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[Text of LIBERATION DAILY 13 February editorial: "'Hold the banner and grasp the guiding principle'--third comment on the need for revolutionary committees to establish revolutionary authority in the struggle"]

[Text] Chairman Mao recently instructed that "the party organization should be composed of the advanced elements of the proletariat; it should be a vigorous and vital organization of vanguards which can lead the proletariats and the revolutionary masses in struggle against the class enemy." This is the great guiding principle for us to rectify the party organization.

All units in Shanghai that have formed their revolutionary committees should "hold the banner and grasp the guiding principle" to hold high the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought and grasp this great guiding principle for rectifying party organization in order to give the central position in good time to this important work of rectifying the party organization and strengthening party building.

This programmatic instruction given by Chairman Mao is a first-class outline and a great development of the Marxist-Leninist theory on party building and the brilliant reflection of the party spirit of a proletarian revolutionary party. This great instruction is a strong ideological weapon for us to repudiate both the revisionist party-building line of China's Khrushchev and the bourgeois and petty-bourgeois ideologies of all descriptions. Each of us communists and proletarian revolutionary fighters must repeatedly study, deeply understand, and quickly implement it.

This programmatic instruction of Chairman Mao's has clearly defined the character of our party as an organization of vanguards composed of the advanced elements of the proletariat. A proletarian political party is the highest form of class organization of the proletariat and the leadership core for the proletarian revolutionary cause. A successful socialist cause would be impossible without such a core armed with Mao Tse-tung's thought.

The nature of the party is a big question which has a vital bearing on the fate of the party and the success or failure of its cause. This is precisely the reason why opportunists of all descriptions who intend to usurp the party leadership would inevitably seek to first pervert the nature of the party.

However, China's Khrushchev alleged that "the party of China is formed of the wisest and most outstanding men and women of the Chinese nation" and that "it is a vanguard of the Chinese people." Let us see how Khrushchev of Soviet Russia explained "a vanguard of the people." He said: "The communist party of the working class has been built into a vanguard of the people of Soviet Russia, that is a party of the entire people."

A political party has always been a tool in the class struggle. The so-called "party of the entire people" is nothing more than a "party to deceive" which, after the proletariat has been replaced by the bourgeoisie, carries a label of the "entire people" so that it can engage in the business of deceit.

The party spirit is a concentrated expression of the class nature. In order to conduct our affairs in conformity with this instruction of Chairman Mao, we must resolutely take the stand of the proletariat and completely and thoroughly start from the interests of the party and the revolution. We must totally eradicate the bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism, conscientiously grasp well the mass study and mass repudiation of the party-building line, and do will in the most important work of rectifying the party organization and strengthening party building.

The rectification of party organizations and the development of party ranks should be based on this instruction. It should also serve as the criterion for each communist to remold himself and exert his efforts and for each outstanding proletarian revolutionary fighter to steel himself to strive to be a member in the vanguard organization of the proletariat.

This programmatic instruction of Chairman Mao has clearly advanced the task of our party, which is to lead the proletariats and the revolutionary masses in struggle against the class enemy. It is precisely the duty of a communist party to engage in the class struggle. Should it fail to engage in the class struggle and fight against the class enemy it would lose its vitality and end in extinction. Soviet Russia's Khrushchev has frantically promoted the so-called "party of industry" and "party of agriculture." Following in his steps, China's Khrushchev also demanded that our party do away with giving prominence to the proletarian politics. We harangued that we should "manage economy in accordance with the contradictions of economy" and advocated that "with capable personnel, politics will be fine." If we are to be led astray by these two Khrushchev's the proletarian political party would turn out to be a satellite of production and the bourgeoisie and become a revisionist and fascist party.

The Chinese Communist Party under the leadership of Chairman Mao has, since its beginning, consolidated, developed, and strengthened itself in the course of the courageous struggle against enemies at home and abroad and the struggle between the two lines in the party.

In the course of the current of rectifying the party organization and strengthening party building, we must adhere to the great program of Chairman Mao to lead the communists, the nonparty members of proletarian revolutionaries, and the broad revolutionary masses to eradicate all the revisionist black evils spread by the handful of top party capitalist-roaders. All such theories as "the dying out of the class struggle," "peace within the party," "tool of the nation," "the backward masses," "the integration of public and personal interests," and "join the party to become officials" and so on should be totally repudiated and discredited.

In the meantime, we should drag out and sweep away all the renegades, secret agents, and diehard capitalist-roaders hidden in the vanguard organization of the proletariat. The class struggle will not change its course just because the people want it to do so. The class enemies are not asleep. The handful of capitalist-roaders are still not reconciled to their defeat. The secret agents of U.S. imperialism and Soviet revisionism are eager to make their moves. None of the remnant forces of capitalism will step down from the stage of history of its own accord. Communist Party members, nonpartymembers of proletarian revolutionaries, and the broad revolutionary masses must raise their vigilance a hundredfold and wage a fierce fight.

This programmatic instruction of Chairman Mao's has clearly pointed out the necessary flesh-and-blood relationship between the proletarian political party and the broad revolutionary masses. The key to making the party into the leadership core of the revolutionary cause lies in securing the sincere support of the greatest possible numbers of the revolutionary masses. Such sincere support will have to come into being in the fight against the class enemies. Communist Party members should always identify themselves and fight together with the masses and develop their role of a model and backbone.

China's Khrushchev is the biggest of the big lords who stayed aloof from the masses. For many years this big lord also took upon himself the mantle of the party authority to do his utmost to infuse our party members with the mentality of being superior to the people in a vain attempt to serve his purpose of restoring capitalism.

In the course of this current great struggle of rectifying the party organization and strengthening party building, we must thoroughly eradicate the poisonous influence of China's Khrushchev in this field. We must go a step further to improve the relationship between the party and the masses, and adhere to Chairman Mao's revolutionary line to lead a better organizational life of the party and incessantly strengthen the leading role of the party.

This programmatic instruction of Chairman Mao has clearly defined the fighting style of work of our party. A proletarian revolutionary party must be vigorous, vital, and full of fighting vigor. When the proletariat attacks the bourgeoisie the latter surely will launch a counterattack; and this class struggle will inevitably be reflected in the party. The disappearance of contradictions and the ideological struggle waged to solve these contradictions will mean the end of the party life.

It is precisely in the course of the struggle between the proletarian revolutionary line represented by Chairman Mao and the left or right -deviated opportunism that our party has consolidated, developed, and strengthened itself. It is precisely for the purpose of changing the political color of our party that China's Khrushchev has done his utmost to advocate "peace within the party" and promote slavishness. We must totally repudiate and discredit him. It is only by using Chairman Mao's great program to arm the party organizations and party members and continuously draw the revolutionary new blood into the party can we make sure that the party organizations and party members will always be vigorous and vital and keep their revolutionary youth.

The newly born revolutionary committees must immediately grasp the work of rectifying the party organization. They must organize party members and the revolutionary masses to repeatedly study and conscientiously understand this programmatic instruction of Chairman Mao's. They must vigorously grasp the mass study and mass repudiation and rectify party organizations and strengthen party-building in conformity with this great program so as to build our great, glorious, and correct Chinese Communist Party into a more vigorous and vital, purer, and stronger party!