

SHANGHAI PAPER: 'EVIL WIND' TAKES MANY FORMS

Shanghai City Service in Mandarin 0330 GMT 19 Jan 68 B

[Text of LIBERATION DAILY editorial: "Checking the Evil Wind Over the Conference Tables"]

[Text] Following the good example set by Sungchiang County in establishing its revolutionary great alliance, many rural communes in the Shanghai suburbs have rapidly followed suit. Representatives of the two groupings of revolutionary mass organizations in many counties and communes have come to the conference tables where they have made progress. The situation in the suburbs as a whole is good.

One thing, however, is worth noting: An evil wind is blowing over the conference tables. This evil wind takes many forms:

1--Representatives demand the right to speak as plaintiffs so they can enumerate the crimes of their opponents. This attitude proves that they lack the spirit of self-criticism, let alone the sincerity needed for negotiation.

2--They assume an air of self-criticism but they are really exaggerating the mistakes of their opponents in a most satirical way.

3--While criticizing others they insist that the point they are pursuing is a matter of principle, but while engaged in self-criticism they invariably stop short in the middle of a sentence. They argue that responsibility for the crimes charged against them actually lies with the other side.

4--They are only willing to concede as much as the other side does, and they insist that equal exchanges must be made.

5--The information they gather to prove the wrongdoing of others is utilized only to force the other side to admit its mistakes.

6--In dealing with the organizations under the command of their opponents, they buy a few renegades and turn them into agents to weaken the opposing camp by breaking into its subordinate units one by one.

7--Prior to negotiations, they rehearse their defensive and offensive tactics so they are well prepared to cope with the situation.

8--After negotiations, they use their propaganda machines to praise themselves and slander the other side in order to mold public opinion.

9--They use high-sounding words at the negotiations, but simultaneously conduct outside activities.

All this is beyond description. In short, their purpose is to overwhelm and discredit the other side. What kind of attitude is this? It is the attitude of bourgeois politicians. It is a sign of bourgeois and petty-bourgeois factionalism. If we let this evil wind continue to develop, there will be no end to the disputes. It is creating splits and undermining our revolutionary great alliances. It corrupts us, hurts our comrades, and gives our enemies a free rein. As a result, the revolution will be hampered and the masses will be harmed. This evil wind must be checked. All revolutionary comrades must exert joint efforts to cope with it until it is completely crushed.

The proletarian revolutionaries, while solving problems, must have a firm stand and follow an unswerving principle: Be merciless toward the enemy and be kind toward comrades. This principle must be followed both on the battlefield and at the conference table. In dealing with the enemy our policy is to give tit for tat, and every inch of ground must be firmly held. The enemy must be exposed, attacked, overwhelmed, and fully discredited. When treating our own comrades, it is necessary to observe the rules of courtesy, be frank, and help each other uphold principles. All misunderstandings must be removed in order to strengthen unity. In this way we can join together and cope with our common enemy.

At present, those sitting around the conference tables are the representatives of the various revolutionary mass organizations. They are one another's comrades in arms. How can they treat one another like enemies? If they do this to each other, whom do they support?

In the course of the revolutionary rebellion it is only natural that the two groups of revolutionary mass organizations should have inadvertently made some mistakes. Of course, there is a difference between serious mistakes and slight ones. There are various kinds of mistakes. During negotiations, problems within our revolutionary ranks are bound to come into the open.

In treating such problems, we should be solicitous, sincere, and helpful to each other. Our purpose should be to help our comrades enhance their ideological consciousness so they can unite. Even if the other side refuses to admit its mistakes, we still must be patient. Under no circumstances should we find fault with the other side and accuse it of some minor mistakes.

The handful of capitalist-roaders in the party and all kinds of monsters and demons hope to see us fight among ourselves. While the fighting is going on within our ranks, they are able to fish in troubled waters and escape unscathed. For this reason, our comrades must be vigilant. We should never adopt the bourgeois factionalist mentality. We must guard against the sinister conspiracies hatched by the enemy.

Comrades at conference tables, your responsibility is heavy and the way is long. It is our hope that while holding talks, you will realize that the party, the state, and the people expect great things of you. Do you understand how heavy your responsibility is? Have you ever thought about how to put Chairman Mao's latest instructions into effect? Comrades, have you ever thought about how to achieve an all-round victory in the great proletariancultural revolution? Comrades, has the question of how to grasp the revolution, promote production, and win an all-round victory in agriculture ever concerned you? Comrades, you are the responsible persons of the revolutionary mass organizations. Have you ever thought about how to lead your ranks along the course of revolution charted by Chairman Mao?

You proletarian revolutionaries are men of insight. You should take the whole situation into consideration. You must entertain lofty ideas and make plans for the future. You should know that the purpose of getting together for long talks is to achieve unity, accomplish fighting tasks with concerted efforts, and make new contributions to the people and the cause of revolution.

The conference table is a battlefield to defeat factionalism, a place to combat self-interest and repudiate revisionism, and a classroom for the creative study and application of Chairman Mao's latest instructions. As soon as the revolutionary great alliances are formed, they should be further consolidated. In this regard you must redouble your efforts.