

REGULATIONS OF THE CENTRAL MILITARY COMMISSION CONCERNING THE SPHERE OF SEIZURE OF POWER WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES

(February 16, 1967)

At present, the great proletarian cultural revolution has developed to the new stage based on the great alliance of proletarian revolutionaries and the struggle to seize power from a handful of those in authority taking the capitalist road within the Party. To cope with this new situation, in accordance with Chairman Mao's instructions and the January 28, 1967 Order of the Military Commission of the Central Committee, the question of seizure of power within the armed forces is hereby stipulated as follows:

(1) The sphere in which seizure of power may be carried out within the armed forces is limited to academies and schools (schools for training confidential personnel, schools specialized in pioneering techniques, flying schools and classes and departments charged with the task of training foreign language personnel are excepted), literary and art troupes, physical cultural detachments, hospitals (limited only to the general hospitals of the PLA, the general hospitals of military districts and services, and hospitals for teaching purposes), and military factories (those charged with the task of testing pioneering techniques, factories attached to naval bases, and top secret factories are excepted). In these units, whether or not seizure of power is called for depends on the character of the problems connected with the leadership of the Party committees. If the leadership is really in the hands of a handful of Party persons in authority taking the capitalist road, it must be seized back with firmness. After the seizure of power, the former leading cadres who have made mistakes should be dealt with separately according to the seriousness of the character of their problems and their conduct, and a strict line of distinc-

tion must be drawn between the two kinds of contradiction. The style of killing at one stroke can never be encouraged. It is against Marxism-Leninism and the thought of Mao Tse-tung to kick one out as soon as one commits mistakes. So long as they are not anti-Party and anti-socialist elements who hold fast to their mistakes despite repeated education, they must be permitted to amend their ways, and encouraged to redeem their crimes with meritorious deeds. We cannot regard those who have made the mistake of carrying out the bourgeois reactionary line as the targets in our seizure of power.

(2) Seizure of power must be carried out by the genuine proletarian revolutionaries of each unit, and it is not permissible for a unit to form an alliance with revolutionary organizations outside the unit for the purpose of seizing power. When carrying out seizure of power, the genuine proletarian revolutionaries of a unit must realize the broadest and most compact form of great alliance under the great red banner of Mao Tse-tung's thought. Seizure of power must be based upon the three-in-one combination of the revolutionary leading cadres, the revolutionary cadres at the intermediate level and the revolutionary masses. Seizure of power can be carried out only when the matter has been fully prepared and discussed, when the conditions are ripe, and after the action has been approved by a higher level. We cannot advocate anarchism, radical democratization, departmentalism, the small group mentality, dispersionism, the non-organization viewpoint, liberalism, subjectivism, or individualism. When disputes arise between the genuine proletarian revolutionary organizations in the struggle to seize power, it is necessary to solve the difference through democratic discussion, but definitely not through struggle by force. We cannot adopt the method of ousting, attacking, suppressing or discriminating against those mass organizations or individuals holding views different from ours. The power-seizing unit must grasp the revolution, promote war preparedness, work and production according to Chairman Mao's instructions to insure the success of the great cultural revolution and the accomplishment of various work tasks.

(3) The power of the guards, communications, training, general service and transportation detachments of various

academies and schools, military factories and other units cannot be seized, nor are they permitted to take part in seizure of power. The command over these detachments should be transferred to the various military districts or armed force units according to the February 8 Regulations of the Military Commission.

(4) With the exception of the sphere stipulated in Article 1 in which seizure of power may be carried out, all other big and small units are not allowed to adopt the method of seizing power from bottom to top. When the masses have complaints against the Party committees or leading cadres in these units, they may carry out full and frank airing of views. When individual members of the Party committee are incompetent, they can be replaced one by one, and when the majority are incompetent, the Party committee should be reorganized, but the approval of a higher level must be sought in both cases. In units stipulated to be out of bounds for seizure of power, should seizure of power have been carried out prior to the issue of these regulations, the organs at a higher level, the mass organizations, and the leaders of the units concerned should confer with each other to find a solution, and the power seized should be returned.

It is hoped that the commanders and fighters of the whole armed forces, the teachers, students and staff members of army academies and schools, the PLA literary and art troupes, and all comrades of the military hospitals and factories will sensibly carry out these regulations.