

# Oppose Economism and Smash the Latest Counter-Attack by the Bourgeois Reactionary Line

“RENMIN RIBAO” and “HONGQI” EDITORIAL

(January 12, 1967)

**T**HE decision taken personally by our great leader, Chairman Mao, to broadcast to the whole country the “Message to All Shanghai People” and the “Urgent Notice” issued by revolutionary mass organizations in

Shanghai is an event of great historic importance. It marks the beginning of a new stage in our country’s great proletarian cultural revolution.

The salient features of this new stage are:

The proletarian revolutionary line represented by Chairman Mao is being grasped to an ever greater extent by the broad masses. The citadels in which the bourgeois reactionary line has entrenched itself are being captured one by one.

The revolutionary workers' movement, peasants' movement, students' movement and the revolutionary mass movement in the different fields of culture and in Party and government institutions are uniting into a mighty, irresistible revolutionary torrent. They are launching an all-out general offensive against the bourgeois reactionary line.

The forces of the revolutionary rebel groups of the proletariat are growing in scale and strength. They are arming themselves more fully with Mao Tse-tung's thought in the course of the struggle, adhering firmly to the general orientation of the struggle, constantly improving the art of struggle and becoming the backbone force of the great proletarian cultural revolution.

The majority of the masses are becoming united, with the proletarian revolutionary rebel groups as their core. Under the leadership of the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Mao, the revolutionary masses are taking into their own hands the destiny of the great proletarian cultural revolution, the destiny of the struggle [to overthrow those persons in authority who are taking the capitalist road], the criticism and repudiation [of the reactionary bourgeois academic "authorities" and the ideology of the bourgeoisie and all other exploiting classes] and the transformation [of education, literature and art and all other parts of the superstructure not in correspondence with the socialist economic base], the destiny of production and work, and the destiny of the proletarian dictatorship and the socialist state.

Under the impact of this mighty, irresistible revolutionary torrent, the handful of persons within the Party who are in authority and are taking the capitalist road and an extremely small number of diehards who are stubbornly pursuing the bourgeois reactionary line are being forced to retreat again and again. Their ferocious, counter-revolutionary features have been or are being exposed. They have been heavily besieged by the revolutionary masses and have begun to collapse all along the line.

However, will these reactionary persons lay down their arms and surrender of their own accord? Will they step down from the stage of history of their own accord? No! They will never do so! Like all other reactionaries in the past, they will never lay down their arms and surrender, nor step down from the stage of history of their own accord.

As Chairman Mao reminds us:

**"The enemy will not perish of himself. Neither the Chinese reactionaries nor the aggressive forces of U.S. imperialism in China will step down from the stage of history of their own accord."**

**"Everything reactionary is the same; if you don't hit it, it won't fall. This is also like sweeping the floor; as a rule, where the broom does not reach, the dust will not vanish of itself."**

The facts of the development of China's great proletarian cultural revolution are further proof of this brilliant thesis of Chairman Mao's.

In capturing each fortress, the revolutionary fighters will meet frenzied resistance from the class enemy. At every step forward taken by the revolution, the enemy will play new tricks and resort to whatever schemes they can devise. When one way fails, they fall back on another. When tough tactics do not work, they try kid-glove tactics. When using force does not serve, they use non-violent methods. They mix tough with kid-glove tactics and combine force with non-violence. Their specialty is to wave "red flags" to oppose the red flag and to instigate one section of the masses to fight against another. More often than not, they cunningly take over the revolutionary slogans raised by the Party Central Committee and Chairman Mao and distort them in order to serve their counter-revolutionary political purposes. They are now appearing to be ultra "Left" and pretending to hoist the flag of "opposition to the bourgeois reactionary line" so as to hoodwink and deceive part of the masses. They call white black and switch the target of the struggle by turning its spearhead against the proletarian revolutionary line, the proletarian revolutionary headquarters and the revolutionary masses, by which means they seek to protect themselves and the bourgeois reactionary line and to preserve the old order of capitalism and revisionism.

At the present time, the handful of persons within the Party who are in authority and taking the capitalist road and the extremely small number of diehards who are stubbornly pursuing the bourgeois reactionary line are colluding with bourgeois elements, speculators, landlords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries, bad elements and Rightists in society and using economism to deceive the masses and incite them to undermine production, disrupt financial work and sabotage the great proletarian cultural revolution and to wage a struggle against the great, glorious and correct Chinese Communist Party and against our socialist state of the proletarian dictatorship.

The "Urgent Notice" issued by the Shanghai Workers' Revolutionary Rebel General Headquarters and the other revolutionary mass organizations in Shanghai has vividly and penetratingly revealed the big conspiracy of the reactionary elements in the Shanghai area — the conspiracy of using the "sugar-coated bullets" of economic benefits to lure a part of the masses. The reactionary elements freely squander the wealth of the state, arbitrarily increase wages and benefits, wantonly

distribute all kinds of funds and materials and stir up the masses to take over public buildings by force and use them as their own. They instigate violent struggles, create incidents, incite a number of workers to desert their posts in production, thus bringing some factories to a standstill and disrupting railway and road traffic. They even incite harbour personnel to stop work. Some leading members of the railway departments use similar means to disrupt rail transport in a vain attempt to sabotage the great proletarian cultural revolution. The reactionary elements fancy themselves clever, but in fact they are lifting a rock only to crush their own toes. The more actively they operate, the more clearly they expose their counter-revolutionary revisionist features. They are creating the conditions for their own total collapse.

The game of economism that these people are playing has provided the revolutionary masses with very good teaching material by negative example. It has enabled the broad masses to recognize the real nature of economism and the need to expose and attack it until it is utterly crushed.

What kind of stuff is economism?

It is a form of bribery that caters to the psychology of a few backward people among the masses, corrupts the masses' revolutionary will and leads the political struggle of the masses on to the wrong road of economism, inviting them to disregard the interests of the state and the collective and the long-term interests, and to pursue only personal and short-term interests. Its aim is to strangle the great proletarian cultural revolution, to disintegrate the dictatorship of the proletariat and the socialist system.

This economism disrupts social production, the national economy and socialist ownership. It promotes the tendency towards the spontaneous development of capitalism and encourages revisionist material incentives in a vain attempt to destroy the economic base of socialism.

This economism is opposed to Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tse-tung's thought; it is out-and-out counter-revolutionary revisionist stuff. It is garbage picked up from the rubbish dump of old-time and modern revisionism. Under the capitalist system, economism is an instrument for preserving the reactionary rule of capitalism and opposing the proletarian revolution. Under the socialist system, it has an even more reactionary nature and is an instrument for counter-revolutionary capitalist restoration.

In a word, this economism uses bourgeois spontaneity to replace proletarian revolutionary consciousness, uses bourgeois ultra-democracy to replace proletarian democratic centralism and proletarian sense of organization and discipline, uses bourgeois reactionary illegalities to replace proletarian dictatorship and the extensive

democracy operating under it, and uses capitalist ownership to replace socialist ownership. Economism is a new form in which the bourgeois reactionary line launches a big counter-attack against the proletarian revolutionary line.

All revolutionary people and all revolutionary organizations must heighten their vigilance a hundred-fold, see through the class enemy's intrigues and subterfuges of economism, completely smash the latest counter-attack by the bourgeois reactionary line and carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end.

The "Urgent Notice" issued by the revolutionary mass organizations in Shanghai has held high the great red banner of the proletarian revolutionary line represented by Chairman Mao and resolutely upheld the correct policy of "taking firm hold of the revolution and promoting production" advanced by Chairman Mao, thus setting a good example for the struggle against counter-revolutionary economism, or, in other words, against counter-revolutionary revisionism.

In their "Message of Greetings to Revolutionary Rebel Organizations in Shanghai," the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, the State Council, the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and the Cultural Revolution Group Under the Party Central Committee call on Party, Government, Army and civilian circles, on the workers, peasants, revolutionary students, revolutionary intellectuals and revolutionary cadres throughout the country to learn from the experience of the Shanghai revolutionary rebel groups, to take concerted action and beat back the latest counter-attack by the bourgeois reactionary line, so that the great proletarian cultural revolution will forge ahead triumphantly along the proletarian revolutionary line represented by Chairman Mao. This call will undoubtedly be a great encouragement to the working class and the revolutionary people throughout the country.

In order to smash economism completely, all proletarian revolutionaries should, in the manner of the revolutionary rebel groups in Shanghai, bring their forces into closer alliance under the great banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought and take the leadership of the great cultural revolution and of production firmly into their own hands.

We must carry on patient and painstaking political-ideological work among those people who are temporarily hoodwinked. We must have the conviction that the overwhelming majority of them want to make revolution. The moment they comprehend the truth, they will be able to distinguish clearly between right and wrong on cardinal issues and take their stand on the side of the proletarian revolutionary line represented by Chairman Mao.

The present all-embracing class struggle has been provoked by the bourgeoisie and their agents. To those who obstinately cling to the bourgeois reactionary line, we sound the following warning: pull back right away from the brink of the abyss while there is still a chance to atone for your crimes before the Party and the people by future good conduct. If you do not surrender to the revolutionary people, then, you can plunge to destruction.

Let the working class unite!

Let the working class, the poor peasants and the lower-middle peasants and all other working people unite!

Let all working people unite with the revolutionary students, revolutionary intellectuals and revolutionary cadres!

People of all nationalities unite!

Unfold the all-embracing class struggle on a nationwide scale!

Totally smash the latest counter-attack by the bourgeois reactionary line!

Carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end!

Long live Chairman Mao, the great teacher, great leader, great supreme commander and great helmsman!