

PEOPLE'S DAILY LAUDS PINGKU COMMITTEE EXAMPLE

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[Text] Peking--PEOPLE'S DAILY recommends the new Pingku County revolutionary committee as a good example of ideological revolutionization.

It carries a front page report by a staff correspondent on the work of this committee since it was set up last September, when it became the first county-level organ of provisional power to be established under the Peking revolutionary committee.

The committee has worked valiantly, studying and applying Chairman Mao's works in a living way, carrying out Chairman Mao's new instructions all-sidedly, maintaining close contact with the masses, and developing its proletarian qualities by "fighting self and repudiating revisionism." This very lively committee's experience merits great attention, says PEOPLE'S DAILY in a Commentator's note on the report. For a leading organ to fulfill its tasks so splendidly and do such first-rate work, it must revolutionize itself ideologically. That is the key, the paper stresses.

The paper's Commentator adds that in the last analysis, political power is linked up with the quality of the leading body. He says: "The ideological revolutionization of the leading body is a cardinal issue. It is linked up with the question of effective control by the proletariat, the exercise of proletarian power. Only by revolutionizing its ideology can the leading body set the pace in the ideological revolutionization of the cadres at all levels and the revolutionary masses in the county, wrest all-round victory in the great proletarian cultural revolution in the countryside, and win good results in both the revolution and production.

"Basically, the way a leading body can revolutionize itself ideologically is to arm itself with the great thought of Mao Tse-tung, and to insure that Chairman Mao's latest series of instructions on the cultural revolution are carried out within the leading body, so that they become the program for guiding all its actions.

"The members of the leading body should follow the principle of: 'Remain one of the common people while serving as an official,' as Chairman Mao teaches. They should do so to insure their ideological revolutionization. They should plunge into the stormy sea of mass struggle, and live, study, work, and fight alongside the masses. They should constantly draw wisdom from the masses, seek their help and supervision, and be one with them. Only thus can they become genuine representatives of the masses and win their sincere support.

"If it is to revolutionize itself ideologically, the leading body must always keep in the forefront of its mind this teaching of Chairman Mao's: 'To fulfill its task of exercising leadership, a party committee must rely on its "squad members" and enable them to play their parts to the full.'

"A newborn revolutionary committee must bring into full play all the positive factors of its three-way alliance. It must give this full attention. The revolutionary leading cadres forming the backbone of the leadership and the People's Liberation Army representatives serving as a bulwark should show particular respect for and place particular reliance on the representatives of the revolutionary masses, for through them the leading body can maintain constant and close contact with the masses. At the same time, it must use the utmost zeal in helping these mass representatives in their ideological revolutionization so as to enable them to mature rapidly as reliable successors to the proletarian revolutionary cause."

PEOPLE'S DAILY Commentator concludes that "so long as the leading body is unified in its thinking and marches in step, it will be able effectively to exercise its role of a collective leadership."

The news report on which this comment is made describes the profound class feeling for the great leader Chairman Mao shown by the Pingku revolutionary committee in striving to exercise revolutionary political power effectively. There is an excellent situation in both the revolution and production in the country. The campaign of revolutionary mass repudiation is being developed to greater depth. Half the population has attended study courses in Mao Tse-tung's thought. The field management of winter wheat and the preparations for the spring sowing are better than in any previous year.

These achievements are the result of a series of struggles. When the revolutionary committee was first established, some of its members thought they could sit back a bit and relax. Others were worried about the size of the responsibilities facing them. Still others began to separate themselves from the masses. It was with these problems in mind that the members of the committee arranged to study Chairman Mao's "three constantly read articles" ("Serve the People," "In Memory of Norman Bethune," and "The Foolish Old Man Who Removed the Mountains") and his report at the second plenary session of the Seventh CCP Central Committee on the eve of China's liberation.

These brilliant writings helped them see that the establishment of the revolutionary committee was only the first step in a long march. They must not relax but, on the contrary, march ahead steadily to win still greater victories. They decided that to overcome the wrong ideas among them, they must revolutionize their thinking by placing Mao Tse-tung's thought in command. Only thus could they exercise revolutionary power effectively and insure that it never changes political color.

The committee has therefore instituted a regular system of study. All its members spend an hour every day studying Chairman Mao's works, whatever happens. If visitors happen to call at that time, they are invited to join in the study. Whenever Chairman Mao issues a new instruction, the committee immediately organizes study and discussion of it among its members and insures its implementation throughout the county.

When the Pingku revolutionary committee received the new instructions issued by Chairman Mao during his tour of inspection of north, central-south, and east China last year, its members immediately set out in the pouring rain to relay them to the lower levels overnight. The following day propaganda teams with a total membership of 2,700 were formed to publicize the new instructions throughout the county, carrying them even to a remote small production team of four households high up in the hills. The members of this team said: "We are very grateful to the county revolutionary committee for relaying the words of Chairman Mao to us. The committee is a really close friend to us poor and lower-middle peasants."

Immediately after Chairman Mao's great call "Fight self, repudiate revisionism," which was announced by Vice Chairman Lin Piao on National Day last year, the revolutionary committee encouraged the masses to set up study courses and start a vigorous mass movement to the spirit of this call.

It has also given direct help to the leadership of the people's communes and production brigades to revolutionize their thinking by studying and applying Mao Tse-tung's thought in a living way.

Chairman Mao teaches: "From now on, cadres should go in turn to the lower levels and see what's happening; they should persist in the mass line, always consult the masses and be their pupils. In a sense, the fighters with the most practical experience are the wisest and the most capable." In accordance with this instruction, the members of the Pingku revolutionary committee regard close contact with the masses as an important part of their ideological revolutionization. They take it in turn to go to the grassroots level and live, work, study, and fight along with the masses. In this way they are able to concentrate the correct ideas among the masses, persist in these ideas, and carry them out among the masses.

The members of the county revolutionary committee know that to revolutionize their ideology they must constantly fight the selfish ideas in their own minds and foster utter devotion to the public interest. They have made it a regular practice to hold democratic discussions at which they reveal and fight their own selfish tendencies, repudiate revisionism, and undertake criticism and self-criticism. This has resulted in much greater unity among the leadership and has increased its fighting strength. They also join with the masses in fighting self and repudiating revisionism, and in this way receive mass criticism and supervision.

The members of the county revolutionary committee continue to lead a plain life, rejecting any form of privileged treatment.