

NEW TYPE OF REVOLUTIONY LEADERSHIP IN CHINA'S PROVINCES  
Peking, NCNA, 12 July 1967)

The problem of building a new type of revolutionized, militant leadership which is at one with the masses is being tackled by proletarian revolutionaries who have come to power during China's great proletarian cultural revolution.

This has been featured prominently in the Chinese press since 7 June when the Shantung Provincial Revolutionary Committee (Provisional Organ of Power) took the lead in working out a set of regulations for overhauling its style of work.

Red Flag, the Chinese Communist Party's theoretical journal, promptly reported the Shantung decision and carried a commentary paying high tribute to Shantung's initiative. These were reprinted in newspapers throughout the country on 23 June.

Since then, revolutionary committees in Shanghai, Peking, Kweichow, Shansi and Heilungkiang and proletarian revolutionaries in Tsinghai, Inner Mongolia and elsewhere have pledged themselves to learn from Shantung. They have also mapped out their own plans in this direction.

One of the major objectives of the cultural revolution is to destroy the old ideas, culture, customs and habits of the exploiting classes and establish the new ones of the proletariat. The revolutionization of leadership is an important side to the cultural revolution in this respect.

The Shantung regulations give prime importance to the living study and application of Chairman Mao's works in order to revolutionize the thinking of the members of the new leadership.

While barring ostentation, extravagance, bureaucracy and an easy way of life, the regulations stress participation in productive labor, integration with the masses and supervision by them from below. Regular examination of work and self-criticism have also been instituted. The keynote is that the Revolutionary Committee members, while serving as provincial or municipal leaders, are not "officials" but ordinary working men and women....

Proletarian revolutionaries in many areas stress the need to remain ordinary working people after seizing power and to carry on the Party's fine tradition of plain living and hard work. It is an issue involving the struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, the socialist road and the capitalist road and the proletarian revolutionary line and the bourgeois reactionary line.

Revolutionary committees and revolutionary mass organizations in a number of areas have worked out further specific measures for practicing strict economy and trimming the administrative set-up.

Heilungkiang has adopted a rotation system whereby, at any time, one-third of the committee members are engaged in productive labor, another third are undertaking investigation at grass-roots level and the remaining third are handling routine work. Groups of committee members have already left their offices for factories and villages.

In many factories where proletarian revolutionaries are in power, most of the Revolutionary Committee members continue to work at the bench. Eight of the nine committee members of a workshop in a Shanghai Textile Machinery Plant still work in their own brigades. The Chairman of the Revolutionary Committee of an oil industry equipment factory in Harbin, Heilungkiang province, continues to serve as a lorry driver while discharging his administrative responsibilities.

Members of the revolutionary committees, irrespective of their backgrounds, seniority and previous rank, now work together in a comradely way, helping and respecting each other. Official titles have been abolished and such chores as cleaning work in the offices are now done by the committee members themselves.

A leading member of the Revolutionary Committee in the Shanghai Bureau of the Instruments and Tele-Communications Industry said: "Resistance to sugar-coated bullets is a much more rigorous test than struggle against the handful of Party persons in authority taking the capitalist road; it is more difficult to carry out revolution against oneself than against others.

"Should we fail to remold our world outlook constantly and establish the absolute authority of Mao Tse-tung's thought in our minds, there is the danger that we may go down the road of 'peaceful evolution.'"

A Revolutionary Committee members at Tungchi University said: "Most of us are young revolutionary fighters. Now that we 'nobodies' have power in our hands we must be particularly vigilant against bourgeois tendencies."

A Red Guard leader in Huhehot, Inner Mongolia, said: "The seizure of power is just the first step in a long march. If we rest on our laurels and begin to seek comfort and preferential treatment, we shall estrange ourselves from the masses and become vulnerable to the sugar-coated bullets of the bourgeoisie."

All through the history of the Chinese Revolution, Chairman Mao has constantly enjoined communists and other revolutionaries to be on guard against corruption by bourgeois ideas and the bourgeois way of life.

Among the handful of counter-revolutionary revisionists exposed in the cultural revolution, some were hidden enemies in the Party and others degenerated because they failed to follow Chairman Mao's teachings. These people grew conceited and complacent after liberation, paraded themselves as heroes, refused to remold their thinking, indulged in pleasure seeking and shunned hard living.

It is in this light that the initiative taken by the Shantung Revolutionary Committee to revolutionize its leadership assumes special significance. It is an important contribution to the cultural revolution and to the development and consolidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat in China.