

Chengchow Honan Provincial Service in Mandarin 2330 GMT 29 Dec 67 B

[HONAN DAILY editorial: "Firmly uphold the principle, develop and consolidate the revolutionary great alliance," subtitled "Correctly treat those veteran rebels who have made mistakes."]

[Text] The tide of the great proletarian cultural revolution in Honan Province is surging forward with growing strength and irresistible force under the influence of Chairman Mao's most recent instructions. Revolutionary great alliances are being formed in many areas of the province; the revolutionary great criticism and repudiation campaign is penetrating deeper, unfolding step by step; and revolutionary three-way combination provisional organs of power--revolutionary committees--are being established everywhere. The revolutionary situation is unprecedentedly good and it is getting progressively better.

The current task of prime importance confronting us in this excellent situation is the resolute implementation, under the guidance of "combat self-interest and repudiate revisionism," of Chairman Mao's most recent instructions to adopt the principle of help-criticize-unite in correctly treating veteran rebels who have committed errors. We must further consolidate and develop the revolutionary great alliance, stimulate the forming of revolutionary three-way alliances and help consolidate them, successfully carry out the revolutionary great criticism and repudiation campaign and the struggle-criticism-transformation in one's own unit, and impel the great proletarian cultural revolution to a new stage.

To correctly treat veteran rebels means to correctly treat the Honan revolutionary rebels general command. Many of the basic units subordinate to this command and their members have fought their way out of the oppression imposed on them by the bourgeois reactionary line. They have a background of rebellion against the bourgeois reactionary line which cannot be ignored.

However, since February of this year, leaders of this command have put self-interest to the fore and allowed petty-bourgeois factionalism to enmesh their minds, becoming easy prey for the deception of the handful of party capitalist-roaders and thus committing errors. Admittedly, the Honan revolutionary rebels general command has committed errors. But we cannot deny and negate their history of rebellion against the bourgeois reactionary line just because of this. Nor should the members of this command hang onto the idea that they are veteran rebels and forget, or refuse to admit their errors in orientation and line.

In correctly treating veteran rebels who have erred we must apply the principle of help-criticize-unite, as Chairman Mao and the party Central Committee taught us in the most recent instructions. We help them by taking energetic steps to organize study classes on Mao Tse-tung's thought, participated in by all factions and using "combat self-interest, repudiate revisionism" as the guiding principle. We concentrate our efforts to help them with the study of Mao Tse-tung's thought, help them to investigate the cause of their errors, and sum up experiences and draw lessons from this. We help them to unify their thinking and expand their awareness of personal errors on the basis of Mao Tse-tung's thought so as to heighten their awareness of the two lines.

Criticism must begin from a desire to achieve unity. Their errors must be gravely pointed out and we must inspire them to rectify their errors consciously and return quickly to the revolutionary line of Chairman Mao. We will unite with them on this basis and further develop and consolidate the revolutionary great alliance.

The correct treatment of veteran rebels who have erred and the development and consolidation of revolutionary great alliances are all political and ideological struggles. These struggles are conducted by proletarian party spirit to overcome petty-bourgeois factionalism. Chairman Mao taught us that the bourgeoisie and the petty bourgeoisie will inevitably attempt to express their ideological concepts. They will stubbornly try to express these concepts in various ways, in ideological and political problems. It is impossible for them not to express themselves. Nor should we attempt to suppress such expression. We should allow them to express these concepts, but, at the same time, we should debate the pros and cons and carry out suitable criticism.

It is necessary to uphold the revolutionary principle when developing and consolidating the revolutionary great alliance. It must go through a process of criticism and struggle. When the latest instructions on the correct treatment of veteran rebels were issued from Chairman Mao's headquarters, proletarian revolutionaries and broad revolutionary masses gave the instructions their most ardent support and implemented them resolutely. A new situation developed in the Chengchow area wherein the "7 February" Commune and some units subordinate to the revolutionary rebels general command took the initiative to carry out self-criticism in order to hasten the revolutionary great alliance. This is the main trend of development in the great proletarian cultural revolution.

However, two aspects of the current situation are worthy of our attention. The first is that some revolutionary comrades are not overly enthusiastic about implementing the principle of correctly treating veteran rebels who have erred. All they can see is the errors committed by the veteran rebels; they are blind to the fact that the veteran rebels have already rectified their errors, or are in the process of doing so. Furthermore, the demands they impose on the veteran rebels are too high. They are too impatient with the veteran rebels. When the revolutionary comrades observed the erroneous thoughts and actions of the veteran rebels, they could not reconcile themselves to giving sincere help and carrying out patient political ideological work on the veteran rebels who had erred.

Second, some of the veteran rebels who have erred--especially some responsible leaders--have not taken pains to correctly and fully comprehend the latest instructions from Chairman Mao's headquarters. Arrogantly holding themselves up as veteran rebels, they refuse to admit and rectify their past mistakes. They have preserved their individual factions and go everywhere to get people to join them so as to expand their influence and build up their strength, hoping to achieve a favorable position for bargaining with the proletarian revolutionaries, for competing with the proletarian revolutionaries for positions and titles, and for using petty-bourgeois factionalism to attack the proletarian party spirit.

They interpret the principle of help-criticize-unite as they please to fulfill their own purposes. They use unity as a facade only, and reject help and constructive criticism from the broad masses of revolutionaries, denying the alliances already formed.

They dwell on certain errors or shortcomings of proletarian revolutionaries, inadvertently made in the advance; they inordinately magnify them into matters of principle. They continue to aim the spearhead of struggle at the proletarian revolutionaries. This frame of mind is wrong. If a lesson from past errors is not taken to heart and they persist in their ways, they will again stand on the opposing side.

The great leader Chairman Mao has taught us that we must be good at directing the petty-bourgeois ideology in our ranks onto the proletarian revolutionary path. This is essential to victory in the great proletarian cultural revolution. Proletarian revolutionaries must resolutely and unwaveringly apply the principle of help-criticize-unite in accordance with the latest instructions from Chairman Mao's headquarters and endeavor to realize the revolutionary great alliance with great enthusiasm and vigor and of their own volition.

Veteran rebels who have erred must, in accordance with the teachings of Chairman Mao to "uphold what is good and rectify what is wrong in the interests of the people--the faster it is done the better it will be," resolutely implement the latest instructions of Chairman Mao and the party Central Committee to the letter, examine their errors, accept the help and criticism of proletarian revolutionaries, honestly take steps to quickly rectify these errors, and take concrete action to return to the proletarian revolutionary line of Chairman Mao.

The revolutionary great alliance is demanded by the broad masses; it is an irresistible historical tide. Proletarian revolutionaries and the broad revolutionary masses must raise high the standards of revolutionary great alliance, creatively study and apply Mao Tse-tung's thought, vigorously combat self-interest to remold their own world outlook, further consolidate and develop the revolutionary great alliance in Honan Province, and stimulate the revolutionary three-way alliance.

The errors of the left are being used by the right. This has always been the case. The handful of party persons in authority taking the capitalist road are still resorting to devious means to sow dissension and carry out sabotage. Monsters and demons in our society are avidly waiting for us to make a false move. We must be ever vigilant.

Every river and stream flows to the sea. Proletarian revolutionary comrades in arms, veteran rebel comrades who have erred, let us abide by the teachings of Chairman Mao and with "combat self-interest, repudiate revisionism" as our guiding principle, rapidly unite and form alliances on the foundation of Mao Tse-tung's thought and under the practice of revolution. Let us organize the masses by the millions and mobilize a massive revolutionary army to struggle for a general and complete victory in the great proletarian cultural revolution.