

Get Rid of "Self-Interest," Forge a Great Alliance of Revolutionary Rebels

by the Third Headquarters of the Capital's Red Guards

"Hongqi" No. 3 published the following article with this editor's note:

"Get Rid of 'Self-Interest,' Forge a Great Alliance of Revolutionary Rebels" is a good article which is the result of creatively studying and applying Chairman Mao's works in the great proletarian cultural revolution. We recommend it to revolutionary rebel comrades throughout the country. This article puts forward an important question of general significance, that is: we must "get rid of 'self-interest'" in the present struggle to seize power.

This is a good article precisely because it sees that we are carrying on two kinds of struggle for the "seizure of power." As the article points out: Revolutionary rebels should not only seize power from the handful of persons in the Party who are in authority and taking the capitalist road, but must seize power from the bourgeois ideology in our minds.

Unless we seize power from "self-interest" in our minds and get rid of "self-interest" in our minds, we will not be able to seize power from the handful of persons in the Party who are in authority and taking the capitalist road. Only when we have seized power from the bourgeois ideology in our minds and enabled Mao Tse-tung's thought to occupy these ideological positions, can we form a mighty, well-concerted and strong revolutionary force. Otherwise, even if we do seize power from the persons in authority who are taking the capitalist road, the power thus seized cannot be consolidated. A spiritual thing will turn into a material thing. If we seize power with "self-interest" in our minds, even though power is seized it may still degenerate into bourgeois political power.

In the present struggle to seize power, all mistaken tendencies—such as selfish departmentalism, the "small group" mentality, excessive decentralization, disregard of organizational discipline, ultra-democracy, liberalism and subjectivism—that have manifested themselves in the ranks of certain revolutionary rebels can be traced to one main root, that is "self-interest." The slogan of "getting rid of 'self-interest'" goes deep, is raised in time and penetrates to the heart of the problem.

To get rid of "self-interest," it is necessary to study Chairman Mao's works conscientiously. At the present moment, it is of great practical significance to study the brilliant works *On Correcting Mistaken Ideas in the Party*, *Combat Liberalism* and the "three constantly read articles" [*Serve the People*, *In Memory of Norman Bethune* and *The Foolish Old Man Who Removed the Mountains*]. They must be studied well. Any neglect of this study on the pretext of the intensity of struggle is completely wrong and must be promptly corrected.

To get rid of "self-interest," it is necessary to carry the revolution to the very depths of one's own soul, wage an active ideological struggle and go in for serious criticism and self-criticism.

To get rid of "self-interest," it is necessary, in accordance with Chairman Mao's teachings, to effect the integration of intellectuals with workers and peasants, remould one's own world outlook and foster the idea of wholehearted service to the workers and peasants.

Comrade Lin Piao has said: "We should regard ourselves as part of the revolutionary force and at the same time constantly take ourselves as targets of the revolution. To make revolution demands that we revolutionize ourselves too. Otherwise, the revolution will not be successfully carried out." The great proletarian cultural revolution is directed against the handful of persons in the Party who are in authority and taking the capitalist road; it is to seize power from them, to fully refute, overthrow and completely discredit them. But at the same time we must also make revolution against the bourgeois ideas in our own minds. We must transform our subjective world while transforming the objective world.

Under given conditions, the transforming of their subjective world on the part of the revolutionary ranks is of decisive significance. During the War of Resistance Against Japan, the Japanese imperialists said: "We are not afraid of the Eighth Route Army training soldiers on a large scale, but we fear the vigorous rectification of its style of work." Similarly, so far as concerns the handful of persons in the Party who are in authority and taking the capitalist road, what they fear most today is the revolutionizing of our thinking, is the arming of our minds with Mao Tse-tung's thought to get rid of "self-interest" and effect and consolidate a great alliance of revolutionaries on the principled basis of Mao Tse-tung's thought.

Victory belongs to the revolutionary people armed with Mao Tse-tung's thought!

THE great proletarian cultural revolution is in essence a struggle in which the proletariat seizes power from the bourgeoisie. The struggle of the proletarian revolutionaries, uniting with all revolutionary masses, to seize power from the handful of persons in the Party who are in authority and taking the capitalist road and the diehards who persist in the bourgeois reactionary line, is a mass struggle for the seizure of power from below, a struggle for the seizure of power that is even more deep-going than that in the democratic revolution.

This is an extremely arduous and complex task. To fulfil this task, there must be strong revolutionary organizations, the strictest sense of organization and discipline, and a great alliance of the proletarian revolutionary forces.

The revolutionary mass organizations that have come into being in the storm of the revolution have initially shown their mettle in the struggle against the bourgeois reactionary line. During the White terror

they have demonstrated their clear-cut stand, their dogged determination, their high sense of organization and discipline and staunch militancy; they have rendered meritorious service in defending Chairman Mao's revolutionary line. The overwhelming majority of revolutionary rebel organizations have grown from minorities under pressure to majorities in power. This signifies the expansion of the revolutionary forces and marks a great victory for Chairman Mao's revolutionary line.

The deep-going development of the movement and the development of the revolution on a still broader scale will inevitably result in a still wider alliance of the revolutionary forces. The revolutionary rebels of Shanghai have already set us a glorious example of this great alliance. Such a great alliance is founded on the basis of Mao Tse-tung's thought, on the basis of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and on the basis of a full development of the proletarian revolutionary rebel spirit; it is also a militant, great alliance developed in the course of constant criticism and self-criticism. This kind of great alliance is a genuine, great alliance of proletarian revolutionaries, not one of a motley collection of groups, of compromise and eclecticism, and opportunism. Such a great alliance is the basic guarantee for the victory of the proletarian revolution. Without it, no seizure of power can be successful; even if power is seized for the time being it cannot be held and consolidated. When we note how our enemy dexterously uses counter-revolutionary alliances at every step of the struggle against us, then we realize how urgent is the need to form a great alliance of proletarian revolutionaries.

However, examining ourselves in relation to Chairman Mao's article *On Correcting Mistaken Ideas in the Party*, we feel that there are a number of erroneous tendencies obstructing this great alliance which have to be corrected.

Ultra-democracy and liberalism. Under the White terror of bourgeois dictatorship and tremendous pressure from outside, the revolutionary rebel forces were strictly organized and closely united and displayed a military and militant style. With the winning of victory and diminishing pressure from outside, certain organizations and persons have subjectively lowered their demands on themselves and displayed tendencies of ultra-democracy and liberalism. Instead of forming a proper link in the revolutionary ranks, they have become isolated from the revolutionary forces, doing as they like and creating a state of anarchy. This is a grave and bad tendency. It is also a corrosive that loosens unity, undermines organization, causes a passive attitude to work, creates dissension, damages compact organization and strict discipline, and alienates the leadership from the masses.

Seeking the limelight. Certain persons stretch out their seeking hands. Unable to undertake big things, they won't do small jobs either. They put out feelers to wherever they can "reap an advantage," seeking self-praise and fame. They are keen on work that puts

them in the limelight, but categorically refuse to work "anonymously."

The "mountain-stronghold" mentality. Some people control a small unit and proclaim themselves its "rulers." They strive for hegemony and "positions of strength." Since I have plenty of supplies, command a strong force and have more documentary material and "ammunition" in store, I need nothing from others. As to forming an alliance, I am the undisputed leader and you have to obey me. Otherwise I will lead my forces to control a mountain-stronghold, blaze a "new road," and show my prowess. This is the style of the *lumpen-proletariat*.

Sectarianism and the "small group" mentality. People with such ideas are narrow-sighted. They see only the small number of their own people, their own small group or section, while losing sight of the revolutionary interests of the whole, the interests of the 700 million Chinese people and the interests of the world proletarian revolution. They drag one group of people to fight another and wage unprincipled struggles against those holding different views. This is a slightly magnified individualism.

In addition, there are all sorts of manifestations of individualism which, without exception, are corrosives hampering the great proletarian revolutionary alliance. All these bad tendencies are non-proletarian, and belong to the bourgeoisie and petty bourgeoisie. They rob the revolutionary forces of tenacity, organization, discipline, staunchness and unity in dealing with important issues. They cause the revolutionary ranks to disintegrate, to waver and to lose their fighting power; they prevent them from forming alliances, and they may eventually lead to the failure of the revolution.

All these negative tendencies spring from the mode of small-scale production and the bourgeoisie's insatiable longing for fame and material gain. All of them can finally be attributed to "self-interest." This "self-interest" is precisely the bourgeois headquarters in the minds of many comrades. The struggle for power between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie is also going on in our minds. Unless the "power" in our minds is seized by the proletariat, that is to say, unless the headquarters in our minds are occupied by Mao Tse-tung's thought, then it will be of little consequence even if we do seize power from those in authority who are taking the capitalist road.

We are carrying on two revolutions at once: one is to transform the objective world and the other is to transform our subjective world. We are also carrying on simultaneously two kinds of struggle for the seizure of power: one is to seize power from those in authority who are taking the capitalist road and the other is to seize power from the "self-interest" in our minds. Only when we have seized power completely from the "self-interest" in our minds, is it possible to ensure complete victory in the struggle to seize power from those in authority who are taking the capitalist road. To seize

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power in one's mind is a painful process. But such a struggle must be waged. Such a struggle calls for the courageous spirit that is needed to bayonet the enemy. The best way of conducting that struggle is to follow Chairman Mao's teachings, plunge ourselves into the mighty torrent of the great proletarian cultural revolution in the factories and villages, and integrate ourselves with the workers and peasants. Integration of intellectuals with the workers and peasants is the only way for intellectuals to overcome their weak points and revolutionize themselves. The great alliance of revolutionary workers and revolutionary peasants is the core and mainstay of the great alliance of proletarian revolutionaries throughout the country.

We are now carrying on an all-round nationwide struggle to seize power from those in authority who are taking the capitalist road.

Our class enemies are desperately seeking out every split in our ranks to sow discord, create dissension and sabotage the great alliance of revolutionaries. Our class enemies say: Let them struggle and fight among themselves! Let them seize our power, fight among themselves to seize power and act each on his own. Then, our class enemies will wait on the side lines to laugh at us.

What is our answer to the enemy?

Our answer is to forge a great, iron-clad alliance of proletarian revolutionaries.

From the great revolutionary teachers Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, from our great leader Chairman Mao, from the practice of the great cultural revolution over the past few months, the proletarian revolutionaries have got a real and profound understanding of the great significance of the great alliance. Before long they will form a mighty cultural revolutionary army with invincible courage, solidarity and loyalty. The consummation of the great alliance of proletarian revolutionaries marks the moment of total collapse of the handful of persons in the Party who are in authority and taking the capitalist road, and the diehards who persist in following the bourgeois reactionary line.

Revolutionary intellectuals unite with the revolutionary workers, revolutionary peasants, revolutionary cadres and all the revolutionary masses!

Let the handful of persons in the Party who are in authority and taking the capitalist road, and all ghosts and monsters tremble before the great alliance of proletarian revolutionaries!

Down with seeking the limelight! Down with selfish departmentalism! Down with sectarianism!

Long live the great alliance of proletarian revolutionaries!