

Develop the Party's Working Style of Forging Close Links With the Masses

— In Commemoration of the 47th Anniversary of the
Founding of the Communist Party of China

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FULL of vigour, the great, glorious and correct Chinese Communist Party with Comrade Mao Tse-tung as its leader, ushers in the glorious day of its 47th anniversary during the great march towards all-round victory in the great proletarian cultural revolution.

Chairman Mao teaches us: "Armed with Marxist-Leninist theory and ideology, the Communist Party of China has brought a new style of work to the Chinese people, a style of work which essentially entails integrating theory with practice, forging close links with the masses and practising self-criticism." Our Party's excellent style of work of forging close links with the masses, which Chairman Mao has fostered personally, has been greatly developed and has aroused the masses to the full and displayed unprecedentedly great revolutionary power in transforming the world in the course of the tempestuous mass movement of the great proletarian cultural revolution and in the fierce struggle against the counter-revolutionary revisionist line of China's Khrushchov.

Now, the great proletarian cultural revolution has won decisive victory. The bourgeois reactionary forces, which have China's Khrushchov and company as their representatives, have failed ignominiously in their scheme to restore capitalism in China. Mao Tse-tung's thought and Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line are being grasped by the revolutionary masses. Revolutionary committees have been established at all levels in the overwhelming majority of areas of the country. The socialist motherland is thriving. The situation in the country is better than ever. However, the class struggle remains acute and complicated. The handful of class enemies who have been defeated and are at their last gasp will still put up a death-bed struggle. In these circumstances, the continued development of our Party's working style of forging close links with the masses is of extremely great significance for the consolidation and development of the victories of the

great proletarian cultural revolution, for the consolidation and growth of the newly established revolutionary committees, for strengthening the dictatorship of the proletariat and for carrying the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end.

Chairman Mao recently made this penetrating statement: "To protect the masses or to repress them — here is the basic distinction between the Communist Party and the Kuomintang, between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, and between the dictatorship of the proletariat and the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie."

Since the great proletarian cultural revolution is a great political revolution carried out by the proletariat against the bourgeoisie and all other exploiting classes, it has to advance through repeated and extremely fierce class struggles. The struggle between the bourgeoisie which attempts to stage a come-back and the proletariat which opposes its come-back will be a very protracted one. The gradual consolidation and growth of the revolutionary committees will be a process of serious class struggle. At the same time, it will be a process of learning from the masses and of constantly summing up experience. We must soberly recognize this. At present, the enemy is using every means to sow dissension between the new-born revolutionary committees and the masses and to destroy the ties which have been forged between them. He is going all-out to stir up an evil Right deviationist wind to reverse correct decisions in a vain effort to blur the distinction between classes and turn the struggle away from its general orientation; or he is sugar-coating his bullets to deceive and corrupt our comrades and alienate certain members of revolutionary committees from the masses. Taking these characteristics into account, the revolutionary committees must at all times direct the spearhead of struggle against the handful of diehard capitalist roaders, renegades, enemy agents, and the landlords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries, bad

elements and Rightists who have not reformed themselves. The revolutionary committees must take the initiative and lead the revolutionary masses in dealing steady, accurate and relentless blows at the enemy. And, at the same time, the revolutionary committees must, at all times and in all circumstances, firmly protect the masses. Reliance on the masses and the strengthening of the dictatorship of the proletariat are two aspects of the same question. Repudiation of Right opportunism, Right splittism and Right capitulationism, and taking stock of the class ranks have the same class content; both are aimed at protecting the masses and hitting at the small handful of class enemies. Revolutionary mass criticism and repudiation should be carried on vigorously in close combination with taking stock of the class ranks and with struggle-criticism-transformation in each unit. We must be good at seeing through and courageously exposing the attempts of the small handful of counter-revolutionaries to undermine and distort the strategic tasks put forward by the proletarian headquarters, and all the other dirty intrigues of the enemy. The revolutionary masses of various groupings must pay attention to building unity in the fight against the enemy and make a strict distinction between the two different types of contradictions in the complicated class struggle; they should be good both at dealing with contradictions among the people and at discerning contradictions between ourselves and the enemy.

Chairman Mao points out in his work *On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People* that the first function of the dictatorship of the proletariat "is to suppress the reactionary classes and elements and those exploiters in our country who resist the socialist revolution, to suppress those who try to wreck our socialist construction, or in other words, to resolve the internal contradictions between ourselves and the enemy." Chairman Mao also says: "Who is to exercise this dictatorship? Naturally, the working class and the people under its leadership. Dictatorship does not apply within the ranks of the people. The people cannot exercise dictatorship over themselves, nor must one section of the people oppress another." What great significance there is in this extremely penetrating Marxist analysis by Chairman Mao in guiding us at the present time in handling the contradictions between ourselves and the enemy and those among the people (for instance, contradictions between revolutionary organizations)!

Chairman Mao points out: "Having close ties with the masses is most fundamental in reforming state organs." The masses are the source of strength for the political power of the proletariat. Resolute reliance on the masses of the people and having close ties with them is the fundamental hallmark distinguishing the political party of the proletariat and the political power

of the proletariat from all forms of political parties and political power of the bourgeoisie. The rich experience of revolutionary committees in many places has shown that the "three-in-one" revolutionary committee, born in the storm of the mass movement of the great proletarian cultural revolution and embracing representatives of the revolutionary masses, representatives of the armed forces and representatives of the revolutionary cadres, has a solid mass basis and inherently good conditions for linking itself with the masses. We must bring this advantage into full play and develop it, resolutely oppose the corrosion by bureaucracy, firmly reform old regulations and customs which divorce us from the masses, and constantly maintain the most extensive and close ties with the working people, so that the revolutionary committee is able to take deep root among the masses and become a vigorous, militant command post which is revolutionary and enjoys proletarian authority.

The members of the revolutionary committee are ordinary workers. They should go deep among the masses and not take special privileges. They should consult the masses extensively whenever there are problems and take an active part in socialist productive labour. Chairman Mao teaches us: "Take the ideas of the masses and concentrate them, then go to the masses, persevere in the ideas and carry them through, so as to form correct ideas of leadership—such is the basic method of leadership." Both the veteran revolutionary cadres and the new cadres who emerge in the mass movement of the great cultural revolution, must carry out this instruction of Chairman Mao's and always maintain flesh-and-blood ties with the masses. Their posts may change but they must not alter their working style of linking themselves with the masses.

The members of the revolutionary committee, no matter where they come from, should serve as representatives of the revolutionary masses and act in accordance with Mao Tse-tung's thought and proletarian Party spirit. They must not just represent certain small "mountain-strongholds" and fail to represent the vast revolutionary masses; they must not just unite a minority and ignore the overwhelming majority of people. Individualism, the "mountain-stronghold" mentality, "small group" mentality, sectarianism and anarchism are not proletarian ideology but bourgeois. Within the revolutionary committee, we must constantly use Mao Tse-tung's thought, that is, the world outlook of the proletariat, to criticize and repudiate all the influences of bourgeois ideology. Only in this way can the revolutionary great alliance and revolutionary committee be continuously consolidated.

The revolutionary masses should cherish the new-born revolutionary committees. The revolutionary committees should take the initiative in accepting criticism and supervision by the revolutionary masses. Wherever the masses constantly and enthusiastically and with an attitude of cherishing the committees, are able to offer

criticism and make suggestions for improving the work, this will be an indication that there are a good democratic atmosphere, vigour in work and close links between the revolutionary committees and the masses. Chairman Mao points out: **"The Communist Party does not fear criticism because we are Marxists, the truth is on our side, and the basic masses, the workers and peasants, are on our side."** As for the plots of the handful of enemies who, under the pretence of "criticism," stir up trouble and make vicious attacks in an attempt to shake the revolutionary committees, they must resolutely be exposed and dealt blows.

"The people, and the people alone, are the motive force in the making of world history." When we read this brilliant axiom of Chairman Mao, we feel how profound it is. The rich experience of the great proletarian cultural revolution has taught us that to carry out a thoroughgoing revolution against the bourgeoisie and all other exploiting classes, we must have the great guidance of Mao Tse-tung's thought, must arouse the broad masses of revolutionary people and rely on them, must rely on the People's Liberation Army and on the great majority of the cadres. China's Khrushchov and company, the handful of agents in our Party—agents of the remnants of the Kuomintang and the landlords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries, bad elements and Rightists, for a long time pushed an all-embracing counter-revolutionary, revisionist line and adopted the working style of the Kuomintang. In doing so, they were trying to divorce the Party and proletarian political power from the masses so as to achieve their criminal aim of concealing their reactionary features and restoring capitalism. The great proletarian cultural revolution initiated and being led by Chairman Mao has gone further in fundamentally solving the question of the links between the Party and political power and the masses, thus guaranteeing that our country will never change its political colour.

Mao Tse-tung's thought and Chairman Mao's revolutionary line represent the basic interests of the masses and embody the will and demands of the proletariat and the masses in the most concentrated way. The basic task of the revolutionary committee is this—to persist in the creative study and application of Mao Tse-tung's thought, unswervingly carry out Chairman Mao's revolutionary line, and ensure that the fighting tasks, principles and policies of the proletarian headquarters with Chairman Mao as the leader and Vice-Chairman Lin Piao as the deputy leader are grasped by the masses promptly, accurately and comprehensively and turned into their conscious action. Only in the process of striving to fulfil this task can the revolutionary committee have close ties with the masses and be one with them. In order to carry out this task on a still wider scale and in a penetrating way, further big efforts must be made to run Mao Tse-tung's thought

study classes of all types well; with the development of the revolutionary mass movement, new content must be added and the political consciousness of the revolutionary masses must be raised continuously so that Mao Tse-tung's thought study classes are turned into a tremendous force promoting the success of work of all kinds.

At historic turning points, in winning great victories, such as on the eve of the victory of the War of Resistance Against Japan and at the approach of nationwide victory in the Liberation War, when Chairman Mao put forward the revolutionary tasks, line, principles and policies, he always warned the whole Party and called on it to pay great attention to the question of working style and to look upon the maintenance and development of the Party's traditional style of work as an important guarantee for uniting the whole Party and the revolutionary masses, overcoming difficulties, defeating the enemy and consolidating victory and carrying it forward.

The time is now not far off when all-round victory will be won in the great proletarian cultural revolution, yet it will take a very long time and require tremendous efforts to consolidate and develop this victory. **As long as we rely on the people, believe firmly in the inexhaustible creative power of the masses and hence trust and identify ourselves with them, we can overcome every difficulty, and no enemy can crush us while we can crush any enemy.**

The great proletarian cultural revolution is a great movement in which the revolutionary masses in their hundreds of millions are mobilized to rectify Party organizations. Under the guidance of Chairman Mao's proletarian line on Party building, the whole Party and the people throughout the country have undertaken revolutionary mass criticism and repudiation on an unprecedented scale against China's Khrushchov's counter-revolutionary revisionist line on Party building. Cleansed, tempered and tested by the storm of this mass movement, our Party has greatly strengthened its ties with the masses and it is becoming purer, stronger and more vigorous. In the great proletarian cultural revolution, we Party members in our vast numbers must be able to stand up to every harsh test of the class struggle, make further efforts to use Mao Tse-tung's thought to remould our world outlook and strive truly to be vanguards of the proletariat. Assuredly we will be able to fulfil the great historic mission of continuing to make revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat and make still greater contributions to the communist movement.

Long live the great, glorious and correct Communist Party of China!

Long live the invincible thought of Mao Tse-tung!

Long live our great leader Chairman Mao!