

## SOME SIDELIGHTS ON PEIPING'S RED GUARDS

Peiping, NCNA, 11 October 1966

Peiping's Red Guard, which consists of revolutionary young people, has done many meritorious services in the current great proletarian cultural revolution of China.

In a dauntless spirit of daring to break through, to act and to make revolution, these revolutionary young people have stood in the forefront of the struggle to destroy the old and foster the new. They are learning to make revolution by making revolution and are steeling themselves in the struggle.

Determined to continue their advance in the great cultural revolution, they are arming themselves with Mao Tse-tung's thought so as to turn

themselves into a highly revolutionized contingent for combat duties, study and propaganda work....

For more than a month, they have extended their activities beyond the school compounds and, with the active support of the revolutionary masses, launched a fierce attack on the old ideas, culture, customs and habits of all exploiting classes. A clean sweep has been made of names, decorations, books, journals, clothing and all rules smacking of feudalism, capitalism and revisionism.

Survivals of the old society -- parasites and blood-suckers -- and hidden enemies of the people have been exposed to the light of day. Weapons and secret accounts kept by the class enemies in anticipation of a hoped-for restoration have been ferreted out and put on display.

Red Guard fighters in the Chinese capital have put forward numerous good suggestions, greatly facilitating the revolutionization of people's thinking.

Peiping today is a city of red flags, with huge red posters and placards bearing quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung in all corners of the city.

Revolutionary leaflets and big-character posters cover the walls and shop windows along the street. There are proposals for some of Peking's main streets to be renamed "Tung-fang-hung (The East Is Red) Road," "Kung-chan-chu-i (Communism) Road," "Kung-nung-ping (Worker-Peasant-Soldier) Road," "Fan-ti (Anti-Imperialist) Street," "Fan-hsiu (Anti-Revisionist) Street," etc.

The Red Guard was born in the thunderstorms of the great proletarian cultural revolution and from the needs of the class struggle.... The revolutionary students, first small groups, have been united by this common aim into today's Red Guard. Representatives of the bourgeoisie in the schools became the first target. Members of the Red Guard criticized and repudiated the reactionary bourgeois academic "authorities," completely routed monsters and demons of all descriptions and swept every bit of their prestige into the dust. Colleges and secondary schools were plastered with big-character posters -- a powerful weapon wielded by the Red Guard and other revolutionary teachers and students against those in power who are openly or secretly taking the capitalist road and against all other monsters and demons. Red Guard combat teams collected and analyzed the reactionary speeches and deeds of class enemies, condemned these enemies and their accomplices at meetings and smashed and completely discredited them....

The Red Guard fighters have boundless love and admiration for their great leader Chairman Mao and have infinite faith in him. They bring the book Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung with them everywhere -- to

sports grounds, classrooms and dormitories and bus stops -- and study it at every spare moment.

In Peking University, many students have put up in their rooms portraits of Chairman Mao and posters bearing quotations from Chairman Mao. Some of them have copied in big characters Chairman Mao's articles "In Memory of Norman Bethune," "Serve the People" and "The Foolish Old Man Who Removed the Mountains" and posted them on the wall to study them.

Red Guard fighters in many schools are now using Mao Tse-tung's thought as a powerful weapon to sum up their work, heighten their political consciousness and prepare themselves for new battles.

As a reserve force of the People's Liberation Army, the Red Guard fighters are making vigorous efforts to learn from the PLA. They are organized in companies, platoons and squads. Combat teams are sometimes set up to carry out given tasks. They enlist the help of other students, who are called by them "our red comrades-in-arms."

They stress the importance of relying on the masses. "The masses are the real heroes. Without their active participation, nothing can be done well," they said.

"But," they added, "the most important thing for us to learn from the PLA is that we, like the PLA, must always remain loyal to Chairman Mao, to Mao Tse-tung's thought, to the party and to the people."

Their experience in the great cultural revolution has convinced them that victory in this class struggle depends first of all on the great thought of Mao Tse-tung and, secondly, on the ingenuity and strength of the masses. When the masses are armed with Mao Tse-tung's thought, their moral strength was transformed into a tremendous material force, the Red Guard fighters emphasized. So they have set themselves the task of spreading Mao Tse-tung's thought among the masses.

Propaganda teams have been set up by the Red Guard and other revolutionary teachers and students. In the street or public squares, they read quotations from Chairman Mao and explain important editorials in the Jen-min Jih-pao and the Chieh-fang-chun Pao to passers-by and teach them revolutionary songs. They have founded a newspaper of their own, the Red Guard, to propagate Mao Tse-tung's thought and report on Red Guard activities. Red Guard fighters also arrange picture exhibitions and give performances of songs, dances and skits in the street to publicize Mao Tse-tung's thought and the victory of the great proletarian cultural revolution. They often read passages from Chairman Mao's works to passengers on buses or trolley-buses.

Leaflets distributed by Red Guard fighters tells the reader, among other things, what passages in Chairman Mao's works he should read when he is faced with certain problems.

Even when they are taking part in autumn harvesting and learning from the peasants, the Red Guard fighters never forget to publicize Mao Tse-tung's thought. They bring posters bearing Chairman Mao's teachings with them everywhere and explain these teachings during work breaks.

"We are a contingent for both combat duties and for study and propaganda work. We study and do propaganda work in order to fight even more successfully. And through fighting, we have studied and publicized Mao Tse-tung's thought.

"Both in combat duties and in study and propaganda work, we hold high the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought. It is our duty to insure that Mao Tse-tung's thought reigns supreme in all spheres," the Red Guard fighters declared.