

A LETTER TO ALL PARTY MEMBERS IN THE
MAOIST CRIMSON GUARD*

[Following is a translation of the text of a letter by Hsieh Tung (6200 2639) and Liu Hui (0491 6540) in the Chinese-language newspaper, Hung-ch'i, Peiping, No. 3, 26 December 1966, page 4.]

All Communist Party Member Comrades of the Crimson Guard:

Under the guidance of the proletarian revolutionary line represented by Chairman Mao, the powerful and turbulent great proletarian cultural revolution has broken through layers of resistance and seized victories one after another; it is in the process of intensive and extensive development. This is true with the situation of our college. The countless revolutionary comrades, as represented by the "Red Flag" Combat Team, have made great achievements in criticizing the reactionary bourgeois line. By going outside and contacting others, they have received a great education and acquired a deeper and wider understanding of the problems. However, under the excellent situation, there is still a small handful of individuals who are unwilling to give up. They stubbornly hold on to the corpse of the reactionary bourgeois line. They "use the great flag as the tiger skin to cover themselves and scare others." The appearance of the counter-current, which is opposed to the proletarian revolutionary line and the Central Cultural Revolution as represented by the counter-revolutionary element, Lai Jui-jui (6351 3843 3843), is a clear example. Here, as former members of the Crimson Guard, we would like to say a few words for your reference.

[Note: "Ch'ih-wei Tui" is translated here as the "Crimson Guard," as it seems to be distinguishable from the "Red Guard" ("Hung-wei Ping")].

First, let us take a look at "history!" The Crimson Guard was created after the "Ts'ui Jen-fu (1508 0086 1788) Incident." This infant organization, under the manipulation of the several "chiefs," did few good, but many bad, deeds. It closely coordinated with the conservatives of the Red Guard and the Preparatory Committee (Ch'ou-wei Hui). Utilizing their plentiful material conditions and the "special privileges" of the Preparatory Committee, it forcefully interfered in and restricted the "Red Flag" Combat Team, withholding automobiles and printing material from the latter. While it failed to criticize the reactionary bourgeois line of the Work Team (Kung-tso Tsu) and the National Defense Section Committee (Kuo-fang K'o-wei), it created difficulties for others, made false accusations, and even announced its intent to haul out the "rightists" in the "Red Flag." These individuals stubbornly following the reactionary bourgeois line, instead of conscientiously examining and correcting their own errors, left without notice or trace. Meanwhile, at present, as a last ditch defense, the reactionary bourgeois line, which has been torn to pieces by the vast revolutionary masses, makes a death struggle and launches a great counter-attack of the proletarian revolutionary line. At this time, the backbone members of the Crimson Branch Team ("Ch'ih-yu Chih-tui") finds the climate and soil suitable, closely follows the steps of the Eight-One Column of the Red Guard of the Peiping Aviation College (Pei-Hang), suddenly makes its appearance, and serves as the vanguard of the reactionary bourgeois counter-attack. In form of "an Open Letter to the Central Cultural Revolution," it attacks the proletarian commanding headquarters -- the Central Cultural Revolution.

Why does the "Crimson Guard" time and again commit the errors of direction and line? Chairman Mao exhorts: "We must see the essence of matters, and consider their appearance only as a guide to enter the gate. The moment we enter the gate, we must grasp the essence. This alone is the reliable scientific analytic method." Let us follow Chairman Mao's instructions and look at its essence!

1. The component personnel of the "Crimson Guard" include many party members and cadres. As far as they are concerned, they indulge in many red tapes and are greatly influenced by the dark gang party commission.

2. In the movement, they are generally highly regarded and employed by the Work Team. They have never suffered suppression; therefore, they do not have a profound realization of the dangers of the reactionary bourgeois line.

3. In the many political movements, most of the party members have been taking the leadership position; therefore, they are not sufficiently affected.

In view of such fundamental reasons enumerated above, they cannot entertain a hatred for the reactionary bourgeois line imple-

mented by the Work Team and the Preparatory Committee, and they naturally associate with and support the said Work Team and Preparatory Committee.

Communist party members of the "Crimson Guard," by going out and contacting others, have you ever pondered over the matter? How many revolutionary comrades have sat in the "shift office" (pan-fang) and been forced to write the so-called "anti-party data" concerning themselves, and how many comrades have been persecuted and injured by the reactionary line? Comrades, these are the lessons of blood. They are a sharp blow on our back. Are they not sufficient to waken us up? In the past, we were deceived, and we did not have a clear understanding of the reactionary bourgeois line. But we cannot remain deceived forever; we must wake up! Wake up! We must not remain muddled. Chairman Mao exhorts us: "Errors and setbacks are our lessons, making us more intelligent, and enabling us to be more successful in our work. It is difficult for any political party, or any individual, to avoid errors. We seek to commit less errors. Once committing an error, we seek to rectify it. The more rapid and thorough the rectification, the better it is." Comrades, our great mentor Chairman Mao has again proposed the direction at the time when we are committing an error. As long as we discard the "self" and establish the "public," and as long as we think of the party's interest, the people's interest, the momentous proletarian cultural revolution, and the future of our country, is there anything of ours which we cannot relinquish? Discard our arrogance, and enter the masses, listening to their opinions, accepting criticisms, straightening our back, and catching up.

The Red Flag Combat Brigade of our college (yuan) has a firm standpoint and a clear viewpoint. They are the staunchest defenders of the proletarian revolutionary line, Mao Tse-tung's thinking, and our great leader, Chairman Mao. In this respect, they serve as our examples. We must learn humbly from them. We must heed the criticisms and opinions. Naturally, in criticizing the reactionary bourgeois line, some individual comrades might have been excessive in their language, or they might still have certain defects in this or that aspect. However, when looking at a problem, we must follow Chairman Mao's instructions. We must see the main current, the essence, the major direction, the over-all, and the general situation. We must not become indignant over the defects in the minor aspects, and fail to conscientiously examine ourselves and humbly listen to criticisms, for we will stray further away and commit more errors. Chairman Mao declares: "We take the proletarian and the people's standpoint. In regard to the communist party members, it is to take the party's standpoint, the standpoint of the party quality and party policy." Comrades, as communist party members, let us learn the lessons of blood given us by the reactionary bourgeois line, and firmly

and thoroughly break away from it. Take the standpoint of the proletarian revolution, the proletarian revolution line as represented by Chairman Mao and the vast revolutionary masses. Unite with the vast revolutionary comrades, firmly and thoroughly criticize the reactionary bourgeois line, smash its reckless counter-attack, and fight for the completion of the glorious task of struggle, criticism, and reform!

Long live the proletarian dictatorship!

Long live the great proletarian cultural revolution!

Firmly repel the reckless counter-attack of the reactionary bourgeois line!

Long live Chairman Mao, our great mentor, great leader, great general, and great pilot!

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Regular Members of the Chinese Communist Party

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