

# Always Remain Pupils of the Masses

*At a time when our great leader Chairman Mao's latest instruction that fighters should be included in the study classes sponsored by the army has spread all over China, P.L.A. commanders and fighters, proletarian revolutionaries, the revolutionary masses and revolutionary cadres everywhere are warmly hailing and conscientiously studying this great instruction. In their discussions, P.L.A. commanders and fighters unanimously declare that this instruction is an expression of the great solicitude which Chairman Mao has for all in the Liberation Army; that it shows his great trust in them and is a mighty encouragement to them. With soaring political enthusiasm, they are determined to implement it to the letter as fast as possible. The revolutionary masses and revolutionary cadres are all agreed that this great instruction is of extremely great significance in establishing better relations between cadres and masses throughout the Party, the country and the army, and in speeding up the ideological revolutionization of cadres and masses. All cadres, old and new, have expressed their determination to carry out Chairman Mao's latest instruction thoroughly, whether in the study classes or at their posts, learn modestly from the masses and always be their pupils.*

*Following is the full text of the editorial published in "Jiefangjun Bao" on December 12, commenting on the experience gained by air force units in Shanghai in implementing Chairman Mao's latest instruction. A report on this experience appeared in that paper the same day. — P.R. Ed.*

**C**HAIRMAN MAO recently instructed us that **"fighters should be included in the study classes sponsored by the army."** In accordance with this instruction, the air force units in Shanghai and many other units have enrolled large numbers of fighters in classes for the study of Mao Tse-tung's thought, which have been set up at various levels. By studying, living and undertaking productive labour together, the cadres and fighters in these courses have further developed our army's revolutionary tradition of unity between officers and men and between higher and lower ranks. There is a new atmosphere of unity, alertness, earnestness and liveliness in these classes. Their experience shows that this is an excellent practice.

The biggest advantage of such study courses is that through this method the cadres are able to learn in the best way from the fighters and be pupils of the masses. In them, cadres and fighters together discuss the excellent situation prevailing in the great proletarian cultural revolution and repudiate the counter-revolutionary revisionist line of China's Khrushchov and the handful

of other top capitalist roaders in the Party. And together they recall their past sufferings and trace the source of their present happy life, study and apply Chairman Mao's works in a creative way, and fight self-interest and repudiate revisionism. The sincere and profound class feeling of the fighters which they show in their warm love for Chairman Mao, for Mao Tse-tung's thought and for his proletarian revolutionary line, their revolutionary spirit in striving hard to apply what they have learnt from Chairman Mao's works, in boldly revealing what is in their minds and in fighting selfish ideas—these have given powerful impetus to the cadres' efforts to fight self-interest and repudiate revisionism and promoted the remoulding of their thinking.

Through studying together, the cadres have deepened their understanding of Mao Tse-tung's thought and are better able to take a correct attitude towards themselves and the masses, discard their bureaucratic airs and enhance their class feelings for the fighters. The fighters have come to see more clearly many of the cadres' merits and acquire an all-round understanding of them; they thus show them greater respect and concern. As a result, relations between cadres and fighters have become much closer.

Chairman Mao's latest instruction is not only an important measure for settling the cadre question through education at present, but it points out the way forward to educate the cadres in the future.

Chairman Mao teaches: **"The masses are the real heroes." "In a sense, the fighters with the most practical experience are the wisest and the most capable."** By studying with the fighters, the cadres are able, by revealing their thoughts to the masses, to get help and draw fresh strength and wisdom from them. This is an important guarantee for the ideological revolutionization of the cadres. Excellent proof of this is provided by the tremendous achievements made by the cadres and fighters of our army in their diligent study and application of the "three constantly read articles" [*Serve the People, In Memory of Norman Bethune, The Foolish Old Man Who Removed the Mountains*] after Comrade Lin Piao initiated the campaign for the creative study and application of Chairman Mao's works. It is proved by their achievements in eliminating self-interest and fostering devotion to public interest and remoulding their world outlook, with the veterans setting an example for the young fighters who in turn give them help.

The idea of being pupils of the masses and learning from them, the idea of from the masses, to the masses, is a great concept consistently advocated by Chairman

Mao, a revolutionary tradition of our Party and army. This fundamental concept of the cadres being pupils of the masses runs through the method of investigation and study, the method of leadership known as from the masses, to the masses, the method of training in which officers teach soldiers, soldiers teach officers and the soldiers teach each other, the system under which officers serve as soldiers in companies and other practices which our Party and army have long and persistently carried out under the personal leadership of Chairman Mao.

How to guarantee the ideological revolutionization of the leading cadres at all levels during the period of socialist revolution is a matter of prime importance in combating and preventing revisionism and consolidating the dictatorship of the proletariat. It is more important than ever to increase help from the masses to the cadres. At present, the masses of workers, peasants and soldiers are themselves mastering Mao Tse-tung's thought and their proletarian consciousness has soared to unprece-

ded heights. Our cadres must attach greater importance than ever to learning from the masses if they do not want to lag behind the times. A requirement of the great proletarian cultural revolution and of the class struggle is that **fighters should be included in the study classes sponsored by the army.** This should be done now and at all times in the future.

The great Chinese People's Liberation Army, founded by Chairman Mao and armed with Mao Tse-tung's thought, is a steel wall defending the dictatorship of the proletariat and the main pillar in consolidating this dictatorship. For our army to be able to play a greater role in the cultural revolution, it must take Mao Tse-tung's thought as its guide and build up better relations between superiors and subordinates and between cadres and masses. All cadres, old and new, in our army, should follow the example of Chairman Mao's great practice and learn modestly from the fighters and always remain pupils of the masses, whether in study courses or at their posts.