

OUR GREATEST LEADER, OUR DEAREST PERSON

Following is a translation of an unsigned article in the Chinese-language periodical Hung Ch'i (Red Flag), Peiping, No. 11, 21 August 1966, pp. 8-12.

On 10 August 1966 the revolutionary masses of the capital, cherishing feelings of boundless affection for Chairman Mao and the party center, converged on the party center's mass reception station to celebrate the CCB's decision on the great proletarian cultural revolution.

At 7:15 that evening, just as the people were shouting "long live Chairman Mao" over and over, our most respected and beloved leader, Chairman Mao, arrived among the masses who had been thinking of him day and night.

"Chairman Mao is here!"

"Long live Chairman Mao!"

"May Chairman Mao live forever!"

There was a great surging around the reception station, for everyone wanted to see our great leader with his own eyes! They shouted and leaped and pressed toward him. People climbed onto roofs and wall tops, and everywhere one looked one saw the masses pressing in; cries of children came from trees. Chang Chen-san, a cadre in the armed units of the No. 1 Pei-ching Steel Plant who had been a guard for the party center, saw Chairman Mao coming and shouted out: "Long live Chairman Mao!" He crowded up to the Chairman's side, squeezed his hand, and said: "How are you?" Chairman Mao replied personally: "Thank you." Feeling limitless respect and affection for the great leader, Chang walked along with him for several paces. A little girl, five or six years old, leaped up to the Chairman's side and grabbed his hand. Chairman Mao picked her up and regarded her affectionately. With her eyes open wide, she happily looked at him. A steel worker standing by the Chairman's side took the little girl from him. People struggled to hug this fortunate little girl.

Smiling, Chairman Mao walked into the masses, stretched out his hands, and squeezed the hands of the masses who surged forward. Moved, the masses shouted: "How are you, how are you!" Chairman Mao

replied directly: "How are my comrades?"

The people unceasingly shouted and jumped, wishing Chairman Mao long life. At this point the Chairman said to everyone:

"You must concern yourselves with the great affairs of the country; you must carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end!"

Like spring lightning, the words of Chairman Mao lighted up the hearts of the revolutionary masses.

This was Chairman Mao issuing a summons to all the citizens! This was a militant cry by Chairman Mao to 700 million people to begin on a new stage in the socialist revolution. Beloved Chairman, you may put your mind at rest: we will resolutely face the direction which you have pointed out and we will completely and thoroughly carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end; we will never rest until we achieve total victory.

After speaking, Chairman Mao departed from the speaker's rostrum. At this time, the people mutually held hands so as to form a path to let the Chairman through. People escorted him to the speaker's stand.

The party center's mass reception station is situated on the Lin-yin Road in the vicinity of the Chung-nan Hai region. On the speaker's rostrum were hung a large portrait of Chairman Mao and the national flag. The lights on the rostrum were brilliant, while there were many, many red flags in the crowd.

Amid cries of welcome, our great leader mounted the stand and surveyed the great red reports and documents on decisions which were packed on the stand. A member of the Young Pioneers, who had come to report glad tidings, put down what was in his hand and rushed forward to shake the Chairman's hand. At this point, drums began to roll making the Heavens tremble. The masses surged and cries of "Long live Chairman Mao" rang out. Chairman Mao extended greetings back, shouting out "Long live my comrades!"

Chairman Mao walked from side to side on the stand, talking with the people. Pointing at the slogan hung on the stand -- "Raise High the Great Red Banner of the Thought of Mao Tse-tung; Carry the Great Proletarian Revolution Through to the End" -- the Chairman asked people nearby about the development of this movement in their own units. After Lei Jui-fang, who before the Liberation had been a slave to landlords, had moved to the capital in April this year, her first wish had been to see Chairman Mao. Today her wish came true. With eyes brimming with tears of joy, she excitedly called out: "Chairman Mao, Chairman Mao!" Chairman Mao replied to her: "Did you come to serve? Where are you from?" She said: "I have come to serve. I am a worker in the central office." Chairman Mao nodded and squeezed her hand. Kuo Wen-huan, who was on guard duty on the speaker's stand, also hoped to shake hands with the Chairman. Chairman Mao smiled and stretched out his hand. Kuo rapidly moved forward and took both the Chairman's hands in his.

So many people saw Chairman Mao and wanted to shake hands with him! Time after time the Chairman went down from the stand and stretched out his hands to the masses in front. When his hands touched those of the people, the leader's heart joined those of the people. Chairman Mao has unlimited faith in the people, and the masses cherish limitless love for the great leader.

At 7:45 Chairman Mao departed. The people wanted him to stay longer, even a minute or a second. Filled with boundless love and respect, they followed behind him, seeing him off with great emotion in their hearts. Chairman Mao kept looking back and waving at the people.

At this point, the surging masses shouted out in unison words of revolutionary songs such as "The East Is Red" and "Rely on the Navigator While on a Voyage," which praise the great leader. No sooner had the singing stopped when cries of "Long live Chairman Mao" again filled the sky and rumbled into the distance.

"We must let all the revolutionary masses know about our good fortune in seeing Chairman Mao; we must let them celebrate this happy occasion with us." Those who had seen him ran about excitedly yelling: "I saw Chairman Mao!" "Chairman Mao's red radiance diffused everywhere; he's in very good health!" Chairman Mao's good health is a great asset to the whole country, a great asset to the world's revolutionary peoples. On returning to work, many people could not eat nor sleep; all they could do was write the happy tidings about seeing Chairman Mao and express their determination to carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end.

Many workers, peasants, soldiers, and revolutionary intellectuals who saw Chairman Mao said excitedly: The fact that Chairman Mao came to the mass reception station in person has greatly encouraged and educated us. The Chairman has turned over to us the great historical task of the great proletarian cultural revolution; he wants us to "be concerned with great national events, to carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end." With such faith in the masses, with such support of the masses, we will certainly raise even higher the great red banner of the thought of Mao Tse-tung. We will dare to think, to speak out, to effect revolution; we will resolutely overcome all demons, smash all old ways of thinking, all old culture, old habits and customs.

Liu Yen-shan, a machine repairman who eight years ago had worked together with Chairman Mao on the Shih-san Ling Reservoir project, today happily saw Chairman Mao again. After returning home, he recalled when Chairman Mao had worked as a common laborer on this reservoir project. He also dug out a picture of Chairman Mao which he had cut out from a pictorial magazine at the time of the Aid-Korea Resist-America War. This photograph, cherished for so many years, was a great historical mirror which recalled Chairman Mao writing political reports at the time of the Japanese war. How much he wanted to say to the Chairman! Chairman Mao, our great leader, our most beloved person,

you are constantly with the masses, working with them, showing them the way to victory after victory. Today, you are again mobilizing and guiding us to undertake a new stage in the socialist revolution; you are personally formulating the great program for the great proletarian cultural revolution. Chairman Mao, we will be forever with you, carrying to the finish the great proletarian cultural revolution.

The good news that 40-odd cadres and masses from the Hung-men People's Commune had seen Chairman Mao spread like wild fire throughout the commune. Many were so excited that they could not sleep. The following day this commune held a congress of commune members. At the meeting a letter by all the members to Chairman Mao was read. The letter stated: Beloved Chairman Mao, when we saw you we were filled with a boundless strength. With your leadership we will overcome all difficulties; we vow that we will build the socialist motherland into a proletarian fortress.

On this day several people's militia of the Second Communications Brigade of the Peiping Municipal Public Security Bureau, who were on duty in the area, also saw Chairman Mao. When getting off duty and returning to their unit, they cried out together as soon as they entered: "We saw Chairman Mao." Everyone crowded around them, greeting them, hugging them, shaking their hands, talking with them. They vicariously enjoyed their pleasure at seeing Chairman Mao. They said that the fact that he could still see us despite his being so busy showed his great concern for us; this should encourage us greatly. As regards the decisions of the party center and Chairman Mao, they expressed their determination to be revolutionaries all their lives, to read the works of Chairman Mao, to resolutely arm themselves with the thought of Mao Tse-tung, to take a firm proletarian stand in the turbulent storms of class struggle, to safeguard the dictatorship of the proletariat, to safeguard the thought of Mao Tse-tung, to be Public Security fighters forever revolutionary in nature.

The glad tidings of Chairman Mao's visit with the capital's revolutionary masses spread throughout the factories, villages, schools, organs, armed forces; this gladdened the heart of every revolutionary. After hearing this news, an entire class at the second-year level in the Peiping No. 2 Normal School quickly wrote a letter to Chairman Mao. The letter stated: "Beloved leader Chairman Mao: We have taken what you said to heart; we will follow you and be firm revolutionaries. Following along with you, we can brave all storms. We are willing to undergo the severest trials in the turbulent storms; we want to be forged into inheritors of the proletarian cause which you expect of us. We vow that we shall never rest until we have completely smashed all the anti-party, anti-socialist right-wing, bourgeois elements. Beloved party, beloved Chairman Mao, put your minds at ease. We will strictly adhere to your instructions: 'Concern yourselves with great national events; carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end.'" (A draft provided especially for Hung Ch'i by NCNA.)

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