

RED GUARDS ADOPT HARD WORK, PLAIN LIFE

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[Text] Peking--Today's **PEOPLE'S DAILY** gives front-page prominence to a report on the way in which the Red Guard congress of Shihchiachuang, capital of Hopei Province, is fostering the style of hard work and plain living.

It has moved its offices from a well-furnished four-story building in the downtown area to a simple building in a school in order to maintain the closest possible links with the Red Guard masses. It has cut its staff from 63 to 17, and these lead a frugal life and spend most of their time among the Red Guards. They endeavor to keep administrative expenditure to the minimum so as to save every penny.

Describing this as a new departure deserving close attention, **PEOPLE'S DAILY** says in a short commentary: "One of the important tasks in the great proletarian cultural revolution is to transform office and administrative work and all parts of the superstructure which do not correspond with the socialist economic base. The essential factor in revolutionizing office work is to maintain close contact with the masses.

"Chairman Mao teaches us: 'A communist must never divorce himself from the masses or stand above them as a bureaucrat and overlord. He should go among them as an ordinary worker, live among them and be one with them.'

"Ours is a socialist state under the dictatorship of the proletariat. Our leading organs at all levels are organs representing the interests of the people and serving the people. All their administrative staff must take deep root among the masses and never for a single moment divorce themselves from them.

"Only in this way can they be constantly alive to the voice of the masses, receive their supervision, and concentrate their ideas, wisdom, and experience, and so persevere in these ideas and carry them through.

"Only in this way can they retain the qualities of the working people, resist the attacks of the 'sugarcoated bullets' of the bourgeoisie, and build a Great Wall in their minds for checking revisionism and preventing bureaucracy.

"The revolutionization of office work is a serious class struggle. We should take 'Fight self, repudiate revisionism' as our guiding principle and eliminate the pernicious influence of the counterrevolutionary revisionist line pushed by China's Khrushchev.

"We should develop a high level of revolutionary consciousness and energetically foster the revolutionary proletarian style of work. We should turn our leading organs at all levels into vigorous command posts which serve the people wholeheartedly," the Commentator's article concludes.

The leading members of the Shihchiachuang Red Guard congress are all revolutionary pathbreakers who fought courageously against the handful of capitalist-roaders in the party and against both right and extreme "left" trends of thought. When the bitter class struggle was at its height, they fought as ordinary fighters along with the Red Guard masses and emerged as staunch leaders of the local Red Guards.

But after their status changed, some of them began to develop tendencies towards ostentation and extravagance. They moved their offices from a school into the down town building, increased their staff and set up a complex administration. Some of them no longer went among the masses as often as before and this weakened their links with the Red Guard masses.

After a close study of the situation, the People's Liberation Army men assigned to help the congress decided that this was a reflection of bourgeois and petty-bourgeois thinking and was characterized by lack of a thoroughly revolutionary spirit in the new circumstances. They saw that it was a major issue concerning the training of staunch successors to the revolutionary cause of the proletariat and the carrying through of the great proletarian cultural revolution.

With this problem in mind, they helped the leading members of the Red Guard congress set up a course in Mao Tse-tung's thought to study how they could become proletarian revolutionaries determined to carry the cultural revolution through to the end.

To begin with, the armymen got together with the Red Guard leaders to study Chairman Mao's latest instructions concerning the cultural revolution and the following passage in his "Report to the Second Plenary Session of the Seventh Central Committee of the Communist Party of China":

"To win country-wide victory is only the first step in a Long March of 10,000 li.... The comrades must be helped to remain modest, prudent, and free from arrogance and rashness in their style of work. The comrades must be helped to preserve the style of plain living and hard struggle."

Then revolutionary cadres who had committed mistakes during the early stage of the cultural revolution were invited to talk on how they had become divorced from the masses and what painful lessons they had learned because of this.

Through such study and discussion, most of the leading members of the Red Guard congress became aware that maintaining the style of hard work was a big issue which concerned the success of the cultural revolution. In order to maintain this style of work, it was essential to keep in close contact with the masses at all times, be their willing pupils, fight against one's selfish ideas, and constantly take oneself as a target of the revolution.

On the basis of this understanding, a suggestion was made to reduce the size of the staff and move the offices to a school so as to get closer to the Red Guard masses.

But some of the members did not agree. They argued that a large staff was necessary because the congress was leading tens of thousands of Red Guards and that it should be located in a large office-building.

With this problem in mind, the PLA men then organized the members of the Red Guard congress to study more of Chairman Mao's teachings and discuss how they could keep in close contact with the masses and what kind of a setup the congress should be.

"Chairman Mao teaches that we should have 'better troops and simpler administration,' and we should resolutely carry out this instruction," one of them said. Others said that the important thing was not a large staff but the ideological revolutionization of the leading members of the congress. Staying in a large building far from the schools, they added, was in itself a manifestation of their estrangement from the masses, and this might lead to habits of easy living and to revisionist ideas.

In the course of the study and discussion, all members of the Red Guard congress reached complete agreement and made up their minds to transform the congress into a compact, revolutionized leading body closely linked with the masses.

They cut down their staff and moved to an area where the schools are concentrated. Following Chairman Mao's teaching, "persist in the mass line, always consult the masses and by their pupils," leading members of the congress now live and work with the Red Guards. They go wherever there are thorny problems and difficulties to propagate Chairman Mao's recent instructions and insure their all-round implementation.

They lead a frugal life and try in every way to economize on administrative expenditure. Impressed by the example set by the leading members of the congress, many young Red Guard fighters say: "Our Red Guard congress is indeed a revolutionized headquarters which fully represents our will."