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(Study And Apply Mao's Writings In Supporting
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CREATIVELY STUDY AND APPLY CHAIRMAN MAO'S WRITINGS
IN SUPPORTING THE STRUGGLE OF PROLETARIAN
REVOLUTIONARIES TO SEIZE POWER

[Following is a translation of an article by Wang Tse-chun (3769 3419 0193) in the Chinese-language periodical, Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Peiping, No 4, 1 March 1967, pages 53-55. This completes the translation of Hung-ch'i, No 4, 1967.]

The great proletarian cultural revolution has entered the stage of fighting a decisive battle in the struggle to seize power from a tiny handful of power holders taking the capitalist road within the Party. Under the illumination of the radiance of the thought of Mao Tse-tung and the direction of the responsible comrades of the provincial military region, the cadres and fighters of our company firmly stand on the side of the proletarian revolutionary line represented by Chairman Mao and of the proletarian revolutionaries. They have gone through a course of steeling in the class struggle and been taught a graphic lesson in the thought of Mao Tse-tung. In the course of supporting the struggle of proletarian revolutionaries to seize power from a tiny handful of power holders taking the capitalist road within the Party and in the course of defending the struggle of the great proletarian cultural revolution, we have come to understand profoundly that Chairman Mao's writings can only be learned through study and application in the class struggle and the practice of revolution.

Our great leader Chairman Mao has said: "All revolutionary struggles in the world seek to seize and consolidate political power."

Through study, we have come to understand that the basic question of revolution is a question of political power. With political power, we have everything; without political power, we have nothing; the loss of political power means the loss of everything. Of all important things, the most important one is to grasp political power. The proletarian revolutionaries must firmly grasp political power in their own hands. As revolutionary fighters of the proletariat, we must defend with guns the red regime which our revolutionary predecessors brought into being with blood and sweat. Heads can roll and blood can be shed, but the revolutionary regime cannot be lost. This is our ironbound pledge.

Over a long period of time, a tiny handful of power holders taking the capitalist road within the Shansi Provincial Committee opposed and resisted the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Mao and enforced bourgeois dictatorship. In the great proletarian cultural revolution, they again openly opposed and resisted the proletarian revolutionary line represented by Chairman Mao, enforced White Terror, and branded many revolutionary cadres and the revolutionary masses as "counterrevolutionaries," "self-seeking careerists" and "ambitionists" in the vain attempt to put out the raging fire of the great proletarian cultural revolution so as to preserve their reactionary rule.

When the proletarian revolutionaries launched a violent attack against a tiny handful of power holders taking the capitalist road within the provincial committee, Liu Ke-p'ing and other revolutionary leading cadres of the provincial committee stood forth in the fierce struggle between the proletarian line and the bourgeois line. They firmly stood on the side of the proletarian revolutionary line represented by Chairman Mao, and on January 10, they put up a wall poster violently to open fire on a tiny handful of power holders taking the capitalist road within the provincial committee.

The cadres and fighters of our company circulated this revolutionary wall poster for everybody to read, and on the basis of an abundance of facts available since the great cultural revolution, they were of the opinion that the action of Liu Ke-p'ing and other revolutionary leading cadres was a revolutionary one. Meanwhile, the firm support given by Comrade Chang Jih-ch'ing of the provincial military region to the actions of the proletarian revolutionaries had greatly inspired us. We knew that with the proletarian revolutionaries of Shansi Province forming an alliance, the revolutionary storm to seize power from a tiny handful of power holders taking the capitalist road within the provincial committee was in the offing!

At that time, we studied again and again Chairman Mao's teachings: "The Chinese Red Army is an armed body for carrying out the political tasks of the revolution." "The sole purpose of this army is to stand firmly with the Chinese people and to serve them wholeheartedly." Our comrades deeply understood that the rise of proletarian revolutionaries to seize power from a tiny handful of power holders taking the capitalist road within the Party and thus to guarantee that our country would never change color for thousands of generations represented the most fundamental and the greatest political interests of the proletariat. By giving energetic support to the struggle of proletarian revolutionaries to seize power, we were carrying out the noble duties of the People's Liberation Army and were wholeheartedly serving the people.

While the struggle of proletarian revolutionaries to seize power was being victoriously prosecuted, we were shown our great leader Chairman Mao's wise directive: The People's Liberation Army should support

the broad masses of the Left. All comrades in our company jumped with joy, and they were unable to inhibit their feelings by cheering: Long live and a long, long life to Chairman Mao! Our comrades said: "What Chairman Mao says can best represent the aspiration of the revolutionary fighters, and Chairman Mao's fighters are best able to heed what he says at the most critical juncture." They proclaimed: Provided the proletarian revolutionaries need us, we will go into action at once to give them all-out support.

On the eve of the seizure of power by proletarian revolutionaries of Shansi Province, the men of our company carried out political mobilization. The evening in which the proletarian revolutionaries carried out struggle to seize power, we posted more sentries and carried out armed patrol in firm support of the proletarian revolutionaries' struggle to seize power.

In the course of supporting the struggle of proletarian revolutionaries to seize power, the quotations from Chairman Mao dealing with revolutionary heroism became our mottoes and the fountainhead from which we could draw unlimited strength. To meet the need of the struggle task, our rate of attendance increased by five to seven times compared with normal times. On one occasion, we worked continuously and took no rest for three days and nights, and ate nothing in twenty-four hours. However, the fighting spirit of our comrades was high, and they closely guarded their post.

Squad leader Chang Fu-so suffered from appendicitis, but when he was told to go to hospital for medical treatment, he said excitedly: "At this time our squad cannot go without a leader. I cannot leave the fighting post." He insisted on working for more than ten days before he went to hospital for operation.

When the struggle was most violent, the class enemies carried out terrorist activities. We reviewed Chairman Mao's teachings: "All men must die, but death can vary in its significance... To die for the people is heavier than Mount Tai." "Wherever there is struggle there is sacrifice, and death is a common occurrence. But we have the interests of the people and the sufferings of the great majority at heart, and when we die for the people it is a worthy death." This enabled us to intensify further our class hatred toward the class enemies and to raise our courage for struggle.

We made a solemn vow in front of Chairman Mao's portrait: "Even when dynamite is deposited by the side of us, we revolutionary fighters will not retreat a single step. We vow to defend until death Chairman Mao and the proletarian revolutionary line represented by him."

Chairman Mao has said: "The Red Army fights not merely for the sake of fighting but in order to conduct propaganda among the masses,

organize them, arm them, and help them to establish revolutionary political power."

When the proletarian revolutionaries waged struggle to seize power, we actively and enthusiastically propagated the thought of Mao Tse-tung. Our comrades said: "Of all kinds of support the use of the thought of Mao Tse-tung to arm the proletarian revolutionaries is the greatest support."

By creatively studying and applying the "three old articles" together with the proletarian revolutionaries, we have increased our courage and strength for struggle and surmounted all kinds of difficulties. Many of the revolutionary masses said excitedly: "With the great thought of Mao Tse-tung set the orientation for us, and with us strongly backed by the People's Liberation Army, we have no fear for heaven and earth, and are not afraid of all difficulties."

In the course of supporting the struggle of proletarian revolutionaries to seize power, all officers and men of our company were greatly educated and inspired by the valuable revolutionary spirit manifested by the proletarian revolutionaries guided by the thought of Mao Tse-tung. According to the urgent demand of the officers and men, our company held a symposium to discuss what they had learned from the proletarian revolutionaries. Our comrades said: "The battlefield in which the battle in support of the struggle of proletarian revolutionaries to seize power is fought is the best classroom for the creative study and application of Chairman Mao's writings." They said: "The proletarian revolutionaries are our best teachers and have set an example for us."

The proletarian revolutionary courage of the proletarian revolutionaries to defy all difficulties is forever worthy of our learning. Our comrades remarked with reverence: For the sake of defending Chairman Mao and the thought of Mao Tse-tung, the proletarian revolutionaries, displaying the dauntless spirit of "daring to dismount the emperor at the risk of being sentenced to death by a thousand cuts," have manifested their heroism and tenacious fighting spirit by rebelling against a tiny handful of power holders taking the capitalist road within the Party and all monsters and demons. We will never forget this.

The proletarian revolutionaries not only dare to struggle and to win, but are also good at waging struggle and winning victory. They carry out work unreservedly according to the instructions of the Party Central Committee and Chairman Mao and firmly implement the Sixteen-Point Decision. This is also a good example for us to learn.

The noble quality of the proletarian revolutionaries is many-sided. What are especially worthy of learning are their profound class feelings embodied in their boundless love for Chairman Mao and the thought of Mao Tse-tung. The proletarian revolutionaries are able to

surmount all difficulties, sweep away all obstacles, storm and take some tough citadels occupied by a tiny handful of power holders taking the capitalist road within the Party and seize one victory after another because they creatively study and apply Chairman Mao's writings in the stormy class struggle. All officers and men of our company have unanimously expressed that they want to learn from them.

It is necessary to carry out a hard struggle before the proletarian revolutionaries can firmly consolidate the power seized from the hands of a tiny handful of power holders taking the capitalist road within the Party. This is a glorious task set before all proletarian revolutionaries, and is also the important duty of the People's Liberation Army.

Chairman Mao has taught us: "Make trouble, fail, make trouble again, fail again...until their doom; that is the logic of the imperialists and all reactionaries the world over in dealing with the people's cause." This is a fact.

After their power has been seized by the proletarian revolutionaries, the tiny handful of power holders taking the capitalist road within the Party will not take their defeat lying down, and they will wait for an opportunity to carry out sabotage.

In regard to the handful of reactionaries, we of the People's Liberation Army must steadfastly follow Chairman Mao's directive: "Carry out dictatorship for the oppression of these people. They are only allowed to behave themselves and are not permitted to talk or act in an unruly manner."

We are revolutionary fighters of the proletariat. We must at all times firmly bear in mind Chairman Mao's teaching: "The People's Liberation Army is always a fighting force." We must grasp the revolution, and stimulate war preparedness and production. We must tighten our grip on the guns in our hands, heighten our vigilance a hundred times and closely guard our fighting posts. We must at all times be prepared to smash the conspiratorial and sabotage activities of all enemies at home and abroad, and defend the dictatorship of the proletariat and the fruit of victory of the great proletarian cultural revolution.

We must forever hold high the great red banner of the thought of Mao Tse-tung, resolutely implement the instructions of our supreme commander Chairman Mao, thrown ourselves into the heat of mass struggle, and defend and carry out the correct policy of forming a "three-way" alliance to seize power. We must breathe together with and share the destiny of the proletarian revolutionaries, think what they think, regard as urgent what they regard as urgent, unite with them, fight together with them, win victories together with them, and vow to carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end.