

# Communists Should Be the Advanced Elements of the Proletariat

—In commemoration of the 49th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China

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**A**T a time when the struggle of the people of the world against U.S. imperialism is in a new upsurge, when China's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution is advancing triumphantly, and when the movement for consolidating and building the Party is continuing to develop in depth, comrades throughout the Party and the whole Chinese people are warmly celebrating the 49th anniversary of the birth of the great, glorious and correct Communist Party of China.

In nearly half a century of revolutionary storms, the Chinese Communist Party nurtured and led by our great leader Chairman Mao himself has gone through protracted struggles against the enemies at home and abroad, and won one great victory after another in seizing political power and consolidating the dictatorship of the proletariat by arming the masses. The glorious fighting course the Chinese Communist Party has lived through shows that she is worthy to be called the core of leadership of the working class and the revolutionary people of the whole country and a shock force of the international proletariat of our time in the struggle against U.S. imperialism, against modern revisionism represented by social-imperialism and against all reaction.

Chairman Mao teaches us: **"The Party organization should be composed of the advanced elements of the proletariat; it should be a vigorous vanguard organization capable of leading the proletariat and the revolutionary masses in the fight against the class enemy."** The movement for the consolidation and building of the Party is meant precisely to go on building and consolidating our revolutionary vanguard of the proletariat, **get rid of the stale and take in the fresh**, strengthen Party organizations at all levels as fighting bastions in continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat, and further temper the broad masses of the Party members into advanced elements in continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat.

What are the criteria for the advanced elements of the proletariat? They are the five requirements elucidated by Chairman Mao and stipulated in the new Party Constitution adopted by the Ninth Party Congress, which the Party members must meet.

First, study and apply Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought in a living way. This refers to what guides our thinking, and to our political orientation. Chairman Mao teaches us: **"Cadres should be educated to grasp some Marxism-Leninism; it would be all the better if they grasp more of it. That is to say, they should go in for Marxism-Leninism, and not revisionism."** It is by relying on the living study and application of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought that the advanced elements of the proletariat grow in maturity. The new Party members and the activists who aspire to join the Party should study Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, and the older Party members should do the same; leading cadres at all levels, in particular, should study it conscientiously and assiduously. They should apply what they have learnt. The essence of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought is to make revolution, carry on class struggle and exercise the dictatorship of the proletariat. By living study and application we mean to integrate theory with practice, adhere to Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line and his general and specific policies in the course of socialist revolution and socialist construction and be daring to struggle against the class enemy, against the "Left" and Right deviations, and against the non-proletarian ideology in one's mind.

Second, work for the interests of the vast majority of the people of China and the world. Chairman Mao teaches us: **"We must work for the interests of the vast majority of the people, for the interests of the vast majority of the people of China and for the interests of the vast majority of the people of the world; we must not work for a small number of persons, for the exploiting classes, for the bourgeoisie or for the land-**

lords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries, bad elements or Rightists." To work for the interests of the vast majority of the people, Communists must carry on class struggle, overthrow U.S. imperialism and all its running dogs, and devote every ounce of their energy and even their lives to the overthrow of the bourgeoisie and all other exploiting classes and to the emancipation of all mankind. Some persons profess to serve the people, but in reality they work only for their small mountain-strongholds, their small groups and themselves. Such persons are not genuine Communists and should not be allowed to sit on a leading body, still less to head it.

Third, be able at uniting with the great majority, including those who have wrongly opposed them but are sincerely correcting their mistakes; however, special vigilance must be maintained against careerists, conspirators and double-dealers so as to prevent such bad elements from usurping the leadership of the Party and the state at any level and guarantee that the leadership of the Party and the state always remains in the hands of Marxist revolutionaries. It is all for the purpose of consolidating the dictatorship of the proletariat that the great majority must be united with and the bad elements prevented from usurping the leadership of the Party and the state at any level. Chairman Mao teaches us: **"It is necessary to unite with the masses of the people and unite with the masses of cadres, to unite with 95 per cent of both."** Communists, particularly leading cadres of the Party, must have the broadness of mind of the proletariat, and should not be narrow-minded. They must consider the general interest and keep the whole situation in mind. They must understand that **"people can change."** **"We should persuade those who have made mistakes to mend their ways and help them correct their mistakes. We must not keep on criticizing a person without end once he has conscientiously corrected his mistakes."**

Fourth, consult with the masses when matters arise. Chairman Mao teaches us: **"Communists must have a democratic style of work, and not a patriarchal style of work."** **"When matters arise, consult with the comrades, have full discussions, listen to different views and allow even those who have dissenting views to speak out."** That is to say, we should adhere to the practice of "letting all people have their say" and oppose the practice of "what I say counts." **"Don't say yes at a meeting and go back on your words and say no after it."** Communists should be willing pupils to the masses, identify themselves with the masses and adhere to the principle of **"from the masses, to the masses."** It is all the more necessary for Party cadres to go deep among the masses, make investigations and studies, grasp outstanding typical examples and do a good job as regards the work as a whole by first grasping one-third of it. There are many things we do not understand, which the masses have put forward; we must learn from them and popularize their advanced experience.

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Fifth, be bold in making criticism and self-criticism. This is a fine tradition of our Party. It is only through criticism and self-criticism that Communists can temper and improve themselves. Chairman Mao says: **"Don't think you are always right, as if you alone possess all the truth. Don't think that you alone can do everything while others can do nothing, as if the earth would stop turning without you."** Communists must, both during and after the Party consolidation movement, open their minds to the masses and welcome their comments. If a person has made mistakes but has readily made self-criticism, invited others' criticism and corrected the mistakes, then he is a good comrade.

The five requirements that Party members must meet boil down to these: one is to be loyal to Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought and to Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line; another is to have faith in the masses and rely on them; and the third is to take a correct attitude towards oneself. Paramount in solving the three questions is to remould one's world outlook consciously and strive to wholly join the Party ideologically. Only by establishing the proletarian world outlook and setting strict demands on themselves according to the five requirements Party members must meet, can they become advanced elements of the proletariat worthy of the name. The greater the number of such advanced elements, the better the role of fighting bastions our Party organizations can play, and we will certainly be able to triumphantly fulfil our great historic task of continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat.

In the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, under the brilliant guidance of the Ninth Party Congress, our Party has achieved unprecedented unity on the basis of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought and around the Party Central Committee with our great leader Chairman Mao as its leader and Vice-Chairman Lin as its deputy leader. Our Party is advancing in great strides. Tempered in the movement for Party consolidation and Party building, it will surely become even more powerful, more consolidated and more vigorous.

Let us conscientiously study and fulfil the five requirements for Party members, conscientiously study and carry out the new Party Constitution and Chairman Mao's theory on Party building, and greet the 50th anniversary of the Party with great achievements in Party consolidation and Party building and in the socialist revolution and socialist construction!

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

Long live great Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought!

Long live our great leader Chairman Mao!

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