

The People's Liberation Army should help the broad masses of the Left.

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解放軍報

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Earnestly Implement the Principle of "Supporting The Left, but Not Any Particular Faction"

—In commemoration of the first anniversary of the great supreme commander Chairman Mao's call that "The People's Liberation Army should help the broad masses of the Left"

WITH boundless love and esteem for, infinite faith in and eternal loyalty to the great supreme commander Chairman Mao, we, at a time when the situation in the great proletarian cultural revolution is unprecedentedly excellent, warmly commemorate the first anniversary of Chairman Mao's great call that "The People's Liberation Army should help the broad masses of the Left."

During the past year, the commanders and fighters of our army, resolutely responding to Chairman Mao's great call, have held high the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought in their work of helping the Left, helping industry and agriculture, exercising military control and giving military and political training. They have closely followed Chairman Mao's great strategic plan, steadfastly sided with the revolutionary Left, and helped the masses of the Left with the thought of Mao Tse-tung. Together with the revolutionary masses, they have shattered the bourgeois headquarters headed by China's Khrushchov, developed in depth the revolutionary mass criticism and promoted the revolutionary great alliances, the revolutionary "three-in-one" combinations and the process of struggle-criticism-transformation in each unit. In this way, they have made immense contributions in the great proletarian cultural revolution.

In this great struggle, the mass movement in the army for the creative study and application of Chairman Mao's works has been brought to a new stage. The commanders and fighters have been tempered and tested in carrying on the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat. Large numbers of advanced

individuals and units have emerged. Their outstanding representatives are Comrade Li Wen-chung, the heroic 4th Platoon, and the personnel of Unit 8341 who are helping the Left in the Peking General Knitwear Mill. Within the army there has been a new leap in ideological revolutionization.

The great call that "the People's Liberation Army should help the broad masses of the Left" is an important component part of Chairman Mao's theory on carrying on the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat and an important strategic step in the great proletarian cultural revolution. It marks a new development of Chairman Mao's thinking on army building.

In order to further carry out this great call of Chairman Mao's, it is now necessary to earnestly follow the principle of "helping the Left, but not any particular faction." This is the decisive factor for the army in carrying out Chairman Mao's latest series of instructions to the letter and in an all-round way, and in doing better the work of helping the Left, helping industry and agriculture, exercising military control and giving military and political training.

To help the Left but not any particular faction, it is necessary to act exactly in accordance with Chairman Mao's instructions and support the broad masses of the Left. We must support all revolutionary mass organizations. Favouring one while becoming estranged from another cannot be allowed. Nor is it permissible to support one against another. It is also wrong to "support whatever you do if you are the Left." Instead, we should support all words and deeds that conform with

Mao Tse-tung's thought. Under no circumstances should we support bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism among some of the members. We must use Mao Tse-tung's thought to help them overcome and correct it. The utmost effort should be made to promote the formation of the revolutionary great alliance between the two revolutionary mass groupings on the basis of revolutionary principles.

To carry out resolutely the principle of "helping the Left, but not any particular faction" is an important indication of loyalty to Chairman Mao, to Mao Tse-tung's thought and to his proletarian revolutionary line in the present new situation of the great proletarian cultural revolution.

Today, when the great proletarian cultural revolution has won decisive victory, the handful of renegades and special agents who sneaked into our revolutionary ranks, the handful of diehard capitalist roaders within the Party and other class enemies in society do not take their failure lying down. They are trying in a thousand and one ways to stir up and use reactionary bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism to incite discord and sow dissension among the revolutionaries in order to split their ranks, interfere with Chairman Mao's great strategic plan, and undermine the great proletarian cultural revolution and the proletarian headquarters headed by Chairman Mao. This is the reflection of the struggle between the two classes, the two roads and the two lines in the new situation. The great People's Liberation Army is the most important mainstay of the great proletarian cultural revolution. We must be clear about the characteristics of the class struggle in the present circumstances, sharpen our revolutionary vigilance, take a clear-cut, firm stand on Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line, resolutely adhere to the principle of "helping the Left, but not any particular faction," and wage an uncompromising struggle against bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism. This is the pressing need in uniting the revolutionary masses, in defeating the class enemy and in winning all-round victory in the great proletarian cultural revolution.

Chairman Mao constantly teaches us: **"We must firmly believe that the great majority of the masses are good and that bad elements only make up a very small fraction."**

To have firm faith in the majority of the masses is the core of Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line. It is the basic starting-point of "helping the Left, but not any particular faction." We must firmly believe that after a year and more of the great proletarian cultural revolution, the revolutionary masses have seen more and more clearly both the crimes of the handful of top Party capitalist roaders in opposing the Party and socialism and the counter-revolutionary revisionist line which they pushed. Even among those who were misled in the past, the majority have now awakened

and are standing on Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line. We must not ignore the consciousness of the masses, the new developments of the mass movement and the fact that **"the backward sections among the masses are exerting themselves to catch up with the advanced."** We must not negate and exclude from the revolutionary ranks those people who have made mistakes at one time and those revolutionary organizations where some bad elements sneaked into the leadership.

Bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism is a reactionary social trend of thought. The commanders and fighters of our army, who are fighting in the front-line of helping the Left, helping industry and agriculture, exercising military control and giving military and political training, must take Chairman Mao's latest instructions as the key link, fight self, repudiate revisionism, strengthen ideological revolutionization and resolutely resist the influence of this trend. This is a basic question in "helping the Left, but not any particular faction." If bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism should be allowed to grow in our minds without being resisted, the work of helping the Left, helping industry and agriculture, exercising military control and giving military and political training will be led astray. This will in turn encourage factionalism in some revolutionary mass organizations, deepen the differences between the two groupings of revolutionary mass organizations, damage the unity between the army and the people and hamper the realization of Chairman Mao's great strategic plan.

The People's Liberation Army is a highly proletarianized and militant people's army, founded and nurtured by our great supreme commander Chairman Mao himself. In the new year we must use Mao Tse-tung's thought to unify the thinking and actions of army units supporting the Left in each area so as to enable them to go all-out, aim high, advance courageously and resolutely correct any shortcomings and errors as soon as they emerge. Every commander and fighter of the People's Liberation Army should study more earnestly Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line, strengthen his proletarian Party spirit, oppose bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism, be a model in "helping the Left, but not any particular faction" and do his best to guide those people in the revolutionary ranks with petty-bourgeois ideas on to the path of the proletarian revolution. It is necessary to redouble our revolutionary vigilance, smash the schemes of the class enemies at home and abroad to disrupt the unity between the army and the people and to undermine the great proletarian cultural revolution. It is necessary to greatly strengthen the unity between the army and the people and win new merit in seizing all-round victory in the great proletarian cultural revolution.

("Jiefangjun Bao" editorial, January 28)