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No. 2, 1965

- Communist China -

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This serial publication contains translations of articles from the Chinese-language periodical Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), No. 2, 1965. Complete bibliographic information accompanies each article.

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PREFACE TO VOLUME 3 OF "KHRUSHCHEV'S STATEMENT"

[Following is a translation of an unsigned article in the Chinese-language periodical, Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Peiping, No 2, 27 February 1965, pages 12-14.]

Peking, 25 February -- The third volume in Chinese of the collection of Khrushchev's Statements has come off the press and will soon go on sale throughout China. Compiled and published by the World Knowledge Publishing House, the volume contains 24 speeches, reports, letters, and articles by Khrushchev published in 1954. They come to some 325,000 Chinese characters. The volume is prefaced by an explanatory publisher's note which reads in full:

Before Khrushchev's downfall we compiled and published two volumes of Khrushchev's Statements. These covered the period 1932-1953. In accordance with our previously decided plan, we shall from now on publish in full, volume by volume, all the public statements made by Khrushchev between his assumption of the post of first secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and his fall in October 1964.

Khrushchev is no theoretician but he made speeches almost every day and commented on everything that was happening in the world at large and in the Soviet Union, often speaking at random and talking sheer nonsense. A rough count shows that his public statements during his 11 years of office come to as many as 10 million words, truly a flood of putrid verbosity. Consequently, by the method we have now adopted Khrushchev's Statements will come to as many as 30 volumes. Thus Khrushchev will have his own complete works to leave the world--saved from oblivion for people to savor.

It is a matter of regret that for the time being the shameful secret anti-Stalin report Khrushchev delivered at the 20th CPSU Congress will have to be omitted. Though some Western newspapers carried in full the copy of the report obtained by the U.S. State Department, it was never made public by the Soviet Union.

People may ask: After all, what is the use or necessity of expend-

ing so much energy and wasting so much paper to publish the complete works of Khrushchev? We say it is very useful and very necessary because Khrushchev is the biggest revisionist of the present era. Modern revisionism bears the label of Khrushchev. The collection of Khrushchev's statements is an encyclopedia of modern revisionism. From it anyone can see what Khrushchev revisionism is and can trace the history of its growth and bankruptcy.

Khrushchev revisionism was first put forward as an anti-Marxist-Leninist line at the 20th CPSU Congress. By the 22d CPSU Congress it had become more systematized and moreover took fixed form as the CPSU Program. Inheriting the legacy of Bernstein and Kautsky and under the slogans of "peaceful coexistence," "peaceful competition," and "peaceful transition," it opposes revolution and the Marxist Leninist teachings on proletarian revolution.

Under the slogans of a "state of the whole people" and a "party of the entire people," it is doing away with the dictatorship of the proletariat, changing the nature of the proletarian party, and opening the doors wide to the restoration of capitalism in the Soviet Union.

Toward U.S. imperialism Khrushchev was all servility, showing himself up as a renegade. Toward the fraternal socialist countries, toward the fraternal parties upholding Marxism-Leninism, and toward the masses of the people, he bared his fangs and showed inveterate hatred. He put great energy into undermining the socialist camp and the international communist movement, performing a function which could not be performed by the imperialists and reactionaries themselves. He deserves to be called the biggest splitter in modern times.

Precisely because Khrushchev set himself in opposition to the Soviet masses, to more than 90 percent of the world's population, he very quickly slid downhill and his end was very swift. This is an inevitable law of historical development.

Khrushchev revisionism is a vast poisonous weed. When uprooted it can be used as fertilizer. Materialism cannot grow without the repudiation of idealism. Dialectics cannot develop without the repudiation of metaphysics. There can be no creative development of Marxism-Leninism if modern revisionism and modern dogmatism are not repudiated. History shows that each advance of Marxism-Leninism is won in the struggle against antagonistic ideology. Comrade Mao Tse-tung has always told us that revolutionary parties and the revolutionary people can temper themselves, reach maturity, and gain assurance of victory only through the process of comparison and contrast.

We Chinese Communists have positive teachers in Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin. We also have teachers by negative example in Chiang Kai-shek,

the Japanese imperialists, the U.S. imperialists, and those people in our party who made the mistake of adopting "left" or right opportunist lines. The Chinese revolution would not have been victorious if there had been only positive teachers and no teachers by negative example. Those who belittle the role of teachers by negative example are not thorough-going dialectical materialists. In this sense our publication of Khrushchev's complete works will benefit not only China's revolution and construction but also the revolutionary cause throughout the world.

We never interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and other parties. However, we do want, just a bit, to take up the cudgels on behalf of Khrushchev. Those who spared no efforts in extolling Khrushchev and who had just pinned medals on his chest suddenly about-faced when he fell and gave orders for the confiscation and destruction of all his works, photographs, and portraits. That is not quite the way to do things. Had they not been saying just a few days earlier that Khrushchev had developed Marxism-Leninism, that Khrushchev was an outstanding and talented leader and theoretician, that Khrushchev was a man who had the greatest concern for the unity of the international Communist movement? They why take such serious administrative measures just a few days later and consign to the flames his works running to 10 million words? What is the use of confiscating and burning books? Can it possibly prove that Khrushchev revisionism has been thrown overboard?

Khrushchev's forced exit from the world political stage marked the bankruptcy of Khrushchev revisionism. But the sinister spirit of Khrushchev has not departed. After all, there are larger or smaller groups of people in the world, in the Soviet Union, and even here in China who believe in Khrushchev revisionism. Why? Because Khrushchev revisionism does not owe its origin and growth to any individual or to any accidental factor. Khrushchev revisionism is a product of the times. It is the reflection of reactionary bourgeois ideology in the era of the demise of imperialism and the victory of socialism.

So long as imperialism and reaction and the class struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie exist in the world the spirit of Khrushchev revisionism will inevitably arise to oppose Marxism-Leninism. And so the struggle against Khrushchev revisionism cannot by any means stop. There is an old Chinese saying: "By restudying the old one learns the new." Khrushchev's statements provide us with a mirror in which to distinguish Khrushchevism without Khrushchev in order to carry the struggle against Khrushchev revisionism through to the end.

This is why we have collected the statement of Khrushchev over the years and published them in full. We advise our readers not to be reluctant or impatient about reading the utterances of this gentleman just because they are such rubbish. We still maintain that "a remarkable work

should be enjoyed together and doubts analyzed in company." Khrushchev's statements make excellent material for learning by negative example and we would request you on no account to cast them aside unread.

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A NEW THING

Experience of Szechwan Province in Popularizing the "Three Fixations, One Replacement" Labor System.

[Following is a translation of an article by Yang Ch'ao (2799 6389) in the Chinese-language periodical, Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Peiping, No 2, 27 February 1965, pages 25-33.]

The participation of cadres in productive labor is a basic policy of our Party. The "three fixations and one replacement" labor system as popularized by the industrial and communications enterprises of Szechwan Province is a good experience invented by the Chungking Water Turbine Plant and summed up by the Szechwan Provincial Committee. It is a new thing unearthed on the basis of conducting penetrating investigation and study and summing up the experiences of the test points.

This labor system calls for fixing the time, work posts and duties of cadres participating in labor and employing them in place of regular members of production shifts and groups after they have raised their technical standards and are capable of operating independently. Our popularization of this labor system is based upon the process of practice-knowledge -- more practice -- more knowledge. In March, last year, the Provincial Committee put forward this labor system, and the cadres implemented it in real earnest and completed the process of from practice to knowledge. Through summing up experience gained in the fourth quarter of last year, they also began to implement the process of from more practice to more knowledge. Provided that the instructions of the Central Committee and the Provincial Committee are seriously implemented, it may be anticipated that a new high tide will necessarily appear in Szechwan Province in pushing this labor system onto a new stage of development.

How to Evaluate Properly the Existing Circumstances
in Popularizing the "Three Fixations and One Replace-
ment" Labor System and the Direction of Development
in the Next Step

Beginning in March last year, the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system was popularized in most industrial and communications enterprises at and above the administrative district and municipal level in Szechwan Province. At present, this system has been popularized among about 70 percent of such enterprises in the whole province. In the enterprises which have already popularized this system, without counting the old and weak personnel and the cadres working most of the time elsewhere, about 80 percent of the total number of cadres have participated in this system. Since the enforcement of this new labor system -- which is well received by the broad masses of the cadres and workers -- greater achievements have been made. In enterprises which have popularized this system with better results, most of the cadres who were workers before have returned to the station of production to participate in labor in place of the regular members of shifts and groups. Those cadres who formerly knew nothing about operational techniques generally learned techniques from master workmen according to the method of "fixation first, replacement afterward." They have learned in varying degrees, some basic operational knowledge, and about 10 to 20 percent of them have preliminarily mastered a branch of technique and begun to work in place of the regular members of shifts and groups. By working shoulder to shoulder with the workers in production, the cadres have not only directly created material wealth for the country. Moreover, through labor practice, they have further established the labor viewpoint. Some cadres have overcome the thought of looking down upon labor and the laboring people, and their class feelings have begun to show some changes. The leadership style of the enterprises has also improved to some extent. The phenomenon of divorcement from the masses, production and reality has been overcome. The comradely relationship between the cadres and the working masses has further developed. A new atmosphere marked by a better mood, greater activity in work and upsurge of enthusiasm for production has begun to appear in some enterprises. Because the cadres participate in production to lead production, they have discovered and solved a number of focal problems in production, and energetically launched the production and "compare, learn, overtake and help" campaigns. To meet the need of cadres' participation in labor on the basis of "three fixations and one replacement," the majority of the enterprises have also effected some preliminary improvement in the light of the salient problems found in management work. Various enterprises have also felt out gradually the mode of labor and concrete methods that meet the production characteristics of their own enterprises for implementing the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system. They have begun to establish some systems for controlling the participation of cadres in labor.

In the light of the aforesaid achievements, how should the existing circumstances in the popularization of this system be properly evaluated?

Can it be said that the participation of cadres in labor has been normalized and standardized? What is the direction of development in the next step? They are all problems which need urgently to be solved as we make greater headway in implementing the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system.

Since the fourth quarter of last year, among some leading cadres of the industrial and communications departments and quite a number of enterprises, there has been a general tendency to overestimate the existing circumstances in popularizing the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system. Quite a number of enterprises are satisfied with the fact that over 80 or 90 percent of their cadres have participated in this system. Some enterprises even hold that this system has been basically normalized and standardized.

As a matter of fact, this system is still rather unevenly popularized. At present, only about 10 percent of the industrial and communications enterprises in Szechwan Province are beginning to enter the stage of normalization and standardization, and about 60 percent are at the stage of universal popularization. Apart from this, the system is rather poorly popularized among about 30 percent of the enterprises. The broad masses of the cadres have not adequately understood the great revolutionary significance of the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system. Most enterprises have still not worked for the normalization and standardization of this system around the conscious revolution of the cadres. A large number of cadres have still not passed the test in the mastery of a branch of technique. The ratio of cadres who are really proficient and capable of replacing the regular members of shifts and groups is still rather small. Those who have replaced such members are principally cadres who were workers before. The ratio of cadres who have just mastered techniques and are capable of replacing such members is even smaller. In enterprise management, some salient problems which impede the participation of cadres in production have not been completely solved. The leadership has not discovered and solved in good time the problems which need urgently to be solved in normalization and standardization. It has especially not ascertained in good time the direction of development of the campaign. Therefore, we must properly evaluate the achievements in work, see the existing problems, and go on to push forward this labor system. If we overestimate the existing circumstances, our fighting will grow slack, and we cannot go on to sum up experience and march forward.

Having investigated and studied things and summed up experiences in the past two months, on the basis of the factors pregnant in the first stage of "three fixations and one replacement" (i.e., the stage of universal popularization), we have suggested that the central task for the

the second stage (i.e., the stage of normalization and standardization) should be as follows: On the basis of self-conscious revolution, the cadres should gradually master a branch of technique, become organizers of production as well as common laborers, and properly improve enterprise management. There are five principal items of work: (1) The self-conscious revolution of cadres; (2) mastery of a branch of technique by cadres participating in the "fixations and replacement" system; (3) cadres' proficiency in replacing regular members of shifts and groups; (4) beginning to incorporate cadres' participation in labor into production and labor plans; (5) persisting in various systems for the control of cadres' participation in labor. The aforesaid five items of work are interconnected and closely combined, their center being the self-conscious revolution of cadres.

Why Must Self-Conscious Revolution Be the Center
at the Stage of the Normalization and Standardi-
zation of "Three Fixations and One Replacement?"

Our understanding in regard to the problem of the self-conscious revolution of cadres is gradually clarified and enhanced. Before December last year, the majority of the leading cadres of the industrial and communications departments and enterprises had a deeper understanding of the significance of "three fixations and one replacement" in the aspect of overcoming bureaucratism, changing the style of leadership, and pushing the current production and "compare, learn, overtake and help" campaigns. They generally failed to understand adequately the great significance in wiping out the ideological influence of the bourgeoisie, and realizing the ideological revolutionization of cadres -- especially turning the intellectuals into laborers and shunning revisionism. Therefore, they had not opportunely and self-consciously grasped the work of making the cadres carry out self-conscious revolution and ideological remolding through participation in "three fixations and one replacement" labor.

The real transformation of cadres as organizers of production into organizers of production as well as common laborers is itself a revolution -- a sharp class struggle for promoting proletarian ideas and destroying bourgeois ideas.

Among the cadres in our enterprises, some are intellectuals who were brought up in the society and have not been successfully reformed. They were educated in bourgeois schools, and are stronger in bourgeois ideas. Although the intellectuals brought up after liberation have been educated in the new society, yet they have generally not been tested in the class struggle and steeled in productive labor. The proletarian world outlook is not well established among many people, and they are also influenced by bourgeois ideas to varying extent. Quite a number of these cadres look down upon manual labor and the laboring people to a greater or lesser degree. They think that "mental labor is superior" and that "participation of intellectuals in labor is a waste of talents, and the gain does not recompense

for the loss." They even yearn for an easy life and detest hard work and despise labor. In order to meet fully the needs of the new society, they must remold themselves in real earnest. Comrade Mao Tse-tung said: "Our intellectuals must continue to remold themselves, gradually shed their bourgeois world outlook and acquire a proletarian, communist world outlook so that they can fully meet the needs of the new society and closely unite with the workers and peasants. This change in world outlook is a fundamental one, and up till now it cannot yet be said that most of our intellectuals have accomplished it." (On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People, People's Publishing House, 1957 edition, p. 22) Some of the cadres from the working ranks have also been corroded by bourgeois ideas to varying extent. They have acquired the bad habit of belittling labor and yearning for an easy life. They are estranged from the laboring people in thinking and sentiments, and a few of them have become so engrossed in leading an easy life and detesting hard work that they are seriously detached from the masses. In view of this, the cadres from the working ranks have also the problem of self-remolding. Comrade Mao Tse-tung said: "In building a socialist society, all need remolding -- the exploiters as well as the working people. Who says the working class doesn't need it? Of course, remolding of the exploiters and that of the working people are two different types of remolding. The two must not be confused. In the class struggle and the struggle against nature, the working class remolds the whole of society, and at the same time remolds itself." (On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People, People's Publishing House, 1957 edition, page 20)

In order to normalize and standardize the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system, it is necessary to grasp well and in real earnest the self-conscious revolution of the cadres and carry out again and again the struggle of the two roads for promoting proletarian ideas and destroying bourgeois ideas with the class struggle as the keel. Experience shows that all enterprises beginning to make their way into the stage of normalizing and standardizing the "three fixations and one replacement" system must spend some time on grasping the problem of cadres' self-conscious revolution and laying down the foundation for furthering the cadres' self-conscious revolution. In the cadres' self-conscious revolution, it is necessary to feel out, through investigation and study, the common problems found in the ideological understanding of various kinds of cadres, and discriminately and methodically solve same principally with positive education. In the case of cadres from the working ranks, it is necessary to emphasize education by means of recollection and comparison and help them self-consciously get rid of the ideological influence of the bourgeoisie. In the case of the majority of the intellectual cadres, they must heighten their consciousness through studying Chairman Mao's works, self-consciously get rid of the ideological influence of the bourgeoisie. In the case of the majority of the intellectual cadres, they must heighten their consciousness through studying Chairman Mao's works, self-consciously examine and criticize the non-proletarian ideas, and carry out self-conscious revolution. In regard to the problems of relationships of being

red and expert, of theory and practice, of mental labor and manual labor, and of the cadres and the working masses -- which are generally found among the intellectual cadres -- they must be discussed so as to draw a clear line of demarcation between the ideas of the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. As regards the few intellectuals who are more deeply influenced by the thinking of the exploiting classes, the method of individual education and mass assistance must be adopted to illumine their self-conscious revolution. In work, it is also necessary to implement the "four firsts" spirit, to grasp well ideological work and the current thought, find out the ideological gap, and ascertain the direction of effort. It is especially necessary to make use of the typical cases of cadres' self-conscious revolution to conduct education in the current thought.

In conducting self-conscious revolution, the cadres must not put on airs, and must honestly learn from the workers. As they work with the workers, they must not only learn production techniques from the workers, and it is even more important for them to learn the fine ideological quality of the working class. The cadres must learn from the workers their firm political stand, their ability to distinguish love from hate, their diligence, courage and high sense of responsibility in production, their loyalty and honesty to the organization, their strict observance of discipline, their impartiality and unselfishness in comradely relationship, their solidarity and mutual aid, and their style of leading a hard and simple life and finding truth from facts. At the same time, it is also necessary to publicize further the great revolutionary significance of the "three fixations and one replacement" labor replacement" labor system among the working masses, and mobilize them to adopt the attitude of the masters in helping the cadres carry out ideological revolution.

Experience shows that only by making a success of the cadres' self-conscious revolution can the normalization and standardization of the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system be insured. Persistence in this labor system also can ceaselessly promote the cadres' self-conscious revolution. By studying humbly and painstakingly and making up their minds to learn from the workers on the foundation of self-conscious revolution, the cadres can quickly turn themselves from laymen into those who know the ropes, and become organizers of production as well as common laborers.

Is the Mastery of a Branch of Technique and Replacement
of Regular Members of Shifts and Groups Just a Technical
Problem? What Problems Must Be Solved in This Connection?

Over the course of 15 years since liberation, the broad masses of the cadres in our enterprises have to a greater or lesser extent learned some production techniques and management knowledge. Strictly speaking, however, a great number of cadres have not really mastered the production techniques and grasped the laws of production. This is quite incompatible with the demand for the further development of our production and

construction undertakings. Comrade Mao Tse-tung once said: "There is a gap between the ordinary civilian and the soldier, but it is no Great Wall, and it can be quickly closed, and the way to close it is to take part in revolution, in war." (Problems of Strategy in China's Revolutionary War," Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung, Vol. I, People's Publishing House, 1952 edition, 2nd edition, pp. 174-175). This also applies to leadership in production, and unfamiliarity with production can only be quickly eliminated through the practice of productive labor. The struggle for production is a declaration of war on nature. In order to have this struggle well organized and win in it, it is first necessary to acquire some knowledge of the struggle for production, understand the laws of nature, and acquire the ability to wage a struggle against nature. Leading production in modern industrial enterprises is a branch of complex learning. It is required not only to solve the relationship of man with nature, but also the relationship of man with man. All this is again inseparable from the activity of material production. Through the thorough implementation of the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system, the broad masses of the cadres are enabled to master a branch of production technique, lay hold of first-hand information in production, and get better acquainted with the laws of production of various trades and enterprises. Conditions are thus created for the better organization of production for realizing the revolutionization and modernization of enterprises.

Some cadres look upon the mastery of a branch of technique and replacement of regular members of shifts and groups as just a simple technical problem. This is wrong.

The mastery of a branch of technique and replacement of regular members of shifts and groups by cadres is an important problem having a bearing on the revolutionization of enterprise cadres. By going to workshops, and production shifts and groups to learn techniques from master workmen and directly participate in productive labor, the cadres can continuously promote their self-conscious revolution, strengthen the class consciousness and feelings of the proletariat, better depend on the working masses, and make a success of the socialist enterprises. Otherwise, the cadres will be estranged from the working masses in thinking and feeling, and will be more and more seriously divorced from the masses.

A socialist society is a society with classes and class struggle. The class struggle is often interwoven with the struggle for production in an enterprise. If the cadres know nothing about production techniques, they cannot lead production well. What is more important is that it is not easy for them to distinguish the enemy from ourselves and right from wrong in the class struggle. Consequently, they also cannot correctly distinguish and handle the contradictions among the people and those between the enemy and ourselves, and insure the forward movement of enterprises in the socialist direction. Facts show that some empty-headed politicians who are willing to stay ignorant cannot lead the socialist

enterprises well. They often leave the technical problems of production to other people, lose their direction, and lead their enterprises on to the wrong road.

Consequently, the mastery of a branch of technique and replacement of regular members of shifts and groups of cadres is definitely not simply a technical problem, but a problem of great political significance. Every revolutionary cadre must heighten his ideological consciousness, master production techniques, grasp the laws of production, and strive to make himself an organizer of production as well as a common laborer -- a new-style economic worker of the proletariat who is capable of doing manual and mental work and is both red and vocationally proficient.

A cadre must master a branch of technique and be proficient enough to replace a regular member of a shift or group before he really can become a common laborer. The degree of proficiency in replacement is an important yardstick for measuring the normalization and standardization of the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system. The mastery of a branch of technique is in turn a premise to proficiency in replacement and the starting point for a cadre to turn from a layman into an expert. At the stage of normalization and standardization, all enterprises must universally formulate, examine and improve their rules and regulations governing the study of techniques by cadres. All cadres participating in "fixation and replacement" labor must be required to learn and master methodically and in a planned manner a branch of technique through adopting the methods of signing apprenticeship contracts, learning techniques from master workmen, underwriting teaching and learning, and organizing training at stations of work and technical training in spare time. In some varieties of trades and work with more complex techniques (especially the lines of chemical engineering and electrical engineering), it is also necessary for them to explode the mythical viewpoint, overcome the fear of hardship, and make up their minds to study diligently and train themselves in the hard way. The leading cadres in particular must set examples and take the lead in studying well. As things stand in the further development of the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system, the periodic transfer of cadres, group by group, to the lower level to master a branch of technique has become the common demand of the cadres with no knowledge of technical operations. All enterprises should, on the basis of existing experience, plan for the rotational transfer of cadres to the lower level, and implement same systematically.

Apart from this, the cadres participating in "three fixations and one replacement" labor must firmly adhere to rules and regulations, and do a number of things together with the workers -- for example, preparing for work, attending and leaving work, observing labor discipline, attending meetings before and after work, discussing production and work, and studying political theories together with the workers. According to the concrete situation of an enterprise, some essential control systems must be established -- for example, the system for checking attendance, the system for recording shifts taken up and handing over by cadres, the system for

conducting periodic appraisal and comparison, the technical inspection system, and the system of holding periodic meetings for labor groups. As to the time for participating in "three fixations and one replacement" labor, this can be properly arranged according to the concrete situation of an enterprise. The time spent by cadres in labor must be in conformity with their degree of self-consciousness, their physical constitution, and the improvement of business standard and enterprise management work. There is no room for rashness.

Can the Revolutionization of Enterprise Management
Be Gradually Realized Through Popularizing the
"Three Fixations and One Replacement" Labor System?

The experience of the Tach'ing Oil Field has pointed out to us the direction for revolutionizing modern enterprises. Szechwan Province has studied the experience of the Tach'ing Oil Field and summed up the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system for cadres to participate in labor. Is it possible then to realize gradually the revolutionization of enterprise management through popularizing this system? What are the problems in this connection and what problems must be resolved?

The enterprise management system and the industrial management system were born with the development of big industry. Due to the development of capitalist production, the machines owned by factories are ever more standardized, and division of work in business management is also ever more concrete. This is also to say, with big industry and technical conditions developing day by day, the factory management system is growing more perfect every day, thus creating modern technology and the modern industrial management system. At the same time, with the capitalist process of production ever more socialized and the high degree of concentration of means of production and laborers, the resulting factory management system has become "a special function of capital" as Marx described it.

Following the victory of the socialist revolution, with the means of production in the hands of the proletariat, the enterprise management system is no longer "a special function of capital," but has become a kind of economic mechanism of the system of ownership by the whole people. The inner relationship of an enterprise is built upon the comradely relationship of mutual aid and cooperation. It plays a positive role in impelling the development of production.

On the basis of normalizing and standardizing the "three fixations and one replacement" system, the revolutionization of enterprise management seeks to change further the relationship of the organizers of production with the industrial workers, and turn the former into common laborers. Comrade Mao Tse-tung said: " Marxists regard man's activity in production as the most fundamental practical activity, the determinant of all his other activities. Man's knowledge depends mainly on his activity in material production, through which he comes gradually to understand the phenomena,

the properties and the laws of nature, and the relations between himself and nature; and through his activity in production he also gradually comes to understand, in varying degrees, certain relations that exist between man and man." ("On Practice, "Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung, Vol. I., People's Publishing House, 1952, 2nd edition, p. 271) Consequently, after normalizing and standardizing the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system, the broad masses of the cadres have participated in the most basic practical activity of mankind. In practical activities in production and construction, they have also further developed and deepened the new type of comradesly relationship between man and man. They have grown more familiar with and gradually mastered the laws of production of various trades, thus facilitating the revolutionization of enterprise management.

In the course of popularizing the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system, the problems which Szechwan Province has come into contact with in regard to reform of enterprise management are mainly as follows:

(1) When this labor system was first popularized, the methods of simplifying meetings and tables and returns and rendering services door by door were enforced in industrial and communications enterprises throughout the province, thus preliminarily reforming management work to insure the cadres of more time for participating in "three fixations and one replacement" labor.

(2) In order to meet the requirements of work at the stage of normalizing and standardizing this labor system, in the field of production and management work, central emphasis was laid on improving quality and lowering costs. In conjunction with organizing the cadres to master a branch of technique, the training of the working masses to acquire basic skills in a big way was organized. With central emphasis laid on strengthening the mass management of shifts and groups, the basic work in enterprise management was well grasped.

(3) Recently, we suggested that two-level management be enforced in small enterprises and medium enterprises with the necessary conditions so as to eliminate the mechanism at the workshop level, thus reducing the number of levels, cutting down the number of personnel, and strengthening the first line of production.

(4) Some enterprises with the necessary conditions studied the experience of the Tsitsihar Rolling Stock Factory in the revolutionization of enterprise management. They enforced the new management system of having management work "centralized at the factory level to serve shifts and groups."

In the course of popularizing the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system, at the stage of normalization and standardization with self-conscious revolution as the center, all cadres must be transformed from organizers of production into organizers of production as well as

industrial laborers. This is a basic reform of the labor system. If all industrial and communications departments and enterprises have realized the normalization and standardization of this labor system and implemented the comradely relationship of division of work in productive labor, an enormous improvement of production relations will be effected. Lenin pointed out: "The high degree of development of communism is the economic foundation for the state to wither away. By that time, the antagonism of mental labor and manual labor has been abolished, and as a consequence, one of the most important root causes of inequality in modern society will also be abolished. This root cause can never be abolished immediately by merely turning means of production into public property and exploiting the capitalists." ("State and Revolution," Collected Works of Lenin, Vol. XXV, People's Publishing House, p. 455) To be sure, it will still take a very long time to abolish fundamentally the difference between mental labor and manual labor. However, after realizing the revolutionization of the enterprise management system and establishing the modern socialist industrial management system and enterprise management system through popularizing the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system, the difference between mental labor and manual labor will greatly diminish, thus creating conditions for its final elimination.

What Is the Complexion of the Course of Development
of the "Three Fixations and One Replacement" Labor
System and Its Future Prospects

The birth and development of the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system has its specific social and historical conditions, and can never be looked upon as a provisional measure or coincidence.

This system not only can solve the problem of the ideological revolutionization of cadres -- especially the transformation of intellectuals into laborers. Its popularization is also advantageous to our gradually realizing the revolutionization of enterprises. It is not just a fundamental labor system to meet the demand for socialist revolution and construction, for it also can be described as a basic reform of the enterprise management system. On the basis of inquiry made in the past few months, its course of development and future prospects can mainly be divided into four stages:

The first stage is the stage of universally popularizing this labor system in industrial and communications enterprises. This stage requires the cadres of all enterprises to go to the front, popularize it with resolve, and participate in labor.

The second stage is the stage of normalizing and standardizing this labor system around the self-conscious revolution of the cadres. At this stage, all cadres participating in "three fixations and one replacement" labor must gradually learn to master a branch of technique on the foundation of self-conscious revolution, and transform themselves from

organizers of production into organizers of production as well as industrial laborers.

The third stage is the stage centering on the revolutionization of enterprise management. With the ideological revolutionization of cadres making greater headway step by step, there is inevitably the demand for solving the problem of revolutionizing enterprise management. The third stage mainly possesses three basic contents: (1) Implement the basic reform of the enterprise management system, wipe out the influence of capitalism and revisionism, continuously sum up China's experience in building socialism, and build our own modern enterprise management system. (2) Reform the wage system. Build a modern socialist wage system to arouse fully the activism of the working masses. (3) Carry out technical innovation and the technical revolution. In the course of penetratingly implementing the "three fixations and one replacement" system, after solving the problem of distribution on the foundation of revolutionizing the thought of cadres and enterprise management, we can mobilize the activism of the broad working masses for production to the maximum and impel the rapid development and luxuriant growth of technical innovation and the technical revolution.

The fourth stage is the stage of carrying out all-round construction in enterprise management. This is the course of development of the gradually maturing typical experiences of the various enterprises and trades from the various enterprises to the various trades and from the various trades to the industrial and communications system on the foundation of revolutionizing enterprise management -- that is, the process of ascent from the part to the whole. Combined with the experiences of other quarters on this foundation, the modern socialist industrial management and enterprise management systems can be built.

As things stand at the moment, it is necessary for most enterprises to go through the four stages mentioned above. To be sure, due to variance in situation, some smaller enterprises may consider adopting the method of "cooking all things in one pot," without rigidly marking out the various stages of development. Essentially speaking, however, the contents and focal points of the four stages have their objective laws. Even though "all things are cooked in one pot," there should also be room for one-sided emphasis at a given period.

Why Is It Said That the "Three Fixations and One Replacement" Labor System Is a Labor System of Great Revolutionary Significance?

Back in 1957, the "Directive of the CCP Central Committee on Participation of Leading Personnel at Various Levels in Manual Labor" had this to point out: "The arduous task before us requires us to build China into a great socialist country with modern industry and modern agriculture. In order to realize this task, it is necessary to continue to develop our

Party's tradition of uniting with the masses and fighting a hard struggle. The participation of leading cadres at various level in some manual labor so as to combine gradually mental labor with manual labor is a system for developing this fine tradition. It is also the goal which the current rectification seeks to attain.

"During the ten-year long civil war from 1927 through 1936, many of our Party cadres and the commanders and fighters of the Red Army of the workers and peasants had devoted part of their time to productive labor. During the war of resistance against Japan, the armed force units, organs and schools of Yen-an and various anti-Japanese bases had launched mass production campaigns, with many leading cadres participating in agricultural labor and some in handicraft labor. These production campaigns greatly improved the relationship between the leaders and the masses, strengthened the labor viewpoint of the broad masses of the cadres and intellectuals, and promoted production among the people of the liberated areas at that time.

"Now, quite a number of comrades are influenced by the ideas of the ideas of the exploiting classes of the old society. They forget this fine tradition of the past, look down upon manual labor, and covet fame, profit and social standing. Some of them yearn only for divorcement from production, and once they are so divorced, they have no desire of returning to it. This is a very dangerous tendency. The Party must resolutely fight against this tendency." (Jen-min Jih-pao, May 15, 1957)

Before the enforcement of the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system in the industrial and communications enterprises of Szechwan Province, the broad masses of the cadres also participated in labor shifts and practiced "four togethernesses" in accordance with the instructions of the Central Committee and the Provincial Committee. However, their participation in labor was far from proficient, and they had not been turned into industrial laborers. The "three fixations and one replacement" labor system was born on the foundation of summing up the experiences of the cadres who had participated in labor in the past under these historical respects. On the one hand, it seeks to solve the problem of turning enterprise cadres into organizers of production as well as common laborers. On the other hand, it seeks to solve the problem of revolutionizing the thought of cadres and the enterprises.

This labor system is a labor system of great revolutionary significance. It is a labor system of a fundamental character which conforms with the demand for penetratingly developing socialist revolution and socialist construction in China. Especially after the Central Committee recommended the enforcement of two kinds of labor system and two kinds of educational system, we have been greatly illumined. Our thought has grown clearer and more definite, our field of vision has broadened, and we are even more resolved to popularize the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system.

Through universally popularizing and penetratingly developing the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system, the broad masses of the cadres can directly participate in productive labor, and become common laborers. They think and feel more and more like the workers, and a new comradely relationship between the cadres and the workers is further developed. The new communist thought and vogue of fervently loving labor and the laboring people and of finding glory in hardship and shame in enjoyment is thus established. The ideological revolutionization of the cadres -- especially the transformation of intellectuals into laborers -- can thus be effected, and the cadres can gradually be steeled to become brand-new people with political consciousness and knowledge of production techniques capable of taking up both mental labor and manual labor. On the foundation of ideological revolutionization, we can freely mobilize the masses, systematically revolutionize the enterprise management system, wipe out the capitalist and revisionist influence in enterprise management work, realize the revolutionization of enterprises, and build new socialist enterprises. The emergence of such a new system, new thought, new people and new enterprises will necessarily make the relations of production better able to meet the demand for development of productive forces, impel a leap in production and greatly accelerate the building of socialism.

In the long run, following the enforcement of the "three fixations and one replacement" labor system, the management personnel and the industrial workers of the enterprises will draw ever closer to each other, and the gap between mental labor and manual labor will gradually be closed and finally abolished. We may anticipate that with us penetrating deeper into this labor system, with the cause of socialist construction developing and science and technology advancing to a high plane, and with the cultural level of the workers gradually heightened, it is possible to provide the necessary conditions for the gradual transition of socialism to communism.

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THE RED LAMP

[Following is a translation of a play by Weng Ouhung (5040 0260 5725) and A Chia (7093 3946) in the Chinese-language periodical, Hung Ch'i, Peiping, No. 2, 27 February 1965, pages 34-55]

Two Revisions

Concerning the modern Peking opera, the Red Lamp, published in the previous issue of this periodical, the authors, in their letter, proposed two revisions: (1) "To rescue the orphan, Li Yu-ho ran east and hid west," the "er-huang yuan-pan" line sung by the old woman, line 19, column 2, page 44, is changed to "For the revolution, Li Yu-ho ran east and hurried west." (2) "The Japanese bandits are vicious and furthermore cunning," the "er-huang yuan-pan" line also sung by the old woman, line 24, column 2, page 51, is changed to "the Japanese bandits are vicious and also cunning."

Since its rewriting and performance until its publication by this periodical, the Red Lamp underwent seven rather major revisions. When published by this periodical, the authors made another revision according to the opinions from various sides. As for the minor revisions, they were even more numerous. Such revisions have elevated both the ideological and the artistic qualities of the play. In the performance hereafter, we are sure that there will be further processing and revisions which will bring this play to a greater perfection.

The Red Lamp

(Modern Peking Opera)

Revised and Written by Weng Ou-hung (5040
0260 5725) and A Chia (7093 3946)

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Characters: | Li Yu-ho | Li T'ieh-mei | Old Woman |
| | Mentor Chou | Aunt Liu | Kuei-lan |
| | Communications officer | | Knife Grinder |
| | Guerrilla Team Leader Liu | | Woman peddling |
| | Woman peddler | | congee |
| | Several guerrilla members | | A, B, C, and D |
| | Hatoyama | Hou Hsien-pu | Small team leader |
| | Patrol leader Wang | Cobbler | Several Special |
| | Several Japanese Military Policemen | | Service Officers |

Scene 1 Rescuing the Communication Officer

One late fall night during the anti-Japanese war period.

At a railway switch near the Lung-t'an Station in the Northeast.

In a dark autumn night, the north wind suddenly rises and roars through everything. Four Japanese military police patrol through the scene.

At the switch of the station of a small town, there are a long hill nearby and mountains far away. Smoke and lights are used to show the train going over the long slope.

Li Yu-ho (entering calmly with a signal light in his hand and singing the "hsi-p'i san-pan" tune): Carrying a red lamp in my hand I look all over; North Manchuria is sending someone to Lung-t'an. (Looking at his watch) The time is just about half past ten, and this is the train I am waiting for.

Li T'ieh-mei (entering with a merchandise basket): Dad!

Li Yu-ho: Oh, T'ieh-mei!

Li T'ieh-mei: Yes!

Li Yu-ho: T'ieh-mei, how was business today?

Li T'ieh-mei: How? Humph! The MP's and the running dogs purposely made trouble for the people under the excuse of inspection, disturbing the people's peace of mind. Who had the mind to buy anything?

Li Yu-ho: This bandit gang!

Li T'ieh-mei: Dad! Please be more careful!

Li Yu-ho: Sure! Go home and tell Grandma that uncle will be here soon. Ask her to have dinner ready.

Li T'ieh-mei: Yes.

Li Yu-ho: T'ieh-mei, come here! (Wrapping his scarf around her).

Li T'ieh-mei: Dad, I am not cold.

Li Yu-ho: Keep it wrapped!

Li T'ieh-mei: Dad, where does the uncle come from?

Li Yu-ho (kindly): Children must not inquire about those things.

Li T'ieh-mei (muttering to herself): I am going to ask Grandma.

Dad, please be sure to be more careful! I am going home. (Exit).

Li Yu-ho: Good daughter! (Singing in the "hsi-p'i yuan-pan" tune) Peddling with a basket and picking coal dregs, and carrying water and gathering firewood are all her jobs. Taking care of the inside and the outside all by herself, the poor people's child undertakes the household management in her early years. The kind of seedling produces the kind of fruit, and the kind of seed determines the kind of flower.

Patrol leader Wang (entering): Who is it?

Li Yu-ho: Me.

Patrol leader Wang: Old Li, the devil's patrol is very careful today. Looks like something is happening!

(Two Japanese patrol soldiers enter, part, and exit).

Patrol leader Wang (taking a cigarette out): Loan me a light.

Li Yu-ho: Sure, sure. (Approaching to light the cigarette for Wang and squatting): Old Wang, the situation is tense; we must be extremely careful. We must meet less frequently from now on, changing to contacting every ten days. As for where we meet, I'll think of a means to let you know.

Patrol leader Wang: OK.

(Dim light. A long train whistle far away, and the train roars past. When it is not far from the station, the communication officer jumps out of the train. Immediately, the Japanese MP on the train fires two shots successively. Li Yu-ho and patrol leader Wang take cover.)

(With his hand on his chest, the communication officer rolls through the stage entrance and falls next to the railway track.)

(Seeing the communication officer from afar, Li Yu-ho and patrol leader Wang rush forward to support him.)

Li Yu-ho (helping the communication officer to his feet): Easy, old man!

Communication officer (reviving and struggling, and studying his surrounding): Where is this?

Li Yu-ho: The 51st switch of the Lung-t'an Station. You...

Communication officer (struggling to raise his left hand wearing a blue glove, and fainting again).

Li Yu-ho (to himself): A glove on his left hand. (To patrol leader Wang) One of our own!

(Sounds of Japanese soldiers far away and whistles.)

Patrol leader Wang: Carry him away fast; I'll cover you.

Li Yu-ho (carrying the communication officer on his back): Old Wang, be very careful. (Exit).

(Confused noise and sharp whistles in the background.)

(Patrol leader Wang gets his revolver out and shoots twice in the direction opposite to that headed by Li Yu-ho. At this time, the sound of the steps and noises of the Japanese soldiers is heard, and the soldiers are approaching. To save himself and deceive the enemy, patrol leader Wang grits his teeth and fires a shot into his own arm, and falls.)

(The small team leader and Hou Hsien-pu enter leading several Japanese MP's.)

Small team leader (to patrol leader Wang): Some one jumped the train?

Patrol leader Wang (pointing to the opposite direction, and purposely groaning): Over there.

Small team leader (in alarm): Lie down!

(All Japanese MP's lying down.)

-- Curtain

Scene 2 Accepting the Task

The same evening as in the previous scene, at the home of Li Yu-ho. One-third of the stage consists of a road and its surroundings. House in the middle, with a door on the right wall. Next to door is a window. In center of house is a table for eight people, with a lamp on it. Behind is a brick bed.

The north wind roars, and the house is dark. The old woman strikes a match to light the lamp on the table. In a sudden passing gust, the window paper shakes.

Old woman (in "hsi-p'i san-pan" and shifting to "yuan-pan"): Those who fish can withstand the winds and the storms; those who hunt do not fear the wild beasts. Just how long can your dark world last? The revolutionary flame will shine forth.

(Music. Parting the window curtains, she takes a look, shakes her head, and grumbles "not back yet?" Waling toward the table, she picks up her sewing and works on it.)

(Li T'ieh-mei enters the door with the merchandise basket.)

Li T'ieh-mei: Grandma!

Old woman: You back now?

Li T'ieh-mei: I'm back.

Old woman: Child, are you cold?

Li T'ieh-mei: Not cold! Dad wants me to tell you that uncle will soon be here and ask you to have dinner ready. (Putting away the basket).

Old woman: Oh! Soon here? Dinner is all prepared.

Li T'ieh-mei: Grandma, how come we have so many uncles?

Old woman: We have many old aunts in our family; therefore, you have many uncles.

Li T'ieh-mei: Which uncle is this coming today?

Old woman: No need to ask. You'll know when he gets here!

Li T'ieh-mei: Grandma, you won't tell me, but I know anyway.

Old woman: What do you know?

Li T'ieh-mei: Listen to me. (Singing in "fast two-six" and changing to "liu-shui" tune) The uncles of our family are innumerable, and they never come without something important. Though they are relatives, I don't know them, and yet they are closer to us than our relatives. Dad and grandma both call them relatives. I can guess the mystery to a certain extent. Similar to Dad, they all have a bright red heart.

Old woman (smiling): You rascal...

(Sound of police siren. Carrying the communication officer on his back, Li Yu-ho hurriedly pushes into the door. Seeing the injured, the old woman and Li T'ieh-mei hurriedly help the communication officer sit down.)

Li T'ieh-mei (greatly alarmed): Oh!

Li Yu-ho (to Li T'ieh-mei): Take a look outside.

Li T'ieh-mei: Ah! (Peeking out).

(Old woman brings a towel. Li Yu-ho wipes the wound for the communication officer and gives him water to drink.)

Communication officer: Please, is there a mentor Li at this switch?

Li Yu-ho: It's me.

Communication officer (wishing to speak, but giving attention to the old woman).

Li Yu-ho: Doesn't matter. Speak freely!

Communication officer: I sell wooden combs...

Li Yu-ho: Anything made of peach wood?

Communication officer: Yes. (Emotionally) Cash deal!

Li Yu-ho (looking at the old woman with surprise and joy): Wonderful!

(The old woman lights the small square lamp to show to the communication officer. One side of the lamp is pasted with red paper).

Communication (greatly disappointed upon seeing the small square lamp, and struggling up): Let me... go!

Li Yu-ho (raising high the signal lamp): Comrade, look!

Communication officer (holding tightly to Li Yu-ho's hand): Comrade! I finally found you! (Suddenly faints).

(Li T'ieh-mei is somewhat amazed by the effect of the signal lamp).

Li Yu-ho: Comrade...

Old woman: Comrade, comrade...

(Communication officer revives.)

Communication officer: Comrade Li! I am... a communication officer... sent over by North Manchuria. (Struggling to tear the front part of his cotton padded gown with his teeth, taking out a secret telegraph code, and handing it to Li Yu-ho). This is a secret telegraph

code. (Panting). Hurry... hurry it to the Pei-shan guerrilla. (Panting and struggling). Tomorrow at the congee shed of the trash market...

Li Yu-ho: Good comrade, hurry up. What about the congee shed of the trash market?

Communication officer: A knife grinder will contact you...

Li Yu-ho: Oh, a knife grinder will contact me.

Communication officer: Same pass words.

Li Yu-ho: Oh, same pass words...

Communication officer: The mission must be completed. (Dies.)

Li T'ieh-mei: Oh! (Cries).

(Old woman immediately checks Li T'ieh-mei).

Li Yu-ho (taking off his hat and looking at the secret telegraph code in his hand, and all three bowing to the communication officer): The mission must be completed!

(Sudden sound of the police siren. Old woman hurriedly extinguishes the lamp.)

-- Curtain

Scene 3 Escaping Danger at the Congee Shed

Afternoon of the next day, at the trash market congee shed.

A crude and simple congee shed, with an old table on the right corner. People A, B, and C sitting across one another and drinking congee. A woman cigarette peddler squats against a pillar on left and shouts about her merchandise.

(The scene opens in a confusion of market noises.

(Li Yu-ho enters with the signal lamp in one hand and a food box in the other.)

Li Yu-ho (in "hsi-p'i yao-pan"): Looking for my intimate one in the trash market, and hiding the secret document in the food box. No difficulty can stop me. I will deliver it to Pei-shan-kang. (Entering the congee shed and hailing every one) Boss! Bring a bowl of congee. (While talking, he hangs the lamp on a post on the right.) Boss, how is business?

Congee peddling woman: So so. (Dishing out the congee and passing it to Li Yu-ho).

(At this time, people C finishes his bowl of congee and pays.)

Congee peddling woman: Old Four, have another bowl?

People C: No more!

Congee peddling woman: One bowl already filled you up?

People C: Filled up? No money! Ai! Busy from morning till night, and yet I cannot even fill myself up with congee. What kind of world is this! (Exit).

People D (entering): Boss, bring a bowl of congee.

(Congee peddling woman passes a bowl of congee to people D).

People D (drinking the congee): Boss, what's the taste of your congee? It's mildewed!

People A: It came from the rationing. What can one do?

People D: (Sighing). (Carrying the congee to pillar on left. Squatting down while drinking. Buys cigarette from woman peddler).

People B: Oh! What's in the congee? It hurts my teeth!

People A: Humph! Filled with sand!

Congee peddling woman: Just make the best of it!

People B: Humph! Simply not considering us as human beings!

People A (sighing): Talk lower. Don't court misfortune!

People B (sighing heavily): How can one live!

Li Yu-ho: Boss! Another bowl please! (Singing in the "liu-shui" tune) How many comrades are complaining from one end to the other; struggling under the iron hooves, their hatred cannot be extinguished. The spring thunder explodes and we are waiting our chance. How can the courageous Chinese people bow their head to the butcher's knife! We only hope the comrades of Pei-shan arrive early...

Knife grinder (enters with loads on a pole over his shoulder.

Singing in "hsi-p'i tao-pan"): Searching for my intimate one, I look in all directions. The red lamp hangs high and shines full in my face. (Raising his gloved left hand, covering his ear with it, and shouting) I shout: I sharpen scissors and vegetable knives!

Li Yu-ho (in "hsi-p'i yao-pan"): The knife grinder stares at the red lamp with full attention, and raises his left hand to signal me. I shall pretend casual conversation and check our secret signs. (Just when he is going to make the secret signals, sharp police siren is suddenly heard. Several Japanese MP's charge on stage.)

MP: Stay still; inspection!

(The knife grinder purposely upsets his load, attracting the MP's to himself.)

Li Yu-ho: Good comrade! (Singing) He attracts the wolf to himself to save me from danger. (Pouring the remaining congee into his food bowl and getting another ladleful from the woman peddling congee).

(At this time, the MP's have completed searching the knife grinder, dismiss him with an abrupt hand signal, and turn toward Li Yu-ho. Li Yu-ho passes the food box, and then the signal lamp, to the MP. The MP waves them both aside. Li Yu-ho places them on the table and submits to search of his person).

MP A:(completing the search) Go!

Li Yu-ho (Exits from center with food box and signal lamp.)

-- Dim light; curtain.

Scene 4 The Revolt of Wang Lien-chu

Afternoon of the next day, in Hatoyama's office. Decorations, a list of the injured, and telephone on table. A screen on the side.

The scene opens in the sound of music. The atmosphere is quiet and forbidding, indicating an evil and fearful environment.

Hou Hsien-pu (enters carrying file on patrol leader Wang and reads aloud): The man jumping the train fired one shot and injured patrol leader Wang's arm. What's so unusual about it anyway, and yet unit commander Hatoyama applauds it greatly. I think there is something behind it. (Telephone rings. Hou Hsien-pu answers the telephone).

Hou Hsien-pu: Hello? (Standing at attention) Yes. (Putting down the receiver) For the unit commander.

Hatoyama (enters from behind the screen) Who from?

Hou Hsien-pu: The commander-in-chief.

Hatoyama: Should have told me before. (Taking the telephone) This is Hatoyama. What? Broken? Oh! Please do not worry. The secret code will be found. Yes! Yes! What!? Order of the Kuan-tung Army Headquarters! (Standing at attention) Breaking the case within a time limit... Yes! Yes! (Replacing the receiver and muttering to himself) The terrible communists! The headquarters barely found some clue in North Manchuria, and they broke up the connection. The terrible communists!

Hou Hsien-pu: Reporting to the unit commander. This is the entire file on patrol leader Wang. (Delivers file.)

Hatoyama: Humph. (Taking and leafing through file.)

Small team leader (from inside): Reporting!

Hatoyama: Enter! (Small team leader enters.) How was the search?

Small team leader: We covered the hotels, bathhouses, theaters, and gambling joints, but did not find any one jumping the train. We arrested several suspicious elements. Do you wish to question them?

Hatoyama: What's the use of arresting the suspicious elements? This case is extremely serious! Just now Headquarters has issued another order: The train jumper was the communication officer of the communist North Manchuria organ, and he carried an extremely important secret telegraph code with him...

Hou Hsien-pu and small team leader (both standing at attention): Yes!

(From here on, the two will take similar action and answer "yes" to every sentence spoken by Hatoyama.)

Hatoyama: This secret code was sent by the North Manchuria communist organ to the Pei-shan guerrilla. The Pei-shan guerrilla was waiting for this secret code to establish contact! If the secret code falls into the hands of the guerrilla of several thousand men, it will be adding wings to the tiger, and most unfavorable to our empire!

Hou Hsien-pu and small team leader (standing at attention simultaneously): Yes. Unfavorable! Unfavorable!

Hatoyama: How could you have let such an important communist element slip by? (Small team leader and Hou Hsien-pu look at each other silently.) Stupid!

Hou Hsien-pu and small team leader: Yes...

Hatoyama: How is patrol leader Wang?

Hou Hsien-pu: He was shot in the left arm. The bones...

Hatoyama: I did not ask you this! Give me a resume of his background.

Hou Hsien-pu: Yes. Patrol leader Wang's name is Hung-chang, also known as Lien-chu. His grandfather once peddled opium, and his father operated a restaurant. He himself was a graduate of the first group of the Manchurian Imperial Police Officers School. One daughter-in-law, several sons, and a father.

Hatoyama: Um-hum. He actually came from a good family. This time he really exerted himself. Good! Ask him to come in!

Hou Hsien-pu: Yes. -- Patrol leader Wang!

Patrol leader Wang (with one arm in a sling, enters, and salutes): The honorable unit commander!

Hatoyama: Ah, young man! (Singing "po-tzu san-pan") Brave young man, you have suffered. You blocked the enemy bullet with your body, fearing no sacrifice. With your courageous and fearless spirit, you defend the happy land of the emperor. On behalf of the Supreme Commanding Headquarters of the Kuan-tung Army, I confer on you the grade three decoration.

Patrol leader Wang (surprised): Ah! (In "hsi-p'i yao-pan") Secretly happy for my fortune out of calamity. Hatoyama has not suspected. I thank the unit commander for your encouragement, and I am deeply grateful for the decoration.

Hatoyama: Young man! (In "po-tzu yuan-pan") As long as you exert yourself for the empire and are loyal, you will have opportunities for promotion. The sea of bitterness is boundless, but if you turn around, you will find the shore. It all depends on whether you can catch on!

Patrol leader Wang: Ah! I do not understand the unit commander's words.

Hatoyama: You should understand! Not being an actor, why do you have to put on an act before me? It's a pity that your skill is not high, and I cannot applaud you.

Patrol leader Wang: The honorable unit commander...

Hatoyama: You probably do not know my background. Let me tell you. When you were still nursing, I was already a surgeon. Though the shot was accurate, you forgot that the train jumper could not have fired when only three centimeters away from you.

Patrol leader Wang: If the unit commander feels this way, I find it most regrettable.

Hatoyama: Hei, hei, hei... truly most regrettable. It is regrettable that this old man has not been deceived by you! Young man, do you think you can stump me with such simple problems as how many is one plus one? Impossible! Impossible! My young brother, tell the truth immediately. Who are your fellow conspirators? Hm!

Patrol leader Wang: Fellow conspirators?...

Hatoyama: Do you find the term odd? The fact is very clear. The train jumper was seriously injured. Without the aid and cover furnished by his gang, could he have grown wings and flown away?

Patrol leader Wang: Unit commander! You should investigate the actual conditions. At that time, I was shot and felled. How would I know how he fled?

Hatoyama: Of course you knew. You should know. If you didn't know, why did you shoot yourself? Young man, do not play "smart" any more! Tell the truth immediately, and let me know who are the underground communists and who render aid? Where is the communication officer hiding? Who has the secret code? Tell everything. I have plenty of decorations and award money!

Patrol leader Wang: Honorable unit commander, I am getting more and more confused by your words.

Hatoyama: Hum, hum... In that case, you have to be enlightened.
-- Hou Hsien-pu!

Hou Hsien-pu: Here!

Hatoyama: Help this young man to get enlightened.

Hou Hsien-pu: Yes. Take patrol leader Wang down! (Two MP's enter.)

Patrol leader Wang: Unit commander, you have wronged me! You have wronged me!

Hatoyama: Take him down!

Patrol leader Wang: Unit commander, you must not wrong a good man! (Hatoyama gestures with his lips to take patrol leader Wang down).

Hou Hsien-pu: Please. (Two MP's drag patrol leader Wang down, followed by Hou Hsien-pu).

Hatoyama (looking at the back of patrol leader Wang and smiling cunningly): Hm... (in "Po-tzu San-pan") Iron horse covers the entire Sung-hua River; skulls are used to hold wine. One leather lash and one scream. Tapping bones and playing with tendons are music. Regardless of the tough guy playing tough... (Each line is punctuated with sounds of beating and screams.) Severe tortures to subjugate him. (Hou Hsien-pu enters.)

Hou Hsien-pu: Reporting to the unit commander: He confesses!

Hatoyama: Who are his fellow conspirators?

Hou Hsien-pu: No. 51 switchman Li Yu-ho.

Hatoyama: Li Yu-ho! (Taking off his glasses) Hm, hm...

-- Curtain

Scene 5 The Revolutionary Family History

The next afternoon, in Li Yu-ho's house. The old woman sews absent-mindedly, anxious about Li Yu-ho.

Old woman (in "hsi-p'i yao-pan"): Already dusk, and son Yu-ho has not returned. (Confused shouts far away, mixed with sirens. Li T'ieh-mei runs in with her basket in alarm, and shuts the door immediately upon entering.)

Li T'ieh-mei: Grandma, something bad has happened!

Old woman: What?

Li T'ieh-mei: Grandma! (In "liu-shui") The street is filled with confusion, and every road is patrolled, searching and arresting everywhere! The situation is even more tense at the station. I hope Dad will return soon.

Old woman: Child, do not worry. (In "san-pan") Your dad is both brave and cautious. He will know how to handle the Japanese soldiers (forcing herself to be calm).

Li T'ieh-mei: You are right.

Li Yu-ho (enters with signal lamp and food box, knocking on the door): Ma!

Li T'ieh-mei: Dad is back. (Hurriedly opening the door) Dad, you are back.

Li Yu-ho: Um! -- Ma!

Old woman: Child! You are back. I was worried to death.

Li Yu-ho: It was a narrow escape, Ma! (Walking to the pillar next to the brick bed, and indicating the food box to the old woman) Please give me the thing inside.

Old woman (indicating to Li T'ieh-mei to keep a lookout, and opening the food box) Yu-ho, it's congee inside!

Li Yu-ho: It's below the congee.

Old woman (pouring the congee out and handing the secret code to Li Yu-ho): What is this?

(Standing at the curtain and keeping a lookout, Li T'ieh-mei watches Li Yu-ho's actions).

Li Yu-ho (hiding the secret code in the crack in the pillar and telling the old woman what happened): Ma, (in "liu-shui") at the congee shed, just when I was establishing contact with the knife grinder, the police sirens sounded, and the devils from the police car searched. The secret code was not found by them as it was hidden below the congee. During the search, I kept calm and presented a smiling face!

Li T'ieh-mei: Dad! You are truly skillful. But, dad, what do we do with the thing here?

Li Yu-ho: Child, don't be anxious. We'll think of a way to deliver it. T'ieh-mei! (Dragging T'ieh-mei and making her sit down, and talking closely) You have seen everything! I can no longer conceal from you! This is even more important than life itself. It must never be revealed, even at the cost of one's life! (At this time, the old woman lights the kerosene lamp.)

Li T'ieh-mei (innocently and solemnly): I understand!

Li Yu-ho: You understand! My daughter is the best in all the land! Ha, ha...

Li T'ieh-mei (coyly): Dad!

Old woman: Look at you two...

Li T'ieh-mei: Grandma, you...

Li Yu-ho (looking at his watch): Quite late now. I have to go out once more.

Li T'ieh-mei: Dad, eat before you go.

Li Yu-ho: I'll eat when I come back.

Old woman: Come back soon.

Li Yu-ho: Ai! (Answering and exiting simultaneously).

Li T'ieh-mei (picking up and passing the scarf): Dad! Here. (Wrapping the scarf around Li Yu-ho) Please return early.

Li Yu-ho: Ai! (Exits).

(Music. The old woman polishes the signal lamp reverently.)

Li T'ieh-mei (seized by an idea while watching the old woman polish the lamp): Grandma, you are polishing the red lamp again?

Old woman (realizing that Li T'ieh-mei is fishing for information, but feeling that she should know the history of the lamp): T'ieh-mei, now you should know some of the things. Sit down. Today your grandma will tell you the story of the red lamp.

Li T'ieh-mei: Ai!

Old woman: This lamp is 30 years old. For the past 30 years, it has been lighting the steps of us poor people! Lighting the steps of us workers! Your grandpa used to carry it. Now, your dad is carrying it. By your own eyes, you saw that the instances of last night and today were inseparable from it. Remember, the red lamp is our family heirloom!

Li T'ieh-mei: Oh! The red lamp is our family heirloom. I remember it.

Old woman: It's dark. We should cook dinner! (Solemnly puts the lamp down and goes to cook. Exits.)

Li T'ieh-mei (picking up the red lamp, examining it carefully, and replacing it. Turning the wick higher. Sinking into deep thought and singing in "hsi-p'i yao-pan"): Grandma tells me about the red lamp. Her words are few but the truth is deep. I can see that dad is not afraid of dangers. (Shifting to "yuan-pan") Uncle was willing to sacrifice. What is their purpose? Their purpose is to save China, rescue the poor, and defeat the devil soldiers. Theirs is the kind of things I want to do, and I want to be some one like them. T'ieh mei, being 17, you are not so young. Yet, how come you cannot share the burden of your dad? If dad's load weighs one thousand catties, T'ieh-mei, you should at least carry 800 catties. (Old woman enters and calls her. She does not hear.)

Old woman: T'ieh-mei! What are you thinking about?

Li T'ieh-mei: Not thinking about anything.

Old woman: Dinner will be ready soon. We'll eat as soon as your dad returns.

Li T'ieh-mei: Ai. (Sound of infant wailing next doors.)

Old woman: Listen! Is that Lung-er nextdoors crying?

Li T'ieh-mei (raising her head and looking at the bed curtain): It certainly is!

Old woman: Poor baby! He is without food again! Do we still have some noodles left?

Li T'ieh-mei: We haven't got much! (Infant wailing again.)

Li T'ieh-mei (wishing to help): Grandma, there is. I'll take a bowl over. (Taking the noodle.)

Old woman: Good!

Kuei-lan (entering and knocking): Grandma Li!

Li T'ieh-mei: It's sister Kuei-lan. (Opening the door) Sister Kuei-lan, I was just going over to your place.

Old woman: Is Lung-er better now?

Kuei-lan: He's getting better. However... there is nothing to cook.

Li T'ieh-mei: Sister Kuei-lan, here you are. (Passing the bowl of noodles).

Kuei-lan: This... (too embarrassed to accept).

Old woman: Please take it! I heard Lung-er cry and thought he was probably hungry. I was just going to ask T'ieh-mei to take it to you.

Li T'ieh-mei (to Kuei-lan): Please take it!

Kuei-lan (taking the noodle bowl): I don't know what to say. Grandma Li, you are too good to us.

Old woman: With a wall, it's two families. Without the wall, we will be one family.

Li T'ieh-mei: Even with the wall, we are still one family.

Old woman: You are right. (Child cries again).

Aunt Liu (pushing the door and entering): Kuei-lan, the baby is crying. (Seeing the noodle bowl in Kuei-lan's hand) Aunty, T'ieh-mei ... how can you do this again! You do not have much to spare!

Old woman: Not another word. In times like these we have to depend on one another. Let us manage along together. You better hurry up and feed the baby!

Aunt Liu: Thank you very much. (Goes out of the door with Kuei-lan. Exit.)

Old woman (seeing them to the door): Don't mention it.

Li T'ieh-mei (closing the door): Grandma, what's going to happen to sister Lan's family? The husband lost his job, and the baby is sick. How are they going to live?

Old woman: We'll do our best to help.

Li T'ieh-mei: Um.

(A special service officer, disguised as a comb peddler, comes to the door and knocks lightly three times.)

Special service officer: Mentor Li home?
Li T'ieh-mei: Some one asking for Dad!
Old woman: Open the door!
Li T'ieh-mei: Ai. (Opens the door).
Old woman: You are looking for... (The special service officer enters. Music, indicating an evil wind sweeping in. He glances around the room and closes the door.)
Special service officer (intentionally raising his gloved left hand): I sell wooden combs!
Old woman (observing carefully): Anything made of peach wood?
Special service officer: Yes. Cash deal!
Li T'ieh-mei (impulsively) Wait a minute. (In process of picking up the signal lamp. The old woman coughs. Li T'ieh-mei stops. The old woman lights the small square lamp with a match. Li T'ieh-mei suddenly understands and takes a breath.)
Special service officer (turning up a corner of the window curtain, showing vigilance, and seeing the small square lamp): Thank heaven, I have finally found you!
Li T'ieh-mei (angered for being deceived): You?!
(The tempo of the music changes.)
Old woman (signalling Li T'ieh-mei with her eyes): Boss, please let me see your combs for me to choose from.
Special service officer (purposely being sincere): Old lady, please do not digress. I come here to get the secret code. This secret code is an important document of the communist party, and it concerns the entire future of the revolution. Each minute of the revolution is more valuable than gold. Do not delay. Give it to me right away!
Li T'ieh-mei (exploding): What are you muttering about? Get out!
Special service officer: Old grandma, I...
Li T'ieh-mei: Are you going? (Pushing him).
Old woman: T'ieh-mei, call the police!
Li T'ieh-mei: If you don't go, I am going to call the police!
Special service officer: Don't, don't... I am going!
Li T'ieh-mei: Scram!
(The special service officer gives her a venomous glance and leaves. Li T'ieh-mei slams the door shut. Music stops. Two plain-clothes special service officers enter, make a secret sign, and keep watch at the gate of the Li house.)
Li T'ieh-mei: I was almost fooled. Grandma, where did this mangy dog come from?
Old woman: Child! It's no good! Do not ask about the mangy dog, for there are poison snakes behind. Some one must have revealed the secret! (Music. The atmosphere suddenly becomes tense, but weakens gradually.)
Li T'ieh-mei: We must deliver the secret code immediately!
Old woman: Too late. The enemy has been prepared.

Li T'ieh-mei: Ah! (Running over to the window and looking out)
Grandma... (old woman approaches her) Some one at the telephone pole
is staring at our gate!

Old woman: What? Paste the sign on the window immediately!

Li T'ieh-mei: Sign?

Old woman: Where is the paper butterfly I asked you to cut?

Li T'ieh-mei: In the sample box.

Old woman: Bring it right over. ^{it}

Li T'ieh-mei: Ai! (Rapidly getting/from behind the bed curtain)
Grandma, how do I paste it?

Old woman: Open the door, and block the light with the door, so
that you can paste. I'll sweep the floor to cover you.

(Li T'ieh-mei pushes the door open. Picking up the broom, the
old woman is just going outside when Li Yu-ho enters in one step.)

Li T'ieh-mei (startled): Ah! Dad! (The paper butterfly in her
hand flutters to the ground.)

(The broom in the old woman's hand drops.)

Li Yu-ho (seeing the butterfly on the ground): Ma, something
wrong? (Closes the door).

Old woman: Dogs at the gate!

(Silence. The old woman sinks into tense thoughts, Li T'ieh-mei
waits for her father to think of something with her eyes wide, and Li
Yu-ho walks back and forth thinking.)

(Hou Hsien-pu enters, and knocks on the door).

Li Yu-ho: Ma, I may possibly be arrested. Just now, I went to
look for mentor Chou, but didn't see him. For anything, go to No. 36,
Hsi-ho-yen, to look for mentor Chou for contact. Be careful.

Old woman: I know. Please do not worry!

Li Yu-ho: T'ieh-mei, open the door!

(Li Yu-ho sits down calmly. Hou hsien-pu enters the door smiling.
The old woman purposely picks up the broom to sweep the floor, and Li
T'ieh-mei seeks a chance to paste the paper butterfly.)

Hou Hsien-pu: Are you mentor Li?

Li Yu-ho: That's right, officer! Please be seated.

Hou Hsien-pu (laughs drily, brings out an invitation, and passes
it with both hands): Mentor Li, unit commander Hatoyama celebrates his
birthday today and asks you to have a drink!

(Both the old woman and Li T'ieh-mei are shocked.)

Li Yu-ho (calmly): Oh, unit commander Hatoyama inviting me to his
banquet?

Hou Hsien-pu: Trying to make friend!

Li Yu-ho: Making friend with me?

Hou Hsien-pu: You'll know when you get there. Let's go!

Li Yu-ho: Please! -- Ma, (solemnly) I am going!

Old woman: Just one second. T'ieh-mei, bring the wine.

Li T'ieh-mei: Ai! (Picking up the wine from the table and passing it to the old woman).

Hou Hsien-pu: Old lady! There's plenty of wine at the banquet.

Old woman (giving him a sideways glance): Hm, hm. The poor are used to their own wine; every drop reaches the heart. Child! You always like to drink, but your ma does not let you. Today, ma asks you to drink. Come, drink up this bowl. (Passing the wine. The wine bowl should not be too big.)

Li Yu-ho (receiving the wine): Good, with this bowl of wine as the foundation, I can drink any kind. Ma! Watch me drink.

Old woman: Right, I am watching you.

Li Yu-ho (looking at his mother intently, indicating that he knows that she is testing his strength. Holding the wine bowl with his entire energy and shaking his shoulders once, he drinks it in one breath. A fiery current passes through his entire body and sparks seem to come out of his eyes): Thanks, thanks, Ma! (Each word is iron cast).

Old woman (proudly): Good son!

Li Yu-ho: Ma. (In "hsi-p'i er-liu") Before leaving, I drink a bowl of Ma's wine. Courage permeates my entire body. Hatoyama gives a banquet and makes friends with me. I shall be able to handle thousands of cups. The out-of-season wind and snow come suddenly. We must always remember the "cold and hot."

Li T'ieh-mei: Dad! (Going toward Li Yu-ho and crying).

Li Yu-ho (in "er-liu"): Little T'ieh-mei, you must watch the weather when going out to sell, and be familiar with the accounts. When tired, you must be careful of the door and guard against the wild dogs. When depressed, you must wait for the magpies singing on the branches. You must busy yourself with the household affairs and share the worries of your grandma.

Li T'ieh-mei: Dad! (Falling into Li Yu-ho's embrace and crying).

Old woman: T'ieh-mei, do not cry. Our Li family has a rule. When the intimate ones leave, one must not cry!

Li Yu-ho: T'ieh-mei, you must listen to your grandma from now on. Do not cry!

Li T'ieh-mei (wiping her tears): I won't cry!

Old woman: T'ieh-mei, open the door and let your dad go to the banquet!

Li Yu-ho: Ma, take good care of yourself!

(The old woman catches hold of Li Yu-ho's hand and looks him all over. Li T'ieh-mei opens the door. A gust blows in. Li Yu-ho goes out of the door in long strides, facing the wind. Hou Hsien-pu follows with his neck in his coat. Li T'ieh-mei rushes after them with the scarf.)

Li T'ieh-mei: Dad!

(Four special service officers enter and block her.)

Special service officer A: Go back! (Forcing her into the door. Enters, and turns toward the old woman) Search!

(The special service officers search expertly, indicating their professional actions. Li T'ieh-mei leans against her grandmother and endures the reckless behavior of the enemy. The enemy finds an old Chinese calendar and throws it back. Nothing else is found.)

Special service officer A (indicating to the rest of the special service officers): Let's go. (Go out of the door and exit.)

Li T'ieh-mei (closing the door, raising the window curtain, and looking around the room): Grandma! (Falling into the embrace of the woman, and weeping in grief.)

Old woman (also crying in spite of herself): Let's cry! Child, cry freely!

Li T'ieh-mei: Grandma, will dad come back?

Old woman (holding back her tears; knowing the truth but unable to reply; picking up Li Yu-ho's scarf and playing with it): Child, tears will not save your dad! (Looking at Li T'ieh-mei) T'ieh-mei, you should know our family affairs!

Li T'ieh-mei: Grandma, what affairs?

Old woman: Sit down. Your grandma has something to tell you.

Li T'ieh-mei: Ai. (Bringing a stool and sitting down).

Old woman (also sitting down): Child, is your dad good?

Li T'ieh-mei: Of course he is! There's no dad in the world better than mine!

Old woman: However... your dad is not your own!

Li T'ieh-mei (startled): Ah, what did you say? Grandma...

Old woman: Neither is your grandma your own!

Li T'ieh-mei (more startled): What? Grandma! What happened to you today? You are out of your mind from anger.

Old woman: No. Child, our three generations here do not belong to the same family. Your name is Ch'en, mine is Li, and your dad's is Chang!

Li T'ieh-mei (stupefied): Oh?

Old woman (in "er-huang san-pan") Afraid to talk about the past in the 17 years of violent storms. Afraid that your mind was not firm, and your will not strong. Several times I wanted to talk, but I couldn't open my mouth.

Li T'ieh-mei: Grandma, please tell! I won't cry!

Old woman (in "er-huang man-san-yen"): It looks like your dad will not return. Your grandma may not escape jail. The heavy burden of the revolution is going to fall on your shoulders. I am telling you the truth. T'ieh-mei, do not cry, and do not grieve. You must square your shoulders and be firm, like an iron cast statue.

Li T'ieh-mei: Please tell! T'ieh-mei won't cry.

Old woman: Ai! It was a long story. Some years ago, after the Tung-ch'ing Railway was forcefully taken by the Japanese devils, my husband escaped into the pass and served as a repair worker at the Chiang-an machine affairs section. He had two apprentices, and one of them was your own father, whose name was Ch'en Chih-hsing.

Li T'ieh-mei: My own dad was Ch'en Chih-hsing.

Old woman: The other apprentice was your present dad, and his name was Chang Yu-ho.

Li T'ieh-mei: Chang Yu-ho.

Old woman (standing up): At that time, the warlords were fighting one another, and the world was in chaos. Later on, the Chinese Communist Party appeared and led the Chinese people to start a revolution. In February of 1923, the workers of the Ching-han Railway formed the general labor union in Cheng-chou. Wu P'ei-fu, the running dog of the foreign devils, blocked its formation by force. Just one order from the general labor union, the workers of the entire line went on strike. The over 10,000 workers of Chiang-an held a demonstration. In that same evening, when it was just as dark and cold like this, I was worried about your grandpa, and could not sew or sleep. I sewed under the lamp. Suddenly, I heard knocking on the door, and shouting "open the door, open the door!" I immediately opened the door, and a man came in in a hurry.

Li T'ieh-mei: Who was it?

Old woman: It was your dad.

Li T'ieh-mei (surprised): My dad?!

Old woman: It was your present dad. He was covered with blood and wounds. He carried this signal lamp in his left hand...

Li T'ieh-mei: The signal lamp?

Old woman: And a child in his right arm!

Li T'ieh-mei: Child?

Old woman: A child not quite a year old!

Li T'ieh-mei: This child...

Old woman: It was not any one else!

Li T'ieh-mei: Who was the child?

Old woman: It was you!

(To reenforce the rhythm of the emotions, the above dialogue should be spoken closely.)

Li T'ieh-mei: Me...

Old woman (hurriedly): You dad held you closely to him and stood before me with tears in his eyes.

(Li T'ieh-mei looks at the old woman intently, without any motion)

Old woman: He stared at me, and could not utter one word for a long time. I was scared and asked him to speak up. He... he said that his tutor and brother Ch'en were both sacrificed! That the child was the only progeny of brother Ch'en -- the progeny of the revolution! That he wanted to bring her up and continue the revolution. Several times, he called me his mentor's wife! He said that, from now on, he was my son, and you, my own grandchild. At that time, I held you tightly to me.

Li T'ieh-mei: Grandma! (A long scream, and falls on the old woman).

(The old woman holds Li T'ieh-mei tightly, and comforts her. Here, the rhythm changes and gradually relaxes. Prior to this, the rhythm must be fast, especially for passage when the old woman repeats Li Yu-ho's words concerning the orphan. There should be both profundity and power. The tune should be fervent, but not too sad.)

Old woman: Don't cry. Pull yourself together! Listen to your grandma! (In "er-huang yuan-pan") Your own parents died in the devil's hands during the workers strike. To save the orphan, Li Yu-ho ran east and hid west. He pledged himself to continue the cause of the patriots, relit the red lamp, wiped his blood dry, buried the dead, and stepped on to the battlefield again. Today, the Japanese bandits burn, kill, and plunder. I see with my own eyes your dad arrested and jailed. It is an account of blood and tears. You must establish your ambition and determination, clear the accounts with the enemy, and ask for payment in blood for the blood debt.

Li T'ieh-mei (in "fan-er-huang yuan-pan," shifting to "k'uai-pan"): Grandma's words on the revolution are courageous, sad, and brave. I discovered that I was born in the wind and grew up in the rain. Grandma, I am deeply grateful for the 17 years of care! From today on, my mind will be high and my eyes bright. Blood debt must be paid in blood, and the cause of our forbears must be undertaken by the late comers. Here, I raise the red lamp, and its light shines forth... My dad is like the pine and cypress, and his determination is strong. Planting himself firmly, he is a courageous communist party member. I will follow you, and never hesitate. The red lamp raised high dazzles brightly, lighting my dad when he attacks the wild wolves. For generations and generations we will continue, and will never leave the battlefield until all the wolves are eliminated!

(Li T'ieh-mei and the old woman raise high the signal lamp.)

-- Curtain

Scene 6 Struggling against Hatoyama at the Banquet

Evening of the next day, at the official residence of Hatoyama.

A rich banquet is laid out on the table, and lights glitter behind the window. The scenes opens in soft music, and dancing girls are seen through the window.

(Hou Hsien-pu enters, bringing with him Li Yu-ho.)

Hou Hsien-pu: Please wait for a while. (Exits, indicating that he is reporting to Hatoyama about Li Yu-ho.)

Li Yu-ho: Please go ahead. (Standing, he glances around, smokes, takes another look at the room, and feels sick inside.)

Hou Hsien-pu (from within): Unit commander Hatoyama is here.

Hatoyama (rushing in): Oh, old friend. Good to see you! Good to see you! How are you?

Li Yu-ho: How are you, Mr. Hatoyama?

Hatoyama: Seldom we get to see each other. Do you remember the old days when we were working on the Harbin railway...

Li Yu-ho (smiling, but his tone is cool): Oh? At that time, you were a rich Japanese doctor, and I was a poor Chinese worker. We were trains running on two different tracks, and did not follow the same path! Hum...

Hatoyama (fencing): My elder brother, I was a physician and you were a worker, but it was only a difference in profession. As for friendship, there's bound to be some. Regardless, we are not strangers to each other! No?

Li Yu-ho: Please give me more consideration, then!

Hatoyama: That's why I have asked you to come. Please be seated. (Sitting down simultaneously) Old friend, today is my birthday, a happy day. As this is a private party, we will only talk about our friendship, and not discuss politics! know

Li Yu-ho: Being a switchman, I don't/what is politics and what isn't. Please talk about anything you wish!

Hatoyama: Good! You are most frank! Come, come, come. (Pouring wine) A cup of thin wine cannot express my respect. Old friend, please drink up. (Raises cup).

Li Yu-ho: Mr. Hatoyama, you are too courteous. I am sorry, but I have given up drinking... (pushing the wine cup aside).

Hatoyama: Old friend (raising the cup), since you will not favor me, I will not force you. (Drinks by himself, and attacks) Ai! What's the use! A Chinese proverb compares life as a dream, and it will be 100 years in no time. "One must sing before the wine, for how long is life?"

Li Yu-ho: True, singing and dancing - it is the life of the gods. Mr. Hatoyama (sarcastically), I wish you long life, glory, and wealth!

Hatoyama (losing the first around): Good! By your favor.

Li Yu-ho (finding the opponent low and ridiculous): You are too courteous! Hm hm hm...

Hatoyama: Ha ha... (Exercising pressure) Old friend, I am a buddhist. The buddhist book says: "The bitter sea is boundless, but, turning around, there is the shore!"

Li Yu-ho (humorously): Hei-hei... I do not believe in buddhism, but I have also heard of the following: "Throw away the butcher's knife, and one becomes a buddha immediately!"

Hatoyama: Good! (Shifting) One way or the other, it is a kind of belief. In fact, the supreme faith may be included in two words.

Li Yu-ho: Two words. What are they?

Hatoyama: "For me."

Li Yu-ho: Oh, "for you?"

Hatoyama: No! "For oneself."

Li Yu-ho: "For oneself." Ha...

Hatoyama (emotionally and sincerely): Old friend! "Heaven punishes the one who is not for himself!"

Li Yu-ho: How? If a person is not for himself, will he be punished by heaven?

Hatoyama: It is the secret of life.

Li Yu-ho: Oh, is there a secret of life? I cannot understand your secret at all. Ha...

Hatoyama: You are truly stubborn! (In "po-tzu san-pan") It is difficult to know what this man thinks. Several times, he has snubbed me! This man does not know the advantageous and the harmful! He accepts no flattery! Me, I must be patient. With Hatoyama's experience and skill, he will be made to hand over the secret code!

Hatoyama: Friend, let us not beat around the bush. I need your help!

Li Yu-ho (purposely showing surprise): What are you talking about? As a poor worker, I can only work the switch, and how can I help you?

Hatoyama (unable to remain calm): Do not joke! Give me that thing!

Li Yu-ho: What do you want?

Hatoyama (cruelly uttering the three words): The secret telegraph code!

Li Yu-ho: What could that be? I only know how to work the switch, but I have no idea what you are talking about.

Hatoyama (standing up suddenly): Old friend, if you refuse the wine of respect, you have to drink the wine of punishment. Then, do not blame me for bypassing our friendship!

Li Yu-ho: Do what you think best!

Hatoyama: Good! (Hitting a plate with chopsticks.)

(Patrol leader Wang enters in full uniform, with decoration on his chest.)

Hatoyama: Old friend, take a look who this is.

Li Yu-ho (shocked upon seeing patrol leader Wang): Ah! ...

Patrol leader Wang: Brother Yu-ho, I feel that you...

Li Yu-ho: Shameless traitor! (In "hsi-p'i k'uai-pan") Bending the knees and surrendering show bad stock; a pitiful worm afraid to die! I have constantly warned you about the enemy's threats and inducements. You said you were not afraid to die for the revolution. Why have you deserted to the enemy? The enemy uses you as a dog, and you consider shame as glory. Come, come, come. Raise your head and look at me. You should feel ashamed of yourself.

(Hatoyama waves his hand; patrol leader Wang slinks away.)

Hatoyama: Old friend, don't be upset. I did not want to show my trump card, but you forced me to.

Li Yu-ho: Ha ha... I rather expected you to do it. Your trump card is merely a mangy dog without backbone. I cannot satisfy you!

Hatoyama: But I can satisfy you! Let us now discuss the conditions!

Li Yu-ho: Conditions!

Hatoyama: It's a good bargain!

Li Yu-ho: Bargain!

Hatoyama: It is a bargain! I understand you people well. You communists believe in faith. As far as I am concerned, the so-called faith is only a sort of bargain! When one bargains, one wants to make a profit!

Li Yu-ho: Good, it is very frank. In other words, as long as there is profit, one can sell any trash to others! Ha ha...

Hatoyama (extremely angered): You... (unable to continue for a while) are too reckless! Friend, you cannot help but know my job. I issue exit permits to those going to hell!

Li Yu-ho: You probably still don't know my job. I get the exit permit and break your hell down!

Hatoyama: You must know that our tiger stool is not herbivorous.

Li Yu-ho: I had a taste of it long ago.

Hatoyama (cowed by Li Yu-ho's bearing, he shows an attitude of regret): I advice you to reform, so that you will avoid having your bones and tendons crushed.

Li Yu-ho: The bones and tendons may be crushed, but I will not change.

Hatoyama: The tortures of the MP's are without feelings, and it will be life and death!

Li Yu-ho: The communist party has an iron will. We look upon death as going home!

Hatoyama: Even if your mouth is made of iron and your teeth steel, I shall make you talk.

Li Yu-ho: You may have knife mountains and sword trees, but I will turn your hopes into ashes! Hatoyama! (In "hsi-p'i yuan-pan") The Japanese warlords belong to the breed of wolves. They cover their ruthless nature with a smiling face. They kill our people and invade our territory. (Shifting to "k'uai-pan") They talk about East Asia coproprosperity. The communist party leads the people in revolution, and there are hundreds of millions of heroes resisting Japan and saving the country. You wish to rely on the effect of the traitors, but you will only be fishing for the moon in the water.

Hatoyama (singing): We will ask you to sit on the tiger stool!
(Small team leader and two MP's enter.)

Li Yu-ho (singing): Good chance for me to loosen my bones and tendons.

Small team leader: Let's go!

(Two MP's approach and are going to drag Li Yu-ho).

Li Yu-ho: No need to wait on me! (Casually and calmly picks up his hat from the table, blows at the dust on it, flicks it, and exits proudly, followed by the small team leader and the two MP's.)

Hatoyama (extremely impatient, walks around, scratches his ears and cheeks, and calls out "communist, mad man..." etc. In "p'o-teng-o) I am so mad that I can't see straight. My blood pressure goes up and my hands turn cold. The communists are also born and brought up by parents, but why are they harder than iron and steel? It is regrettable that he refuses to tell where the secret code is, and I cannot finish my job. (Telephone rings suddenly. Picks up the receiver) This is Hatoyama. Yes, yes. I am searching for the secret code. Yes, yes! There is a lead! Not yet found. Yes, yes! Will be responsible. Yes, I guarantee with my life. (Replaces receiver; roars loudly) Come. How is it?

Small team leader (entering and reporting): Every tool of torture was used, but Li Yu-ho would rather die than talk.

Hatoyama: Rather die than talk?!

Small team leader: Unit commander, let me bring some men to search his house again.

Hatoyama: Let it be! According to my experience, when a communist hides something, 10,000 men will not be able to find it. Bring Li Yu-ho here.

Small team leader: Bring Li Yu-ho here!

(The two MP's push Li Yu-ho on to the stage. Li Yu-ho is covered with blood, but stands proudly.)

Li Yu-ho (in "hsi-p'i tao-pan"): Wolf's heart and dog's lung, the bandit Hatoyama!

Hatoyama: Surrender the secret code!

Li Yu-ho: Hatoyama! (In "k'uai-pan") Though tortured with all kinds of means, I grit my teeth and endure them. It will be more difficult than difficult to make me bow my head! Ha...

(Red light shines on Li Yu-ho, and green light on Hatoyama).

-- Curtain

Scene 7 Hiding the Secret

One morning several days later.

The scene opens in sound of music. The special service man, disguised as a cobbler, sits against a telephone pole not far from Li Yu-ho's house, pretending to be busy with shoe soles, but watching the Li house.

Li T'ieh-mei (comes out of the bed curtain. The brick bed is behind the curtain) Grandma! Dad hasn't returned yet! (In "hsi-p'i yao-pan") Ever since dad was arrested...

Old woman (singing): So worried that it is impossible to sit down or sleep.

Knife grinder (from within): I sharpen scissors and vegetable knives!

Li T'ieh-mei: Grandma, listen!

Knife grinder (enters): I sharpen scissors and vegetable knives.
(The old woman drags Li T'ieh-mei to the window and looks out.
The knife grinder approaches the window, sees the butterfly sign, is startled, nods, and continues to shout.)

Cobbler: There is no business on this poor street. What are you shouting for?

Knife grinder (cordially): Friend! (Purposely raising his voice) You tend to your business and I mine. A knife grinder must shout. If you ask me not to shout, who will ask me to sharpen knives?

Cobbler: Better hurry up and leave. Don't look for unpleasantness!

Knife grinder: Yes, yes, I understand! I'll look for customers elsewhere! (While walking, he covers his ear and shouts again) I sharpen scissors and vegetable knives. (Exits)

Cobbler: Still shouting!

Old woman: T'ieh-mei, did you hear?

Li T'ieh-mei: Hear what?

Old woman: This knife grinder may be our contact. He saw the sign on our window and left. Take the secret code and the red lamp to look for him and find out whether he is our own. I'll get the secret code.

Li T'ieh-mei: I'll go! (Rushes to the window).

Old woman: Child, no. Dog outside. You can't go out.

Li T'ieh-mei: Grandma, what shall we do? (In "san-pan") I want to look for the knife grinder on the street, but am worried that I can't get out of this door. I wish I could grow wings and turn into a bird. (Tries to think of a way impatiently; suddenly sees the bed curtain) Grandma, I have a way!

Old woman: Speak up!

Li T'ieh-mei: Grandma! (Singing) There is a way out of our desperation. Grandma, come and see. -- (Pointing at the brick bed) Our bed is connected with the bed of the Liu family, with only a wall in between. We can drill a hole through the wall.

Old woman (overjoyed): Right! Drill a hole through the wall. Good idea. Get started right away.

(T'ieh-mei enters through the bed curtain and work on the brick wall. "Chiu-ch'ui-pan" percussion instruments. Old woman chops cabbage with a knife to cover up the noise made by T'ieh-mei).

Li T'ieh-mei (climbs out of the bed curtain) Grandma, it's done.

Old woman (takes the secret code from the pillar crack and hands the signal lamp to Li T'ieh-mei): T'ieh-mei! You must be very careful when identifying the person and checking the secret signals! You must not be careless in the least bit!

Li T'ieh-mei: Ai! (Climbs through the bed curtain and exits).

Cobbler (knocking on door): Open the door!

Old woman: Who is it?
Cobbler: Me! The cobbler.
Old woman: Wait a second. I'll open the door! (Opens the door)
Cobbler (sees the vegetable knife in the old woman's hand): What do you want to do?
Old woman: It's my son's birthday tomorrow. We are going to eat vegetable dumplings.
Cobbler: Oh, vegetable dumplings.
Old woman: What do you want?
Cobbler: Borrow a light from you!
Old woman (pointing at the match box on the table): Help yourself.
Cobbler: Old lady, how many in your family?
Old woman: You've been parked at our front door for the past two days. Is there anything about our family you don't know? One gone and two left.
Cobbler: Where is the girl?
Old woman: She's sick!
Cobbler: Sick? Where is she?
Old woman: Lying in bed.
Cobbler: Lying in bed? (Approaches the brick bed while talking).
Old woman (pushes him away): Stand off. Don't scare the sick!
Cobbler (laughs sarcastically): Why doesn't she groan if she's sick?
Old woman: When my child is sick, she never groans.
Cobbler: Then she is not sick. Maybe your mind is sick?!
Old woman: It seems to me that you are sick.
Cobbler: How can I be sick?
Old woman: You are sick in your bone joints; they are mildewed.
Cobbler: It doesn't matter. Mildew can be cured by the sun.
Old woman: Without the sunlight, they would have rotted by now.
Cobbler: No matter! People's bones will rot sooner or later anyway. Let them rot. Old lady, it's better to ask the girl to sit up; it's not good to lie down all the time. (Indicates intention to part the bed curtain).
Old woman: What do you want? Asking all kinds of questions and making a nuisance of yourself! You enter a civilian house and insult the women. Just what is in the back of your mind? Scram! Get out!
Cobbler: OK, just wait and see! (Stomps out, and signals to some one far away. Two special service officers enter, whisper into each other's ears, push the door and enter the house).
Old woman: Who is it?
Special service officer: Census taking. How many in here?
Old woman: Three.
Special service officer: Where are the other two?
Old woman: You know where my son went.
Special service officer: Your grandchild?
Old woman: She's sick.

Special service officer: Where is she? Where is she? (Indicates intention to part the bed curtain. Sound from within the curtain: "Grandma! Who is it?")

Old woman: Census taking.

(The special service officer grunted, waves his hand, and goes out of the door. The old woman closes the door.)

Special service officer (to the cobbler): Alarmed over nothing! She's in bed. She hasn't gone out!

Cobbler: OK! The old woman made it difficult for me on purpose! (Special service officers and cobbler exit).

Old woman: What a narrow escape! T'ieh-mei, when did you get back? (Parts the bed curtain. Kuei-lan sits up.) Ah! Kuei-lan! It's you?

Kuei-lan (descends from the bed and catches hold of the old woman): Grandma Li! (In "hsi-p'i liu-shui") T'ieh-mei has left from my house. My mother-in-law asks me to tell you not to worry. It was just when the special service officer was questioning you. I pretended to be T'ieh-mei and lay down in bed. T'ieh-mei will return through our house. With me covering you, you have no worry.

Old woman: You have saved us! I shall never forget it in my whole life!

Li T'ieh-mei: Grandma! Sister Kuei-lan!

Old woman: You have finally returned...

Kuei-lan: Your grandma was worried to death.

Old woman: My heart almost jumped out of my mouth! Had it not been for Kuei-lan, there would have been trouble.

Li T'ieh-mei: Sister Kuei-lan, you have rendered us a great help. Thank you very much.

Kuei-lan: Listen to you. What's there to thank me for? Whatever we can, we do. As long as you are back, it's OK. I must go home.

Li T'ieh-mei: Stay a little longer.

(Kuei-lan points at the door. Every one understands. Kuei-lan enters the bed curtain and exits.)

Old woman: Fix the bed.

Li T'ieh-mei: Ai! (Fixes the bed covers and draws the curtain).

Old woman: Child, did you catch up with the knife grinder?

Li T'ieh-mei (whispering): I went through several streets but couldn't find him. I took the opportunity to look for mentor Chou, and he was out too. I was worried that the special officers might discover my absence. Therefore, I rushed back!

Old woman: Where is the secret code?

Li T'ieh-mei: I didn't bring it back.

Old woman: Oh! (Startled) Something happened?

Li T'ieh-mei: I was worried that something might happen if I brought it back. I hid it under the bridge on top of the bridge pillar.

Old woman (relieved): I was so worried that I perspired. Child, you did right. Just so the secret code has been moved to a safe place, I feel relieved.

(Hatoyama enters in a Chinese gown and formal hat, carrying a walking stick, and Hou Hsien-pu carries two boxes of cakes. They knock.)

Old woman: Who is it?

Hou Hsien-pu: Unit commander Hatoyama wishes to call on you.

Old woman (clutching Li T'ieh-mei tightly): Child, if your grandma is arrested, you must deliver the thing to mentor Chou. You must think of all means to go to Pei-shan.

Li T'ieh-mei: Grandma! (Cries).

Old woman: Don't cry. Open the door.

(Li T'ieh-mei opens the door.)

Hatoyama (enters and pretends eagerness): Old lady, how are you? I am an old friend of Li Yu-ho's. Being busy over nothing all the time, I have not come to see you. (Indicates to Hou Hsien-pu to place the cakes on the table and to leave the house) I brought some small gift, which is inadequate to show my respect.

Old woman: Ah, you are Mr. Hatoyama!

Hatoyama: You are too courteous. I am Hatoyama.

Old woman: Will you permit me to straighten out some before going with you?

Hatoyama: Do not misunderstand. I have no such idea at all.

Please be seated.

(The old woman pays no attention. Hatoyama sits).

Hatoyama: Old lady, you are longing for your son?

Old woman: Of course, how can I not think of him?

Hatoyama: Please do not worry. He will soon return safely.

Old woman: That's good.

Hatoyama: Nothing I can do! Orders of the superior! In fact, we give consideration to Li Yu-ho in all aspects.

Old woman: Then, I thank you.

Hatoyama: Old lady, according to Li Yu-ho, he handed something to you.

Old woman: What is it?

Hatoyama (pretends that he lets it slip out unintentionally):

A secret telegraph code.

Old Woman: I do not understand at all. (To Li T'ieh-mei) Girl, what did he say?

Hatoyama: Secret telegraph code!

Li T'ieh-mei: Oh! (Purposely) I know. It was what dad put in the box the other day when he returned from the village.

Hatoyama: That's possibly it.

Li T'ieh-mei: He said that it was extremely... extremely...

Hatoyama: ... extremely important secret telegraph code!

Li T'ieh-mei: No! Extremely delicious sa-ch'i-ma [a kind of confection].

Hatoyama: You are going too far afield. Old lady, what I want is a book.

Old lady: Book! My son is illiterate, my grandchild does not go to school, and I am blind with my eyes open. We have never bought a book.

Hatoyama: Li Yu-ho has already admitted about the book. Why should you conceal it?

Old lady: If so, wouldn't it be easier if he were asked to come and look for it?

Hatoyama (aside): This old thing is not easy to handle. (To the old woman) Old lady! Don't beat round the bush with me. Let's discuss the price. As soon as the book is presented, Li Yu-ho will be permitted to return immediately. If he wants to work, the machine affairs section will make him an assistant chief. If you want money, we will give you 5,000 yuan.

Old lady: 5,000 yuan and the position of an assistant chief? What book can be worth so much?

Hatoyama: It happens when a merchandise is sold to a connoisseur.

Old lady: Since you like this book, I'll go and look for it. Wait for a while. T'ieh-mei, come and help me look for it.

Hatoyama: Please look for it carefully and slowly.

(The old woman drags Li T'ieh-mei through the bed curtain.)

Hatoyama (hopefully looking after them and muttering to himself): Hm hm! It seems that gold is all powerful! (The old lady approaches Hatoyama with a book together with Li T'ieh-mei.)

Hatoyama (overjoyed): Old lady, have you found it?

Old woman: Yes, this was the book brought back by my son.

Hatoyama: Right! That's it! That's it!

Old woman: Here you are! (Hands over the Chinese calendar book).

Hatoyama (accepting the calendar book and greatly angered): Ah?! A Chinese calendar book? (Intends to throw it down, but checks himself. Mutters: "Take it back with me first anyway.") Ha... I think that you must feel quite confused and wish to see your son. I'll take you to see him, and ask him about the book. It has to be somewhere. Take your time, and don't rush.

Old woman: Good! Then I should thank you. (To Li T'ieh-mei) Child, take care of the house.

Hatoyama: Why doesn't the young lady come with us so that she can see her dad?

Old woman (startled): She's only a child.

Hatoyama (waves his hand): Please!

Li T'ieh-mei: OK, I'll go. I was just thinking of seeing dad.

Hatoyama: Young lady, you must think carefully for your dad.

Li T'ieh-mei: This I understand.

Hatoyama: Good. Come!

(Hou Hsien-pu and several MP's answer and appear.)

Hatoyama: Take good care of them. (Leaves through the door with a threatening attitude. To the special service officers outside the door) Take care of house for them. (Exits.)

Hou Hsien-pu (smiles cunningly to the old woman and Li T'ieh-mei): Old lady, young lady, please! Hm hm... (All go out of the door together).

(At this time, the special service officers place a seal across the door.)

Li T'ieh-mei (seeing this, she cries out in regret): Grandma!

Old woman (holds T'ieh-mei's arm and wraps the scarf): Let's go!
(A sudden gust of wind.)

-- Curtain

Scene 8 Struggle at the Execution Ground

Night time. Japanese military police team. A corner of the jail.
(Hatoyama, Hou Hsien-pu, and the small team leader enter.)

Hatoyama: It looks like that an open trial will not do any good. Come, set up the microphone immediately, so that when they talk upon seeing one another, we may get a lead.

Hou Hsien-pu: Yes.

Small team leader (simultaneously): Yes.

Hatoyama: Bring the old thing here.

Hou Hsien-pu: Yes. Bring the old woman here.

(Two MP's bring the old woman.)

Hatoyama: Old lady, do you know where this is?

Old woman: The military police office.

Hatoyama (points): Over there. (The old woman glances at it. Hatoyama smiles ruthlessly) That is the world of supreme happiness, and your son will go to heaven from there. (The old woman is shaken) Old lady, when a person commits a crime, yet his mother refuses to save him though she has the power to do so, isn't such a mother too cruel?

Old woman: Mr. Hatoyama, what are you saying? For no reason at all, you arrested and jailed my son, and now you want to kill him. You are the ones who are committing a crime, and you are the ones who are cruel! Do you mean to say that you want me, an old woman, to be responsible for your crime of murder?

Hatoyama: Old lady, you must consider the effect of your reply.

Old woman: The life of all of us is in your hands. Do whatever you wish.

Hatoyama (controlling himself): Alright, go and see your son.
(The old woman takes a step) Old lady, this is your final chance. I wish your family safety and reunion.

Old woman: I know what to do.

Hatoyama: Take her there.

(Hou Hsien-pu takes the old woman, and both exit together.)

Hatoyama: Come! Bring Li Yu-ho to the execution ground.

Small team leader: Bring Li Yu-ho.

(Scene changes in dim light. A corner of the secret execution ground. The left corner of the stage is the road leading to the execution ground. A piece of rock is in the middle of the stage, and a dirt slope in the rear and left side. This is the footpath leading to the execution ground. The far rear is a high wall, with wire netting on top. It is a dark day. Japanese MP's shouting "bring Li Yu-ho" and sound of chains are heard within.)

Li Yu-ho (enters singing "er-huang tao-pan"): The jail wardens talk like wolf howling. I stride out of jail. (Changing to "hui-lung") Don't look at the shackles and chains binding my feet and my hands; they cannot check my ambition and determination reaching for the heavens. (Continuing in "yuan-pan") To extort the secret document, bandit Hatoyama exhausted all tortures. My bones are broken, my flesh is torn, but my determination grows firmer. I walk proudly to the execution ground and look far away. I see the revolutionary red banner raised high, and the resist-Japan beacon burning bright. Little Japanese bandits, just how many days can you continue with your unjust ways? Wait until the storm is over and the flowers bloom. (Changing to "san-yen") The new China, like the morning sun, will illuminate the world. By that time, red flags will fly over the entire China. Thinking of this, I smile brightly, and hot tears flow down my cheeks. (Changing to "yuan-pan") Working for the party, I have made very little contribution. My greatest concern is to get the secret code to Pei-shan. Wang Lien-chu and I are but a single-line contact. Therefore, I am not afraid of him talking. My mother and my daughter are just as firm as I am. No matter how you search for the secret document, bandit Hatoyama, you will never find it.

(The old woman enters and looks at her surroundings.)

Old woman (sudden discovers Li Yu-ho, and shouts): Yu-ho!

Li Yu-ho (alarmed): Ma!

Old woman: Child! ...

Li Yu-ho: Ma! ...

(The old woman rushes forward and catches hold of Li Yu-ho.)

Old woman (in "er-huang san-pan"): In a flash, I see the past 17 years before my eyes. National hatred and class vengeance flare up like the fire. This, this... Japanese bandits are vicious and furthermore cunning, beating you and wounding your entire body... My child, my child!

Li Yu-ho: Ma, don't feel bad!

Old woman: With such a good child, your ma does not feel bad.

Li Yu-ho (changes to "k'uai-yuan-pan"): I am always a stubborn man made of iron, and I will never capitulate to the enemy. I am not afraid of the tortures nor of the jail. The country is broken, and so is my heart. As the sun and the moon are not round, it is difficult for our family to reunite. The road of the revolution is difficult and

dangerous, and we must succeed one another and advance. I will have no regret if I die. The only thing is that the account has not been cleared, and it disturbs my mind. I wish I could ride the wind like an eagle and fly to Kuan-shan! I want to save millions of compatriots from their calamity. For the revolution, I am willing to have my flesh smashed and my bones broken.

Old woman (in "san-pan"): The account is temporarily stored in T'ai-p'ing-tien [the inn of safety], and it will be paid regardless of the difficulty.

(Hou Hsien-pu enters hurriedly with the MP's).

Hou Hsien-pu: I admire you greatly. You do not let out any information. Let's go! Old woman! Unit commander Hatoyama asks you to see him.

Li Yu-ho: Ma! ...

Old woman: Child! Be calm. I know what he is going to say.

(Exits proudly, followed by the MP's.)

Hou Hsien-pu: Come! Bring T'ieh-mei! (Exits).

Li Yu-ho (calls toward the backstage): T'ieh-mei!

Li T'ieh-mei (runs in): Dad!

Li Yu-ho: T'ieh-mei!

Li T'ieh-mei: Dad! (In "er-huang san-pan") I have been longing to see you day and night. You are covered with blood and wounds, and I am afraid to look at you. I wish I could break apart the shackles and chains. (The powerful tempo of the music changes gradually to a slow rhythm.)

Li T'ieh-mei (changes to "k'u-t'ou") Ah, ah, ah... Dad...

Li Yu-ho (smiles): Foolish child...

Li T'ieh-mei (sobbing): Dad! Please tell me what you have in your mind!

Li Yu-ho: Child! (In "er-huang san-pan"): I wanted to tell you something several times but stopped myself. It has been concealed in my heart for 17 years. I...

Li T'ieh-mei (interrupts and shouts): Don't say it. You are my own dad! ... (In "er-huang san-pan ") Dad doesn't have to say it, for I already know the sad story of 17 years. You are good and needed by all. I would like to die in your place... (weeping) My own dad... (Kneels and holds Li Yu-ho and cries).

Li Yu-ho (continuing in "er-huang san-pan"): The hatred must be remembered in your heart. People say that the sentiment of flesh and blood is the strongest, but I feel that the class sentiment is stronger than the T'ai Mountain. T'ieh-mei, (in "yuan-pan") your dad is a poor fellow, leaving no money to the family. I only have a red lamp which I have been carrying around with me. You must keep it with you.

Li T'ieh-mei (continuing in "er-huang yuan-pan"): Dad leaves a priceless treasure, so how can you say you leave no money? Dad leaves me his virtues, and makes me stand firm like a great rock. Dad leaves me his wisdom, and brightens my mind and prevents me from being deceived. Dad leaves me his courage, and I have no fear of the wild beasts.

The red lamp is the family heirloom. Dad! Your treasures are more than what can be carried in one thousand carts and ten thousand boats. I shall keep them safely with me.

Li Yu-ho (in "er-huang san-pan"): The waves turn in the Yangtze of ten thousand li. Some one takes over the red lamp of our family. If you have a chance to go home, see my relatives and friends, and ward off hunger and cold, pay the debt and leave no worry behind.

Li T'ieh-mei: I remember!

Li Yu-ho: Oh, good child.

Hou Hsien-pu (enters; to Li T'ieh-mei): Little girl, how about the secret telegraph code? (Li T'ieh-mei ignores him.) Talk!

Li T'ieh-mei: Whatever there was to say, my dad and my grandma have said it all! I have nothing to say!

Hou Hsien-pu: This little thing is also so stubborn! Come! Drag the old thing out!

(Two MP's push the old woman on stage.)

Hou Hsien-pu: Your entire family is here. Think it over carefully. If the secret code is not handed over, no one will go out of here alive. (Exits.)

Li Yu-ho (helps the old woman to sit down on the rock together with Li T'ieh-mei): Ma! You have suffered. Beasts!

Old woman: Some physical suffering doesn't matter. My mind is at ease.

(Li T'ieh-mei is leaning on the old woman and crying. The small team leader enters. Li T'ieh-mei raises her head proudly.)

Small team leader: Unit commander Hatoyama gives you five minutes to think the matter over. If you do not hand over the secret code, you will all be shot.

Old woman (indignantly): You bandit gang, couldn't you even let a child alone?

Small team leader: We will not let any one go.

(Li Yu-ho and the old woman look intently at Li T'ieh-mei, and the latter also glances at the old woman and Li Yu-ho. She stands up proudly).

Small team leader (catching hold of Li T'ieh-mei): Little girl, this is the last five minutes. If you hand over the secret code, it will save all three of your family. Speak immediately!

(Li T'ieh-mei shakes him off and returns to stand between the old woman and Li Yu-ho.)

Small team leader: The secret code!

Li T'ieh-mei: I know nothing!

Small team leader (looking at his watch): All will be shot!

Li Yu-ho: Don't have to show off your talons and teeth. Nothing so unusual!

Old woman: Well said! Child, the three of us will go together.

Li Yu-ho: T'ieh-mei, let's support grandma when we go.

Li T'ieh-mei: Right!

Li Yu-ho: T'ieh-mei, Ma! I'll lead you! (Shows a proud bearing.)

(Music. The three of them walk step by step to the high slope.

Hatoyama enters.)

Hatoyama: Hold it! I must do everything I can. I give you just another minute and ask you to reconsider.

Li Yu-ho: Hatoyama! You cannot kill all the Chinese people and Chinese communist party members. I want you to consider this!

Hatoyama (depressed and in a low voice): The communists are too terrible! Proceed according to plan! (Exits.)

Small team leader: Shoot!

(In powerful music, a red spot light shines on the three going down the high slope, followed by the small team leader and the MP's. Music stops.)

Li Yu-ho (shouting slogan within): Down with Japanese imperialism! Long live the Chinese Communist Party!

(After two shots are heard, the MP's push Li T'ieh-mei out.)

Li T'ieh-mei (bewildered, walks down the high slope, turns and shouts): Dad! Grandma!

Hatoyama (enters stealthily, followed by Hou Hsien-pu): Where is the secret code? Talk immediately!

(Li T'ieh-mei stares at him with hatred.)

Hatoyama: Come! Release her!

Hou Hsien-pu: Oh? Release her? (Looks at Hatoyama with doubt).

Hatoyama: Release her!

Hou Hsien-pu: Yes. (Drags Li T'ieh-mei) Go, go, go! (Pushes her out) Unit commander, why did you release her?

Hatoyama (laughs mirthlessly): If they are all shot, from whom do I get the secret code? This is angling for big fish with a long line.

(Light dims gradually.)

-- Curtain.

Scene 9 The Help of the People

Immediately after the previous scene, in Li Yu-ho's house. The seal is attached to the exterior of the door. Everything remains the same within, but there is an atmosphere of extreme solitude.

(After the scene opens, Li T'ieh-mei walks on stage slowly, with her eyes staring straight ahead. She changes to fast steps, pushes the door, and rushes in. Looking around, she shouts "Dad! Grandma!" Suddenly collapses on the table weeping. After a while, stands up slowly, looks at the signal lamp, and picks it up.

Li T'ieh-mei: Red lamp, red lamp! Now I see you again, but I shall never see grandma and dad again! Grandma, Dad! I understand why you died. I will continue your cause. I am the successor to the red lamp! Hatoyama, bandit Hatoyama! It was a cunning scheme for you to release me, because you have not got hold of the secret

code. (Relaxing slightly) You arrest and you release, and I cannot do anything. But if you want the secret code, it is not up to you. (Replaces the signal lamp and brushes her hair back. In "hsi-p'i tao-pan") The moment the enemy bandit is mentioned, my heart and lung will explode. (Changing to "yuan-pan") I control my hatred and grind my teeth apart. Bandit Hatoyama exhausted all means for the secret code, and shot my grandma and dad. (Changing to "er-liu") Without any other means, Hatoyama threatens me. T'ieh-mei will ignore him to the end. I bite on my hatred and swallow my feeling of vengeance. My hatred will sprout in my year. (Changing to "k'uai-pan") No weeping, no tears. Tears will not wet my cheeks, but will flow into my heart and produce sparks of fire. The flame of anger burns ten thousand feet high, and burns down the dark heaven and the black earth. I, T'ieh-mei, is prepared, fearing no arrest, release, lashing, nor jail. Flesh smashed and bones broken, I will guard the secret code! Bandit Hatoyama, you just wait, and T'ieh-mei will reply you properly! (Wipes the dust on the signal lamp and puts the merchandise basket in order. Suddenly grief stricken) Grandma, Dad! I am going. This is not our home any more. Only the red lamp, it is always ours. The secret code will be delivered to Pei-shan, and the deep grudge of blood will be paid. Set your mind at ease! (Wraps the scarf properly, picks up the signal lamp and the basket, and is just going out, when Aunt Liu and Kuei-lan, hearing her weeping, crawl through the hole in the wall to inquire.)

Aunt Liu: T'ieh-mei!

Li T'ieh-mei: Aunty! (Sees Kuei-lan) Sister Kuei-lan!

Aunt Liu: T'ieh-mei, where are your dad and grandma"

Li T'ieh-mei: Aunty... (falls into aunt Liu's embrace and weeps.)

Aunt Liu: I understand. The beasts. Just see how long you can last! T'ieh-mei, some one outside is watching. You cannot leave through the front gate. Better leave through the hole from our house. Change your clothes with Kuei-lan!

Kuei-lan: Hurry up! (Takes off her own clothes while talking.)

Li T'ieh-mei: No! Aunty, sister, I cannot involve you.

Aunt Liu: T'ieh-mei! (Helps Li T'ieh-mei change clothes. In "hsi-p'i san-pan") If the poor does not help the poor, who will help them? Two bitter fruits come from the same vine. We must help you out of danger and proceed on your way. (By this time, both have changed their clothes.)

Li T'ieh-mei: Aunty, sister Kuei-lan, what will you do if you are caught?

Aunt Liu: T'ieh-mei! Your entire family is good. Though I am ignorant, I understand in my heart. Regardless of the dangers, I want to send you out safely. (Weeps.)

Li T'ieh-mei: Aunty! (Kneels.)

(Aunt Liu hurriedly raises her on her feet.)

Kuei-lan: Hurry up! (Passes the signal lamp to Li T'ieh-mei.)

Li T'ieh-mei: Sister! I shall never forget you all!

Aunt Liu: Child, hurry up! (Li T'ieh-mei enters the bed curtain and exits. Kuei-lan, be very careful. (Enters the bed curtain and exits.)

(Kuei-lan wraps Li T'ieh-mei's scarf, picks up the merchandise basket, and goes out of the door. Exits. Special service officer C appears momentarily along the side of the stage and follows. The knife grinder appears, and is just going to shout when he sees the special service officer following Li T'ieh-mei, i. e., Kuei-lan. He immediately follows and exits.)

-- Curtain.

Scene 10 Punishing the Traitors

Immediately following the previous scene. On the street.

(Patrol leader Wang and special service officers A and B enter together. Special service officer C enters from the other side.)

Special service officer C: Reporting to patrol leader Wang. I lost track of Li T'ieh-mei.

Patrol leader Wang: What?

Special service officer C: I lost her!

Patrol leader Wang: Idiot! (Slaps his face) Hm! She must have gone to the Pei-shan road.-- You! Telephone a report to unit commander Hatoyama, so that he can send men to reenforce me on the Pei-shan road.-- You! Go with me to pursue her! Li T'ieh-mei, Li T'ieh-mei! I don't think you can escape from my hand!

(Scene shifts as light dims. In the northern suburbs of Lung-t'an, on the road to Pei-shan. Mentor Chou enters, leading guerrilla members A, B, and C. Li T'ieh-mei enters carrying the signal lamp, and meets mentor Chou.)

Li T'ieh-mei: Uncle Chou!

Mentor Chou: T'ieh-mei!

Li T'ieh-mei: I have finally found you. (Weeping) My grandma and dad...

Mentor Chou: We know. (Calming down) Do not grieve. You must endure your grief. Have you brought the secret code?

Li T'ieh-mei: I got it out from the pillar under the bridge!

Mentor Chou: Good.

Knife grinder (rushes on): Old Chou-- Oh, T'ieh-mei, you're here! How come I lost track of you?

Li T'ieh-mei: Uncle! My escape this time was entirely the work of my neighbor, sister Kuei-lan, who disguised as me and decoyed the special service officer. That was why I could get the secret code safely and run over here!

Knife grinder: Oh! I followed the wrong person.

Mentor Chou: Kuei-lan's family will attract the attention of the enemy. (To guerrilla member A) Old Feng! Go and think of a means to move the family immediately.

Guerrilla member A: Right! I'll handle it. (Exits.)
(Police siren sounds suddenly.)

Mentor Chou (to the knife grinder): Old Chao, the enemy is here. You handle them, and I'll take T'ieh-mei to Pei-shan. (Exits with Li T'ieh-mei.)

Knife grinder: Comrades, not very many of them. I'll take care of the leader, and you handle the rest.

Guerrilla members B and C: OK.

(Patrol leader Wang and special service officers A, B, C, and D enter.)

Patrol leader Wang: Ah! Where is T'ieh-mei?

(Knife grinder suddenly kicks the gun from patrol leader Wang's hand, and they grapple with each other. After a hand to hand fight, patrol leader Wang and the special service officers are all killed. Sound of police siren. Light dims.)

-- Curtain.

Scene 11 Mission Completed

Immediately following previous scene. At Pei-shan.

(The scene opens in music. Music is to continue throughout the entire scene. The mountains are tall and steep, but not dark or fearful. The guerrilla members line up, stretching to the back of the mountains. There should be more people. They are lined up on the comparatively flat hillside. A large red flag is in the middle of the mountain, with some one keeping guard under the flag.

(After the scene opens, team leader Liu and several responsible cadres walk forward from the mountain slope. The knife grinder enters. When he sees team leader Liu, he points at Mentor Chou entering with Li T'ieh-mei. At this time, bugle sounds. After seeing team leader Liu, Li T'ieh-mei presents the secret code with both hands. The scene closes.

(The scene opens again in powerful music. Li T'ieh-mei raises the signal lamp, and team leader Liu leads the procession. They stand still on the mountain slope. Li T'ieh-mei raises high the signal lamp. Red light fills the stage, and the curtain drops slowly.)

-- End.

(Based on the Shanghai play of the same title of the Shanghai Aihua Shanghai-Play Group.)

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THE LAMENTATIONS OF A CERTAIN GENTLEMAN

(free verse)

[Following is a translation of an article by Chao P'o-ch'u (6392 2613 0443) in the Chinese-language periodical, Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Peiping, No 2, 27 February 1965, pages 56-57.]

I. Lamenting over Hsi-ni (West-ni) November 1963

(T'u-szu-er tune with K'u-hsiang-szu tune)

For you I spent much time before the vanity, painting and powdering, so that I could win your smiles. For you I lost my family fortune, deserted my kith and kin, and betrayed my ancestral tablet. Only after donning my garment wrongside out and ill with unrequited love was I graced with a shadow, but who knew that my destiny was filled with adversities?

How strange, being intelligent, when the horses can compete and the dogs can compete, that the president cannot compete for peace? Your calamities are my calamities. Oh God! Let my soul fly out of the heavens. Truly, it is like losing one's parents, delirious from the sorrow of the clod and the mat. I take the lead to grieve in silence before you; I give the order to prostrate before you. Blood and tears cannot stain your grave red; gold cannot repay my debt of love. As for my foolish desires, I entrust them to your successors. I now rally my spirit, and again peddle my unconventionalities.

II. Lamenting over Tung-ni (East ni) May 1964

(K'u-huang-t'ien with Wu-yeh-t'i tune)

By counting on my fingers, it has only been a little over half a year, and who expected to mourn Tung-ni so soon after Hsi-ni? Oh, God!

You had no idea of the effort it cost me, or the difficulty of winning friends, and you, in your cruelty, took both to the Hades. Tens of thousands invested as capital, but not even one penny in profit. I was hoping that the day would come when you would shine, but who expected that you, in a grey silence, followed the other Ni and departed, leaving me alarmed and concerned over myself?

Tears drench my bosom mourning over the attachments in life. No wonder the fox grieves over the death of the hare, and my heart is wracked with pain. For the present and for the future, there is no plan! Mend my MIG planes and practice your lama and monkey plays; maybe it is still possible to embark on a partnership venture of speculation. As for the old ball you left, I will do my best to fill it with air. My great and sincere friend! Rest in peace below ground, and watch me exhaust my energy, until death stops me. Alas! Alas!

III. Lamenting over Myself November 1964

(End-of-the-Trail tune)

Like King Liu of Pai-ti-ch'eng, after mourning number two and number three, it is now time to mourn myself. Oh God! After all the mental effort to climb up to this throne, would you have the heart to let me fall into the gutters in one tumble? Alas! Hundreds of tons of gold and bagfuls of ingenuities have been expended in vain. Many things are still unfinished: The trade of West Berlin, the conference of December, the women's league chairmanship of the wife, and the agricultural secretary-ship of the son-in-law. It was hoped that one batch of sale would bring the commensurate profit, and the computation could not have erred by one-tenth of one-percent. Who would know that the bald pate could not support the sheep-hair brush, nor the potatoes cover the bottom of the pot, and the partners should play Brutus? How did it all come about?

Come to think of it, it was rather strange; the problem kept cropping up. Of all the intimates only one "t'ieh" [iron] was left, and who knew that the three Ni's would share the same fate? One clap of thunder shocking heaven and earth, the mushroom cloud rose and reddened the Gobi Desert. I am finished and finished! With tears, I watch the elephant palace wall taken down, and, with a hoarseness, I call on my younger brother who has just become master: We were originally of the same root; why, then, should we get at each other's throat so? Clearly it has been a change of the trademark, yet you insist that something is wrong with me. Isn't it the old merchandise that's been peddled? I still have one breath left,

one spark of intelligence in my heart. Comrades ! Take good care of your health; take care of your health so that you can exert your effort. The baton is entirely in your hands; to the very end, so that there will be no egotism.

- END -

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