

# Red Guards Fear Not the Trials of A Distant March

**F**ORMING themselves into a "Long March Detachment of Red Guards" and taking the Chinese Red Army as their example, 15 revolutionary students of the Talien Mercantile Marine Institute walked all the way from Talien to Peking, crossing mountains and rivers and covering a distance of 1,000 kilometres within a month.

The extensive exchange of revolutionary experience is a great creation of the masses in the great proletarian cultural revolution. From the outset our respected and beloved leader Chairman Mao has vigorously supported and advocated the widest adoption of this kind of revolutionary activity.

From all over the country, students of higher educational institutions, and a proportion of middle school students, have been coming to the capital to exchange revolutionary experience, and this mutual exchange by students from different parts of the country is one of the best forms of self-education. In this great revolutionary school of exchange of experience, the students are able to familiarize themselves with society, get to know the masses and class struggle, and in the teeth of storms and waves temper themselves in many ways.

The revolutionary students of Talien Mercantile Marine Institute have undertaken a long march not by train or bus but on foot to carry out their exchange of experience. This is another very significant pioneering action. We offer them sincere congratulations on their successful "long march" exercise, and we hope other revolutionary students in all parts of the country, if they wish to, and where conditions permit, will do the same.

Chairman Mao said: "The Long March . . . is a manifesto, a propaganda force, a seeding-machine." In accordance with Chairman Mao's teachings, Talien students who walked to Peking, studied, carried on propaganda work and did mass work during their march. Everywhere they went, they spread Mao Tse-tung's thought and publicized the great proletarian cultural revolution and the 16-point decision of the Party's Central Committee; they broadcast seeds of Mao Tse-tung's thought in the cities and villages all along the way. And the people praised them as "loyal young red soldiers of Chairman Mao," "the younger red generation of the old Red Army and old Eighth Route Army" and "a propaganda force for Mao Tse-tung's thought."

Like the People's Liberation Army, these students who walked to Peking strictly observed the Three

Main Rules of Discipline and the Eight Points for Attention\* as defined by Chairman Mao, learnt from the masses and did good deeds for the masses. Wherever they stayed, they called on veteran workers and poor and lower-middle peasants, and listened to veteran revolutionaries describing their personal stories of struggle and the fight for liberation. Ignoring the fatigue of their journey, they fetched water, swept up, did odd jobs, helped with the autumn harvesting work and genuinely identified themselves with the masses.

The successors to our proletarian revolutionary cause must undergo an arduous process of tempering. They must never be hothouse flowers that cannot stand wind and rain, but must be sturdy mountain pines and dare to brave the challenge of the raging storm. In speaking of what they gained from their long journey on foot all the way from Talien to Peking, the students said: We left behind our bright classrooms, our comfortable beds and our other amenities and dispensed with the easier means of transport. But we have achieved a great ideological emancipation, undertaken important mental training and considerably raised our ideological level.

It is indeed a fact that people who have no intention of undertaking hard struggle can never become genuine revolutionaries. Whoever imagines that he will make a revolution in comfort will likely effect a comfortable peaceful evolution in himself and slide down into the quagmire of revisionism.

The proletarian revolutionary cause, the cause of communism, is the greatest and also the most arduous cause in human history. The task is heavy and the way is long. Our younger generation must always remain loyal to Chairman Mao, loyal to Mao Tse-tung's thought, loyal to the Party and loyal to the people. They should carry forward the revolutionary tradition expressed in these lines of a poem by Chairman Mao: "The Red Army fears not the trials of a distant march; to them a thousand mountains, ten thousand rivers are nothing," and pass it on to coming generations.

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\* The three main rules of discipline are: a) Obey orders in all your actions; b) Don't take a single needle or piece of thread from the masses; c) Turn in everything captured. The eight points for attention are: a) Speak politely; b) Pay fairly for what you buy; c) Return everything you borrow; d) Pay for anything you damage; e) Don't hit or swear at people; f) Don't damage crops; g) Don't take liberties with women; h) Don't ill-treat captives.