

Supporting the Left Politically and Ideologically Is of First Importance

THE great proletarian cultural revolution is a great ideological revolution to arouse the masses boldly and let the masses educate and liberate themselves. No one should nor can do things in their stead. The thought of Mao Tse-tung is a mighty ideological weapon for the masses in educating and liberating themselves. In supporting the revolutionary Left, the most fundamental thing is to give them political and ideological support, help the revolutionary Left conscientiously study and apply Mao Tse-tung's thought, and correctly master and implement the Party's principles and policies so that, nurtured by Mao Tse-tung's thought, they can grow stronger and, relying on their own efforts, carry the great proletarian cultural revolution in their areas and units to success.

Chairman Mao teaches us that politics is the commander and the very soul. In accordance with the constant teachings of Chairman Mao, Comrade Lin Biao tells us that in all fields of work, the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought should be raised high, Chairman Mao's works should be creatively studied and applied, prominence given to politics, the "four-firsts"* persisted in and great and vigorous efforts should be made to grasp the living ideas in people's minds. In supporting the struggles of the Left, we must always remember, and never forget, to hold high the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought; we must always remember, and never forget, to give prominence to politics; we must persist in putting political and ideological work to the fore, and make political and ideologi-

cal work the basis for all work in supporting the struggles of the Left.

"Ideological education is the key link to be grasped in uniting the whole Party for great political struggles." The thought of Mao Tse-tung is the common ideological basis for the people of the whole country to unite and make revolution, and the guide for the great proletarian cultural revolution. Revolutionary mass organizations must be armed with Mao Tse-tung's thought if they are to win victories in the great cultural revolution.

In supporting the Left in the struggle, we should help them creatively study and apply Chairman Mao's works in the course of the struggle, help them study and understand the proletarian revolutionary line represented by Chairman Mao and act in everything according to Chairman Mao's instructions. We should help them, with Mao Tse-tung's thought as their guiding principle, to grasp living ideas in people's minds effectively, eliminate self-interest and foster devotion to the public interest, remould their world outlook, intensify their revolutionary spirit, scientific approach and sense of organization and discipline, and basically

*The "four-firsts" are: First place must be given to man in handling the relationship between man and weapons; to political work in handling the relationship between political and other work; to ideological work in relation to routine tasks in political work; and, in ideological work, to the living ideas in a person's mind, as distinguished from ideas in books. That is to say, first place to man, first place to political work, first place to ideological work and first place to living ideas. — *Tr.*

improve the fighting strength of the revolutionary mass organizations.

"Policy and tactics are the life of the Party." The principles and policies by which Chairman Mao and the Party's Central Committee are guiding the great proletarian cultural revolution, sum up the new experience created by the masses in the course of the current great proletarian cultural revolution. Only when these principles and policies are carried out thoroughly, can the revolutionary movement advance victoriously along the correct path.

In supporting the Left in the struggle, we should help them correctly understand and effectively carry out the principles and policies set forth by Chairman Mao and the Party's Central Committee, grasp the general orientation of the struggle and perfect their skill in the art of struggle. We should help the revolutionary Left do things consciously in accordance with the policies and tactics of the Party, help them to be both daring and adept in the struggle and to unite with the revolutionary masses and revolutionary cadres, so as to win victories in both revolution and production.

The experience of many army units in supporting the Left in the struggle shows that once a good job

is done in political and ideological work, once Mao Tse-tung's thought and the principles and policies of the Party are brought home to the masses, the mastering of this one question leads to the solution of all other questions. This political and ideological support is most powerful and most welcomed by the revolutionary masses. As the masses say: "Of the thousand and ten thousand kinds of help the Liberation Army brings us, Mao Tse-tung's thought is the greatest help."

The great call made by the great leader Chairman Mao to the People's Liberation Army to actively support the masses of the Left is of tremendous strategic significance for the great proletarian cultural revolution. It is also of far-reaching significance in stepping up the proletarian revolutionization of our army and enhancing its fighting capacity.

In this immense mass political and ideological work, we must modestly learn from the good thinking, style of work, experience and methods of the revolutionary masses and revolutionary cadres, and greatly raise the level of our proletarian consciousness and the level of our political and ideological work.

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