

Treat Young Revolutionary Fighters Correctly

OUR great leader Chairman Mao has pointed out: "The young people are the most active and vital force in society. They are the most eager to learn and the least conservative in their thinking. This is especially so in the era of socialism."

The great proletarian cultural revolution initiated and led by Chairman Mao personally is training millions of young revolutionary fighters. The successors to the revolutionary cause of the proletariat are tempering themselves in the great storms of the class struggle.

Great numbers of young revolutionary fighters, who have grown strong and been nurtured by Mao Tse-tung's thought, are Chairman Mao's most loyal Red Guards. They have boundless love for Chairman Mao and are infinitely loyal to the great thought of Mao Tse-tung. Standing on Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line, they have struck hard at the bourgeois reactionary line, relentlessly rebelled against a handful of Party people in authority taking the capitalist road, vigorously destroyed the four olds (old ideas, culture, customs and habits) of the exploiting classes and fostered the four news (new ideas, culture, customs and habits) of the proletariat, contributing immortal exploits to the great proletarian cultural revolution in our country.

Now, in the new stage in which the proletarian revolutionaries are joining forces and bringing about the revolutionary "three-in-one" combination to seize power from a handful of Party people in authority taking the capitalist road, the young revolutionary fighters have made new exploits and new contributions.

Together with the worker and peasant masses, they have thoroughly foiled the latest counter-attack by the bourgeois reactionary line and have become revolutionary pathbreakers in the struggle to seize power from a handful of Party people in authority taking the capitalist road.

They have actively conducted exchanges of revolutionary experience on a big scale, forged the great alliance of proletarian revolutionaries, united with the broad revolutionary masses, and formed a mighty force of the cultural revolution.

They have creatively studied and applied Chairman Mao's works, implemented Chairman Mao's policy on cadres, and brought about the revolutionary "three-in-one" combination by carrying out the principle that "early or late, all who make revolution deserve equal treatment."

In a fine display of precious revolutionary consciousness and creativeness, they have, at the time of decisive battle between the two classes, put forward the revolutionary slogan that "while seizing power from a handful of Party people in authority taking the capitalist road, seize power from the concept of self-interest in our own minds." Taking Mao Tse-tung's thought as the weapon, they have overcome non-proletarian ideas, and greatly strengthened the revolutionary spirit, scientific approach and sense of organization and discipline of the vast revolutionary ranks of the proletariat.

They have bravely defended Chairman Mao's policy of revolutionary "three-in-one" combination and dealt staggering blows to the adverse current for capitalist restoration.

Nobody can write off the heroic deeds of the young revolutionary fighters. They are a worthy shock force of the great proletarian cultural revolution and they have embodied the general orientation of the revolution from the very beginning.

Of course, it is also necessary to make a class analysis of the young revolutionary fighters.

Since old China was a country with vast numbers of petty bourgeoisie, all kinds of petty-bourgeois and bourgeois trends of thought inevitably find expression in the ranks of the young revolutionary fighters.

At the present time of decisive battle between the two classes and two lines, the class struggle is extraordinarily acute. In these circumstances, such non-proletarian ideas as the tendency to seek the limelight, small-group mentality, anarchism and individualism will also be reflected in the ranks of the young revolutionary fighters. This is not at all strange. Because they lack experience in struggle, they are politically immature, and they are not good enough at making a class ana-

lysis of things, therefore, at a turning point in the development of the revolution, some revolutionaries tend to make this or that mistake. If young revolutionary fighters fail to boldly face their own shortcomings and mistakes and instead let various kinds of non-proletarian ideas inundate their minds, they are in danger of being used by the class enemy.

It must be pointed out that as regards the millions of young revolutionary fighters who have breached and stormed the enemy citadels in the great proletarian cultural revolution, their essence and the main current are good. With regard to the non-proletarian ideas existing in their ranks, we should actively and patiently guide them to overcome these ideas by means of proletarian ideology. At the same time, we should have the conviction that the young revolutionary fighters, who have grown up and been nurtured by Mao Tse-tung's thought, can certainly educate and liberate themselves. Whoever fails to see this will make a big blunder.

How to treat young revolutionary fighters involves the questions of how to assess the struggle between the two lines in the past few months, how to treat the mass movement of the great proletarian cultural revolution, the question of class stand, whether to stand on the side of Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line or on the side of the bourgeois reactionary line, and the important question of whether or not to train and bring up successors to the proletarian revolutionary cause. To negate the young revolutionary fighters is to negate the great proletarian cultural revolution. To attack the young revolutionary fighters is to attack the great proletarian cultural revolution.

At present, an adverse current has emerged in society which is aimed at a counter-revolutionary restoration of capitalism. A handful of Party people in authority taking the capitalist road are using tricks and plotting against young revolutionary fighters. They sow discord among them, pulling one section to their side and attacking another in a vain attempt to split the ranks of the young revolutionary fighters and lead them astray.

At the same time, like a thief crying "stop thief," they are trying to attack the young revolutionary fighters by shifting the blame on them for the reactionary policy of "hit hard at many in order to protect a handful" on the question of cadres which the few people, who advanced the bourgeois reactionary line, consistently advocated. They work hand in glove with ghosts and monsters in society to seize on some shortcomings and mistakes of the young revolutionary fighters to attack them for a particular fault without considering the whole, so as to negate completely the general orientation of the young revolutionary fighters and even manipulate the already collapsed conservative organizations to try to reverse the previous decisions and again label some of the young revolutionary fighters "counter-revolutionaries." They are doing this to oppose the proletarian revolutionary line of Chairman Mao and negate the great achievement made so far in the great proletarian cultural revolution. We must resolutely rebuff this adverse current and thoroughly smash it!

Some cadres carried out the bourgeois reactionary line and thus stood opposed to the young revolutionary fighters. Most of these cadres now have returned or are returning to the side of Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line, standing shoulder to shoulder with the young revolutionary fighters. However, there are a small number of cadres who still feel offended by the young revolutionary fighters for having criticized, repudiated and struggled against their own mistakes, and are sceptical about the latter's general orientation. They even harbour a sense of antagonism against the young fighters. If they persist in doing so, the nature of the contradiction may then be transformed and this would be very dangerous.

All revolutionary cadres must step forward and, together with the young revolutionary fighters and revolutionary masses, take an active part in criticizing and repudiating that part of the bourgeois reactionary line which advocates "hitting hard at many in order to protect a handful," to direct the spearhead of struggle against the handful of Party people in authority taking the capitalist road and against the top Party person in authority taking the capitalist road.

The struggle waged by the proletarian revolutionaries to seize power from the handful of Party people in authority taking the capitalist road is a decisive battle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. The struggle is fierce, and there will still be zigzags and reversals. However, the class enemy's frenzy only shows that he is in a death-bed struggle, and it will never amount to much! He is doomed to failure! "Plum blossoms welcome the whirling snow; small wonder flies freeze and perish." Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line will definitely triumph!

Young revolutionary fighters, you must understand deeply that you have a great historic mission in this great proletarian cultural revolution. You must always be loyal to Chairman Mao and the proletarian revolutionary line of Chairman Mao. You must be more diligent in creatively studying and applying the works of Chairman Mao, and modestly learn from the revolutionary veteran cadres and the great People's Liberation Army. You must be one with the worker and peasant masses, eliminate self-interest and foster devotion to public interest and constantly raise your class consciousness and understanding of policy to a higher level. You must dare to stand up for the truth and dare to correct mistakes. You will make new and greater contributions to the struggle to achieve the revolutionary "three-in-one" combination, and succeed in winning victory in the joint struggle to seize power and the complete victory in the great proletarian cultural revolution!

Young revolutionary fighters, closely follow our great supreme commander Chairman Mao in carrying the revolution through to the end!

("Renmin Ribao" editorial, April 2.)