

Study the 16 Points, Know Them Well And Apply Them

THE Decision of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party Concerning the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution [see *Peking Review*, No. 33, 1966], i.e., the 16 Points, was formulated under the personal guidance of Comrade Mao Tse-tung. The basic spirit running through the 16 Points is: trust the masses, rely on them, boldly arouse them and respect their initiative. That is to say, in the great proletarian cultural revolution, the only method is for the masses to educate and liberate themselves, and no method of doing things on their behalf must be used.

The masses are the masters of our society. The great proletarian cultural revolution must rely on the conscious action of the masses and be made by them.

Can the cultural revolution be carried through successfully by relying on the masses of the school or unit in question? Yes, it can! Every revolutionary teacher or student and every revolutionary comrade should be fired with the great and lofty aspirations of the proletariat. Comrades of various schools and units will surely be able to win victory in the great cultural revolution by relying on the masses' own strength, provided that they conscientiously study the 16 Points, know them well and apply them.

A revolutionary mass movement is a great crucible. Every revolutionary teacher or student and every revolutionary comrade must stand the test, be tempered and acquire the ability to make revolutions in this crucible.

Once the revolutionary masses master the 16 Points, they will have a clear direction in the cultural revolution, distinguish right from wrong in their work, and correctly plan their future action. We should analyse and assess the preceding part of the movement in the light of the 16 Points and see what is right and what is wrong and what methods are correct and what methods are erroneous.

The cultural revolutionary groups, committees and congresses are new forms of organization whereby under the leadership of the Communist Party the masses themselves are rising to make the cultural revolution. In accordance with the stipulations of the 16 Points, it is necessary to hold general elections like those of the

Paris Commune. There should be a full exchange of views for several days on the questions of whom to elect and how, and these should be discussed over and over again. Should those elected prove incompetent, they can be replaced by elections or recalled.

The revolutionary masses of each school or unit should devote their main efforts to running the cultural revolution well in their own school or unit. They should learn to analyse the specific conditions of their own school or unit concretely, find solutions for existing problems and themselves amass experience in practice. This is the best support for other schools and units. The cultural revolution in each school or unit can be unfolded and conducted successfully only when it is carried out by the masses themselves in their own school or unit. We should have confidence in ourselves as well as in the revolutionary masses of other schools and units being able to solve their own problems and win their own liberation by themselves.

The great proletarian cultural revolution is an ideological and political struggle which touches the people to their very souls. This struggle should be carried out by reasoning, not by coercion or force. The truth is in the hands of the proletariat. Struggle by reasoning and not struggle by coercion or force should be applied even in dealing with bourgeois Rightists. Struggle by reasoning helps to fully expose the ugly features of the bourgeois Rightists and to thoroughly refute their fallacies so that they will be isolated to the greatest extent.

The 16 Points are the programme advanced by Comrade Mao Tse-tung for the great proletarian cultural revolution; they are the revolutionary masses' guide in unifying their understanding and action.

The masses of the workers, peasants, soldiers, revolutionary intellectuals and revolutionary cadres resolutely support the 16 Points. We, the revolutionary masses, must conscientiously study these 16 Points, using them as a weapon to size up the actual situation of the movement in our own school or unit. We should continue to do what conforms to the 16 Points and correct what does not conform to them. Persons in charge in schools or units who resist the 16 Points should be exposed and repudiated.

(*Renmin Ribao* editorial, August 13.)