a state of affairs, if allowed to develop unchecked, will surely lead to the evil consequence of separation from the masses.

To unite with the masses closely, it is necessary to be humble and careful, and listen attentively to various different views. When winning an initial victory in the revolution and particularly after seizing power, a revolutionary who is not careful will become conceited and think himself infallible in everything. Some comrades are elated by flattery but are disconcerted by critical views. Some even become cooler and cooler toward their comrades-in-arms who firmly uphold the spirit of revolutionary rebellion. This is a very dangerous beginning.

To unite with the masses closely, it is also necessary to become one with the masses in everyday life. Problems of everyday life are certainly not trifles. It is often in everyday life that the bourgeoisie tries to corrupt a revolutionary. Once a breach is made in the life of a revolutionary he will inevitably go astray politically. Shanghai is a big city where material amenities are good. Here it is all the more important to live in hardship and simplicity. If one is eager to have motor cars, leather-upholstered sofas, and such things, one will be in danger of being "peacefully evolved." In the ranks of proletarian revolutionaries, some responsible persons lack prolonged training in labor, and others are intellectuals who have just left school. They do not deeply realize the hardship that accompanies labor and the difficulty that goes with the production of food and clothing. These comrades must pay particular attention to guarding the pass of everyday life, so that they may wage a tit-for-tat struggle against the class enemy.

In order to unite with the masses closely, it is necessary to lay down certain regulations governing work and everyday life. But these regulations alone are not enough. The masses must also be urged to carry out supervision over members of revolutionary committee of various levels and responsible persons of various revolutionary mass organizations. Extensive blooming and contending, big-character posters, and big debates are not only weapons for struggle against power-holders in the Party who follow the capitalist road, but also weapons for supervising power-holding comrades and preventing the genesis and spread of revisionism. In some units the number of big-character posters has dropped greatly after power changed hands. That is an abnormal phenomenon. We must rouse ourselves, continue to promote the spirit of continuous revolution, and, wielding the four major weapons, supervise and assist the power-holding comrades. For their part, the power-holding comrades should creatively study and apply Chairman Mao's works, humbly accept the criticism and supervision of the masses, and continuously reform their own world outlook. Only by doing so will the power-holding comrades be able to maintain close ties with the masses always and carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the very end.