

SUPPORT OF PLA IN WUHAN HAILED
(4 August 1967)

[Full text of an editorial entitled "Raise High the Great Banner of 'Support the Army and Cherish the People.'"]

"The proletarian cultural revolution in the Wuhan area is now surging forward like a violent torrent. In this excellent situation of the revolution, the proletarian revolutionaries and the broad mass of commanders and

fighters in Wuhan are enthusiastically responding to Chairman Mao's great call of "support the army and cherish the people." The army and the people are united in the struggle to carry the mass exposure, mass criticism and repudiation, and mass struggle against the handful of top party persons in power taking the capitalist road and their representatives in the Wuhan area to a vigorous upsurge.

The Chinese PLA is a people's army founded personally by our great supreme commander Chairman Mao and commanded directly by Vice Chairman Lin. It is unparalleled in the world, a heroic army armed with the invincible Mao Tse-tung's thought. It is the strongest pillar of proletarian dictatorship and the strongest backing of the proletarian revolutionaries. In response to Chairman Mao's great call for the "three support" and "two military," it has made outstanding and new contributions to the proletarian cultural revolution.

In the dramatic class struggle in the Wuhan area, the PLA commanders and fighters, standing firmly on the side of the proletarian revolutionaries, have boldly stepped forward to support and defend them resolutely and defeated the handful of reactionary elements. They have proved with their own action that the PLA deserves to be called the loyal defenders of the proletarian cultural revolution and the good fighters loyal to Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line!

The leading organs of the Wuhan units have made mistakes of orientation and line in "supporting the left." However, under the wise leadership of Chairman Mao and the CCF Central Committee, they have adopted the correct stand and policy, and made a self-criticism before the broad revolutionary masses. They have also expressed their determination to support the proletarian revolutionaries resolutely and to overthrow the handful of party and army persons in authority taking the capitalist road in the Wuhan area.

This revolutionary action on the part of the leading army organs of the Wuhan area immediately received the warm welcome of the local proletarian revolutionaries. This strongly proves the high prestige enjoyed by the PLA among the broad masses, and shows the support to and love of the PLA by the proletarian revolutionaries.

The proletarian revolutionaries must at all times remember Chairman Mao's great teaching: "Without a people's army, the people have nothing." They should further strengthen their close cooperation with the PLA and unite against the common enemy. They should with great warmth help and support the comrades of the PLA, so that these comrades can understand the local situation of the proletarian cultural revolution and do the work of "three support" and "two military" even better. They should learn from the PLA the fine work style of being modest and cautious, and in handling the relationships between the army and the people they should conscientiously carry out self-criticism and strictly guard against the attempts of the class enemy to sow dissension. In case the comrades who have made mistakes, "it will be well as long as they conscientiously correct them." They must not groundlessly elevate matters to the level of principle, or forbid revolution.

"Support the army and cherish the people" has all along been the brilliant thought of Chairman Mao's. The present proletarian cultural revolution has given it more new content and greater significance. It is a militant slogan serving us an impetus to the proletarian cultural revolution, a cardinal principle in handling correctly the relationship between the army and the revolutionary masses in this proletarian cultural revolution, and the basic guarantee of its victory.

At present, the handful of reactionary elements in the Wuhan area are being deserted and left in an impasse. They are adopting more covert and more malicious tactics to stir up trouble in the relations between the PLA and the proletarian revolutionaries. In such a circumstance, we must not be negligent or relax our vigilance. We must hold high the great banner of "Support the army and cherish the people," strengthen the unity between the army and the people, and handle the relations between them well, in order to smash all the conspiracies of the class enemy and to achieve new, great victories for the proletarian cultural revolution!