

# People's Army Wins New Merits for the People

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A YEAR ago in January 1967, at the critical moment when the great proletarian cultural revolution entered the stage of struggles to seize power, Chairman Mao, our great supreme commander, issued a militant call to the People's Liberation Army to support the broad masses of the Left. Vice-Chairman Lin Piao also instructed the army "to hold high the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought and to win new merits in the great proletarian cultural revolution". Like other army units, those in our Kweichow Provincial Military Area resolutely carried out these instructions. While ever vigilantly defending our socialist motherland and the dictatorship of the proletariat, we have, in the past year, given active effect to the "three supports"—support for the revolutionary Left, for industry and for agriculture—and the "two militaries"—exercising military control in certain organizations and giving military and political training to students.

## Glorious Tradition of the People's Army

Our heroic people's army was founded personally by Chairman Mao and is under the direct command of Vice-Chairman Lin Piao. In the early days of its founding, Chairman Mao worked out a great programme for building the army. He taught us: "The Chinese Red Army is an armed body for carrying out the political tasks of the revolution" and "The sole purpose of this army is to stand firmly with the Chinese people and to serve them wholeheartedly." For the past 40 years, our army, implementing Chairman Mao's great thinking on army building, has undertaken three major tasks: it is a fighting force and at the same time a working force and a production force. It has maintained and

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developed its glorious tradition of being "soldiers of the people".

Soon after the great proletarian cultural revolution began in 1966, Chairman Mao further instructed us that "The People's Liberation Army should be a great school", that it should "be able to do mass work", and that it should "at all times participate in the struggles of the cultural revolution to criticize the bourgeoisie".

Following Chairman Mao's teaching, we helped commanders and fighters in our Military Area to grasp the significance of the great proletarian cultural revolution and the struggle between the two lines by organizing them to expose and denounce the crimes of the handful of Party persons in authority who took the capitalist road and opposed the Party, socialism and Mao Tse-tung's thought. As a result of this, our commanders and fighters expressed bitter hatred for the handful of capitalist-roaders and the bourgeois reactionary line which this handful had carried out, and gave the firmest support to the proletarian revolutionary line represented by Chairman Mao. They took a correct attitude towards the mass movement and hailed the actions of the proletarian revolutionaries. This explains why, when in January 1967 Chairman Mao issued his call for the army to support the broad masses of the Left, the commanders and fighters were so elated that many of them were moved to tears and shouted "Long live Chairman Mao!"

## Supporting the Left to Seize Power

Early in the summer of 1966, the handful of capitalist-roaders in Kweichow carried out the bourgeois reactionary line and frenziedly suppressed the proletarian revolutionaries. Comrade Li Tsaihan, our deputy political commissar, who was entrusted by the Military Area Party Committee with work in the Provincial Cul-

tural Revolution Group, had waged a determined struggle against the handful and resolutely supported all revolutionary actions by the Left. He established close contact with the young Red Guards from Peking then visiting Kweichow for the exchange of revolutionary experience, and with the mass revolutionary organizations in the province itself. He reported regularly to the Military Area Party Committee and the Cultural Revolution Group under the Party Central Committee in Peking on the progress of the movement. At the same time, the Provincial Military Area sent many cadres to keep in close touch with the revolutionaries in different organizations and set up reception centres to listen to the opinions of the masses. In this way it was able to keep abreast of developments.

When the proletarian revolutionaries of Kweichow rose to criticize the bourgeois reactionary line, the handful of capitalist-roaders, in an attempt to undermine the revolution, fanned up the ill wind of economism. They distributed large sums, ostensibly as "subsidies" and "wage increases". They also incited workers to desert their production posts, creating difficulties in transport and communications. To defend major departments of the national economy and stabilize the market, our Military Area established military control over warehouses, banks and some other institutions. It also sent army trucks to transport supplies, thus guaranteeing the everyday needs of the people. Together with the revolutionary Left, we smashed this counter-revolutionary economism.

On January 25, 1967, Kweichow's proletarian revolutionaries, inspired by Shanghai's "January Revolution", united and seized Party, government, financial and cultural power from the handful of capitalist-roaders in the Kweichow provincial and Kweiyang

municipal Party committees. In this sharp struggle, the commanders and fighters of the Military Area did as Chairman Mao taught and gave unreserved support to the revolutionary Left. After the seizure of power came the establishment of the Kweichow Provincial Revolutionary Committee—a provisional organ of power in the form of a three-in-one combination consisting of representatives of the mass revolutionary organizations, representatives of the P.L.A. and revolutionary leading cadres.

This was like a first clap of spring thunder and shook all southwestern China. Kweiyang, the mountain capital of our province, throbbed with joy. Together the army and people celebrated the great victory of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and of Mao Tse-tung's thought.

## Arming the People With Mao Tse-tung's Thought

Of a thousand kinds of support, the most fundamental is to arm the masses with the great, invincible thought of Mao Tse-tung. After the Left's seizure of power, the Military Area organized several thousand Mao Tse-tung's thought propaganda teams. Cadres and soldiers mounted loudspeakers on trucks for propaganda broadcasts, gave performances in the streets, distributed leaflets and went to factories, villages, schools and government offices where they creatively studied and applied Mao Tse-tung's thought together with the masses.

P.L.A. comrades who were assigned to support agricultural production conducted night schools for the study of Mao Tse-tung's thought, organized political-cultural clubs, and established or strengthened study groups and systems of study in the communes. They also encouraged the militia members to act as the backbone of the movement to study Chairman Mao's works. Within two months



In a mammoth Kweiyang demonstration, the People's Liberation Army of the Kweichow Provincial Military Area shows its firm support for the proletarian revolutionaries in their struggle to seize power from the handful of capitalist-roaders in the province.

they trained more than 700,000 commune members as instructors to help organize and carry on study in the communes. Meanwhile, the armymen themselves set good examples by taking the lead in studying and applying Mao Tse-tung's thought. A new high tide of such study thus swept the countryside.

The men assigned to support the Left in factories and government offices also gave their first attention to organize the masses to study Chairman Mao's works. Those responsible for military and political training in schools started by helping the Red Guards to see

things always from the viewpoint of classes and class struggle, because they realized that these young people had never had any experience of class oppression and exploitation in the old society. The Red Guards' consciousness in their study of Chairman Mao's works was thus greatly raised. By September 1967, more than 50,000 students in 79 colleges and middle schools had gone through this training.

## Advancing the Cultural Revolution to a Deeper Stage

These army comrades also contributed to the campaign to launch





Members of a Mao Tse-tung's thought propaganda team from the Military Area discuss a quotation from Chairman Mao with a former poor peasant.

the mass criticism and repudiation of China's Khrushchov which began in April 1967. With their help, the workers and the former poor and lower-middle peasants used Mao Tse-tung's thought as their sharpest weapon and drew on their personal experience of exploitation and oppression in the old society to expose the counter-revolutionary and fallacious theories of China's Khrushchov, such as "exploitation has its merits", the "san zi yi bao",\* the "four freedoms" and the "dying out of class struggle". They angrily condemned the handful of top Party persons taking the capitalist road for their crimes of plotting a restoration of capitalism and carrying out the bourgeois reactionary line. Also with the help of the P.L.A. men, government workers, revolutionary teachers and students and Red Guards took up their pens and used them as weapons to fire fiercely at China's Khrushchov. In cities and villages, wall newspapers of mass criticism were widely posted and large and small criticism and repudiation meetings held.

The revolutionary mass criticism of China's Khrushchov devel-

\* *San zi yi bao* means the extension of private plots and free markets, the increase of small enterprises with sole responsibility for their own profit or loss and the fixing of output quotas based on the household.

\*\* "Four freedoms" means the freedom to practise usury, to hire labour, to buy and sell land and to engage in private enterprise.

oped and strengthened the revolutionary great alliance and revolutionary three-in-one combinations and united more than 95 per cent of the masses and cadres. This was the key link in consolidating the victory won through the seizure of power.

Back in the early period of the cultural revolution, the handful of capitalist-roaders in the former provincial Party committee had carried out the bourgeois reactionary line and branded many cadres as "counter-revolutionaries". At the same time they sent other cadres to suppress the masses. They also controlled some conservative groups. In this way, they were able to instigate cadres to oppose the masses and set one group of the masses against another.

After the proletarian revolutionaries seized power, the armymen organized the masses to study Chairman Mao's teaching on how to correctly distinguish the two kinds of contradictions—those between the enemy and ourselves and those within the ranks of the people. They helped the masses to study Chairman Mao's instruction that "We must not confine our judgement to a short period or a single incident in a cadre's life but should consider his life and work as a whole. This is the principal method of judging cadres."

They also organized the masses to expose and repudiate the bour-

geois reactionary line and the crimes of the capitalist-roaders. Through study and repudiation, the revolutionaries came to understand Chairman Mao's revolutionary line more deeply, and concentrated their hatred on those handful of Party persons who took the capitalist road and put the reactionary line into effect. Moreover, the armymen assisted the masses to apply Chairman Mao's policy of "unity—criticism and self-criticism—unity" to help the cadres who had made mistakes and the deceived masses in the conservative group to realize where they were wrong and return to Chairman Mao's revolutionary line. Later, a number of the revolutionary cadres were accepted as members of the three-in-one combinations, the provisional organs of power set up in their places of work.

To promote revolutionary great alliances among the revolutionary organizations, the Provincial Revolutionary Committee and the Military Area began in March 1967 to propagate the experience of the Kweiyang Cotton Mill in forming a big alliance by administrative units, an example that had been personally endorsed by our great leader Chairman Mao. At this mill, about a dozen revolutionary mass organizations had been established during the previous course of the struggle against the handful of capitalist-roaders and the bourgeois reactionary line. Members of each organization were often scattered through different shifts, groups or shops. Some workers even joined organizations which embraced more than one factory or were set up on the basis of some one trade with members drawn from many factories. To accord with the new situation after the proletarian revolutionaries seized power, the workers dissolved all their mass organizations. Then a new unity, based on place of work, was built up from below, shop by shop, until there was one unified mass organization for the whole mill.

The P.L.A. men worked hard to make the experience of the cotton mill widely known. For instance, in the locomotive section of the Kweiyang Railway Administration where there were several revolu-

tionary mass organizations, the P.L.A. men assigned there to support the Left twice organized the masses to study what had been done at the cotton mill. They talked with individuals, called forums, organized big debates and helped the revolutionaries to study Chairman Mao's works to overcome such wrong ideas as treating one's own organization as the most important force in the revolution and regarding others as supplementary, and petty-bourgeois factionalism. Finally, these organizations happily united. In Kweiyang, by September 1967, of the 52 enterprises where armymen were sent to support the Left, 40 had set up their great alliances by establishing unity on a place-of-work basis. And in the 26 schools where there had been military and political training, the students and teachers had also formed great alliances, after first uniting classroom by classroom. By October, revolutionary great alliances had been achieved practically throughout the province. This created good conditions for further carrying out revolutionary mass criticism and repudiation and struggle-repudiation-transformation in the different factories, schools, offices, institutions and so on.

#### Grasp Revolution and Spur Production

"Grasp revolution and spur production" is another great strategic policy of Chairman Mao's. In line with the call issued by him and the Party Central Committee in February 1967 for the army to support the spring ploughing, the Provincial Military Area mobilized militiamen to go all out and act as a shock force in this work. It also sent many cadres and fighters deep into the countryside where they made propaganda for this great policy of Chairman Mao's. Overcoming all manner of hardships, they helped the commune members to build water conservation works, repair roads, transport fertilizer, overhaul farm equipment, and plough the land.

The commanders and fighters of the 2nd company stationed in Lungli county, for instance, worked side by side with former poor

and lower-middle peasants of the Miao and Puyi nationalities to build a river dam which, when completed, would irrigate more than 1,000 *mu* of land. Though working for hours in bone-chilling water, these soldiers, with their infinite loyalty to Chairman Mao and boundless love for their peasant class brothers, triumphed against great odds. Reciting aloud Chairman Mao's quotation "Be resolute, fear no sacrifice and surmount all difficulties to win victory" and working with a tenacious fighting spirit, they pushed the job ahead at great speed. The chairman of a former poor and lower-middle peasants' association praised them, saying, "Only soldiers taught by Chairman Mao could be so good! They deserve the title 'soldiers of the people!'"

During the busy summer and autumn seasons, the armymen again went to the villages to spread Mao Tse-tung's thought and take part in productive labour. Those comrades who were assigned to industrial enterprises to support the Left lived, ate and worked with the workers, learning eagerly from them. They were prompt and regular in propagating Mao Tse-tung's thought and the policy "grasp revolution and spur production", and helped people to adopt the P.L.A.'s good style of work.

With army support, the workers and former poor and lower-middle peasants gave active play to their enthusiasm for building socialism.

A bumper grain crop was won, the total output increasing more than 10 per cent over that of 1966. The province's industrial output, by value, also exceeded that of the preceding year, showing substantial increases for many items including pig-iron, electricity, coke, diesel engines, pumps and machine-made paper.

#### Tempered in the Storm of Class Struggle

In their common struggle, the armymen and the proletarian revolutionaries have developed deep class feeling for each other. Solidarity between the army and the people has become stronger than ever before. Chairman Mao's great call to "support the army and cherish the people" has taken root in all minds.

Following Comrade Lin Piao's instruction that we should regard ourselves both as a motive force and a target of revolution, the commanders and fighters working for the "three supports" and "two militaries" use Mao Tse-tung's thought as a weapon to struggle against ideas of self in their own minds, and to raise their class consciousness. The storm of class struggle has accelerated the revolutionization of their ideology and this has brought forward a new generation of communist-minded people and many advanced units. A preliminary survey in 1967 showed that 57.6 per cent of the armymen had won the honoured

P.L.A. soldiers help with the wheat harvest in the Chihlu People's Commune, Huishui county.



title of "five-good soldiers", a rise of 4.2 per cent when compared with 1966; and 46.3 per cent of the companies had been classified as "four-good companies", an increase of 14 per cent.

The mass movement to creatively study and apply Chairman Mao's works has been pushed to a new level. The revolutionization of the army has entered a new stage. Commanders and fighters have become more firm in serving the people wholeheartedly. They go wherever they are needed and wherever there is difficulty and danger. In April 1967, P.L.A. soldier Wan Kun-shan, a "model in cherishing the people", risked his life to save several peasant women on a bridge from an on-rushing train. In August, Wang Hsing-cheng, a model member of the Communist Party and a five-good soldier, laid down his life in defending the revolutionary Left. They set heroic examples for the revolutionary armymen and all revolutionary people.

A year's experience has enabled us to understand more deeply the strategic importance of the policy of the "three supports" and "two militaries" put forward by our supreme commander Chairman Mao. Today our Kweichow Provincial Revolutionary Committee and our Military Area are carrying out Chairman Mao's new instruction to "fight self and repudiate revisionism", using it as the guiding principle for strengthening ideological education in the army and among government cadres and the Red Guards. Short-term classes for the study of Mao Tse-tung's thought have been opened and the whole province is being turned into a big school for the study of Mao Tse-tung's thought. Over a million people, army cadres above platoon level and militia cadres, took part in this study last winter and spring.

The commanders and fighters of our Military Area are determined to hold still higher the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought, do still better the work of the "three supports" and "two militaries", carry the proletarian cultural revolution through to the end and win still bigger merits in the service of the people.

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