

# Respond to Chairman Mao's Call And Go to the Masses

**C**HAIRMAN MAO has taught us: "You should put politics in command, go to the masses and be one with them and carry on the great proletarian cultural revolution even better."

This is the basic attitude which all leading cadres, all Communists should adopt with regard to the great proletarian cultural revolution. Only by acting in accordance with this teaching of Chairman Mao's will they be able to understand the great proletarian cultural revolution, be able constantly to remould themselves and raise the level of their ideology, be able to share weal and woe with the masses and be able to draw nourishment from the wisdom of the masses. Only by doing so will they be able to seize the initiative and stand in the van of the mass movement of the great proletarian cultural revolution.

Whether one has or has not the will, whether one dares or dares not go to the masses marks the basic demarcation line between the proletarian world outlook and bourgeois world outlook.

The bourgeoisie is fundamentally opposed to the masses. Lack of trust in the masses and fear of the masses are notable expressions of the bourgeois world outlook. Those persons in our ranks whose bourgeois world outlook has not been remoulded or has not been remoulded sufficiently are bound to lack trust in the masses and to fear the masses in the great proletarian cultural revolution, and therefore they are always passive and constantly knocking their heads against a brick wall, unable to free themselves from the influence of the bourgeois reactionary line, or even getting increasingly enmeshed in it.

A most important principle of Mao Tse-tung's thought is to have confidence in the great majority of the masses. This is the very essence of historical materialism.

Chairman Mao has repeatedly taught us these principles: from the masses, to the masses; concentrate ideas from the masses and go to the masses so that the ideas are persevered in and carried through; be a pupil of the masses before becoming their teacher. These constitute a great development of the Marxist-Leninist theory of knowledge.

Once the basic attitude of confidence in the masses has been established, and the mass line in work has been adopted, then everything will be relatively easy to accomplish. This fact has been even more clearly demonstrated in the current great proletarian cultural revolution.

Some leading cadres have done some work and their mistakes are not really big; others have made serious mistakes, but are not anti-Party, anti-socialist elements. Provided they carry out the instructions of Chairman Mao and go to the masses, listen to the opinions of the masses, examine and criticize their own shortcomings and mistakes, become one with the masses and support the masses' revolutionary actions, they will be able to win the understanding and trust of the masses. Some leading cadres have acted in this way and their ideological outlook has undergone a radical change for the better, their relations with the masses have improved and the masses now trust them. As a result, they have been able to straighten up and take their work into their hands.

But there are also some leading comrades who till now dare not go to the masses. What are they afraid of? They say that they are afraid of bad elements or afraid that the masses will take hold of their mistakes and shortcomings and fail to discriminate between the people and the enemy, thus branding them as anti-Party and anti-socialist elements. These ideas are completely wrong.

Bad elements invariably constitute only a tiny minority. The activities of these bad elements cannot escape the eyes of the broad masses. It is safest to go among the masses and be one with them. Only by so doing is it possible to pick out the bad elements.

Those who have committed mistakes should not be afraid of the masses' criticism. Fear that the masses will take hold of their mistakes shows that they do not trust the masses. The masses are reasonable. The masses will not take hold of their mistakes and shortcomings so long as they honestly and sincerely make a criticism of their errors, and struggle alongside the masses against the handful of persons within the Party who are in authority and taking the capitalist road and thoroughly criticize and repudiate the bourgeois reactionary line.

The masses are able to distinguish the people from the enemy and are able to analyse things, and the slogans they raise are appropriate. When criticizing leading cadres who have committed errors, some among the masses have said: "We don't want to brand you as anti-Party, anti-socialist elements but, through criticism, want to turn you into members of the Left." How warm-hearted the masses are in their treatment of those cadres who have committed errors! Should these comrades not modestly accept criticism and education from the masses? Even if some among the masses may have misjudged them as anti-Party and anti-socialist elements, this was often due to their having not drawn a clear demarcation line between themselves and the handful of persons within the Party who are in authority and taking the capitalist road. So long as they draw a clear demarcation line, take a clear-cut stand, and rise to struggle alongside the masses against the persons within the Party who are in authority and taking the capitalist road, the masses will naturally accept them as their comrades. There are also cases in which some bad elements behind the scenes instigate and, with a view to shifting the target of attack, deceive the masses and make them struggle against those comrades who have committed ordinary mistakes as if they were anti-Party and anti-socialist elements. In such cases, it is possible to expose the intrigues and subterfuges of the bad elements only by going to the masses and making a sincere and realistic self-criticism and disclosing the truth to them.

The comrades who have committed ordinary mistakes cannot understand the masses and the great proletarian cultural revolution if they do not go among the masses for a long period. As a result their feelings will be increasingly different from those of the masses and they will increasingly depart from the proletarian

revolutionary line represented by Chairman Mao. Step by step, some of them will go so far as to censure and repress the mass movement and resist the great proletarian cultural revolution and the proletarian revolutionary line represented by Chairman Mao. In this way, the nature of the contradiction between themselves on the one hand and the Party and people on the other will change and be transformed from being non-antagonistic into being antagonistic.

The Central Committee of the Party has called on those cadres who have committed ordinary mistakes and those cadres who have committed serious mistakes but are not anti-Party and anti-socialist to go at once among the masses, not to be afraid, strive the sooner to burn away their errors in the fires of the mass movement, to pass the test of socialism and the sooner to gain the understanding and trust of the masses, so as to plunge themselves into the present heated struggle.

As far back as in 1943 Chairman Mao has taught us: "**We Communists ought to face the world and brave the storm, the great world of mass struggle and the mighty storm of mass struggle.**"

The present great proletarian cultural revolution is a great world of mass struggle and a mighty storm of mass struggle. It is the greatest in history and unprecedented. All Communist Party members and cadres, including those who have committed errors, should temper themselves in this great world of mass struggle and this mighty storm of mass struggle, come forward and throw themselves into the struggle, and, with the broad masses, fight to smash the latest counter-attack of the bourgeois reactionary line, to smash bourgeois economism and to knock down the handful of persons within the Party who are in authority and taking the capitalist road.

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