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No. 7, 1965

- Communist China -

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CARRY STRUGGLE AGAINST KHRUSHCHEV REVISIONISM
THROUGH TO END

[Following is a translation of an article by the editorial departments of the Jen-min Jih-pao and Hung-ch'i in the Chinese-language periodical, Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Peiping, No. 7, 14 June 1965, pages 1-8.]

On Occasion of Second Anniversary of Publication of "A Proposal Concerning the General Line of the International Communist Movement."

Time flies. Two full years have elapsed since the publication by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China of its "Proposal Concerning the General Line of the International Communist Movement."

Two years are a mere instant in the long history of the international communist movement. But what fierce struggles and what tremendous changes these years have witnessed!

Two years ago, the leaders of the CPSU headed by Khrushchev stirred up a gust of ill wind in the international communist movement in order to impose on the fraternal parties the revisionist line which they had formulated at the 20th and the 22nd Congresses of the CPSU, that is, the general line of "peaceful coexistence," "peaceful competition" and "peaceful transition," and of the "state of the whole people" and the "party of the entire people." They repeatedly sounded the call for a general onslaught against China, against communism and against the people. They stage-managed anti-Marxist-Leninist farces at the congresses of five European fraternal parties. They directed more than forty Communist Parties to launch wanton attacks on the Chinese Communist Party and other Marxist-Leninist parties. It seemed as if "the city might crumble under the mass of dark clouds."

The Marxist-Leninist General Line of the International Communist Movement

The "Proposal Concerning the General Line of the International Communist Movement" put forward by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party on 14 June 1963, held aloft the torch of revolution, penetrated the dense fog of Khrushchev revisionism and defended the purity of Marxism-Leninism.

The Proposal of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party was a reply to a letter from the Central Committee of the CPSU of 30 March 1963. In its letter, the Central Committee of the CPSU systematically set forth its views on a number of major issues of our epoch and, in particular, raised the question of the general line of the international communist movement. The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party considered it a very good thing that this question was raised. For the differences that had arisen since the 20th Congress of the CPSU between ourselves and all other Marxist-Leninist parties on the one hand and the leaders of the CPSU on the other were not differences on this or that particular problem but differences of principle on a number of fundamental problems of the world revolution in our epoch, that is, differences concerning the general line of the international communist movement. The essence of the differences was whether or not the people still living under the imperialist and capitalist system, who comprise two-thirds of the world's population, need to make revolution, and whether or not the people already on the socialist road, who comprise one-third of the world's population, need to carry their revolution forward to the end. It concerned the fundamental principles which the entire international communist movement and every political party of the proletariat must adhere to and the basic tasks they must perform.

In "A Proposal Concerning the General Line of the International Communist Movement," the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party upheld the revolutionary theory of Marxism-Leninism, the common road of the October Revolution and the revolutionary principles of the 1957 Declaration and the 1960 Statement; on the one hand it systematically dissected the theory and general line of the Khrushchev revisionists and exposed their betrayal of Marxism-Leninism and of the cause of the proletarian world revolution, and on the other hand it made a Marxist-Leninist analysis of the contemporary world contradictions, gave Marxist-Leninist answers to a number of questions concerning the world revolution in our epoch, and put forward a Marxist-Leninist general line of the international communist movement diametrically opposed to the general line of Khrushchev revisionism.

The general line of the international communist movement proposed by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party may be summarized as follows:

Workers of all countries, unite; workers of the world, unite with the oppressed peoples and oppressed nations; oppose imperialism and reaction in all countries; strive for world peace, national liberation, people's democracy and socialism; consolidate and expand the socialist camp; bring the proletarian world revolution step by step to complete victory; and establish a new world without imperialism, without capitalism and without the exploitation of man by man.

This general line is one of resolute revolutionary struggle by the people of all countries, one of carrying the proletarian world revolution forward to the very end; it is the line of effective struggle against imperialism and in defense of world peace. It is the Marxist-Leninist general line for winning both complete victory in the revolution and lasting world peace.

The Proposal of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party was a programmatic document. It drew a clear line between Marxism-Leninism and Khrushchev revisionism on a number of major problems of the contemporary world revolution and made a great theoretical contribution to the struggle against Khrushchev revisionism.

The publication of "A Proposal Concerning the General Line of the International Communist Movement" marked the beginning of a new stage in the struggle against Khrushchev revisionism. Since its publication, together with the other Marxist-Leninist fraternal parties, the Chinese Communist Party has carried on a great public debate and launched a general counterattack against Khrushchev revisionism. The Proposal was a major turning-point in the struggle between Marxism-Leninism and modern revisionism. It was a turning-point in the transition from the emergence and growth of Khrushchev revisionism, and indeed of the entire modern revisionist trend after World War II, to its complete bankruptcy.

Two Years of Open Polemics and Fierce Struggle

The two years since the publication of the Proposal by the Central Committee of our Party have been years of open polemics and fierce struggle, on an unprecedented scale, between the Marxist-Leninist parties and Marxist-Leninists of the world and the Khrushchev revisionists. In the first sixteen months the struggle was directed mainly against the leaders of the CPSU headed by Khrushchev, and in the last eight months mainly against the new leaders of the CPSU who pursue Khrushchev revisionism without Khrushchev. The struggle has been a process in which Khrushchev revisionism has been incessantly exposed and discredited and in which Marxism-Leninism has incessantly registered progress and victories.

The open polemics and fierce struggle over the past two years have centered on the following three questions:

First, whether to adhere to revolutionary Marxism-Leninism or to anti-revolutionary revisionism. After we put forward the Proposal

concerning the general line of the international communist movement, the Khrushchev revisionists published their "Open Letter of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to All Party Organizations, All Communists of the Soviet Union," strenuously defending their general line of "peaceful coexistence," "peaceful competition," "peaceful transition," the "state of the whole people" and the "party of the entire people" and fiercely attacking the Chinese Communist Party and the other Marxist-Leninist parties. The great value of this Open Letter lay in the fact that it gave all Marxist-Leninists the right openly to expose Khrushchev revisionism and provided them with the negative material with which to develop their systematic criticism of its general line. Like the ill-fated magician of legend, the Khrushchev revisionists conjured up the "genie" by their incantations but could find no way of conjuring it away. The Marxist-Leninists of all countries have carried on the polemics with the Khrushchev revisionists in various ways. We, on our part, wrote nine articles in ten months commenting on the Open Letter of the Central Committee of the CPSU. We presented facts and reasoned arguments on a number of major questions of principle concerning the international communist movement, stripping Khrushchev of his mantle of Marxism-Leninism and further exposing him to the people of the world in his true colors as a renegade from Marxism-Leninism.

Secondly, whether to unite with the people of the world against U.S. imperialism and its lackeys or to unite with U.S. imperialism and its lackeys against the people of the world. After the publication of the Open Letter, the Khrushchev revisionists committed a series of acts of treachery, the most glaring of which was the signing of the treaty on the partial halting of nuclear tests with the United States and Britain. This was a major exposure of the Khrushchev revisionists' betrayal of the interests of the Soviet people, the peoples of all the socialist countries and all the peace-loving people of the world. Firmly grasping the opportunity provided by the treaty and by other acts of treachery, the Chinese Communist Party and the Marxist-Leninists of the world fully exposed the Khrushchev revisionists' alignment with the forces of war against the forces of peace, their alignment with the imperialist forces against the socialist forces, their alignment with the United States against China, and their alignment with the reactionaries everywhere against the people everywhere. The facts have proved that Soviet-U.S. cooperation for the domination of the world is the soul of the Khrushchev revisionist general line.

Thirdly, whether to have unity or a split. Betraying Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, the Khrushchev revisionists have become the greatest splitters in history. They held a plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU in February 1964 at which they made an anti-Chinese report and adopted an anti-Chinese resolution, proclaiming that they were going to take "collective measures" against the Chinese Communist Party. After that, they actively plotted unilaterally to convene a preparatory meeting for an international meeting of the fraternal parties and then the meeting itself, and they got ready to precipitate an

open split in the international communist movement. Together with many other fraternal parties, the Chinese Communist Party thoroughly exposed their scheme for a split and adamantly boycotted their divisive meeting. In its letter of 28 July 1964 to the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China pointed out: "The day your so-called meeting takes place will be the day you step into your grave."

Proceeding from betrayal in theory to betrayal in action and from political to organizational splitting activities, the Khrushchev revisionists have gone farther and farther down the road of destruction. Events developed so quickly that Khrushchev was driven off the stage of history before we finished our comments on the Open Letter of the Central Committee of the CPSU and before the leaders of the CPSU had time to convene their small schismatic meeting.

In these two years, imperialism headed by the United States has further revealed its aggressive nature, the people's revolutionary struggles have surged forward in Asia, Africa, Latin America and elsewhere, Khrushchev revisionism has been increasingly discredited and Marxism-Leninism has won one victory after another. All this proves that the general line of the international communist movement which we proposed is correct, that the struggle against Khrushchev revisionism is necessary, and that the views of the Chinese Communist Party and Comrade Mao Tse-tung on the major issues of our epoch stand up to the test of practice.

Contradicting Themselves, New Leaders of the CPSU Are in Grave Predicament

Khrushchev's downfall was a signal victory for Marxism-Leninism. But it meant neither the disappearance of Khrushchev revisionism nor the end of the struggle against Khrushchev revisionism.

The new leaders of the CPSU had no alternative but to remove Khrushchev from his post, but they took over Khrushchev revisionism in its entirety. They have repeatedly declared that the line laid down at the 20th and 22nd Congresses of the CPSU and in the Programme of the CPSU was, is and will be their "sole and immutable line in all domestic and external policy."¹ When the Chinese Party and government delegation was in Moscow for the celebration of the 47th anniversary of the October Revolution, the new leaders of the CPSU told us that there was not a shade of difference between them and Khrushchev on the question of the international communist movement and in their attitude towards China. All their deeds in the eight months since their assumption of office have shown that they are indeed following in Khrushchev's footsteps and that they are carrying out Khrushchev revisionism without Khrushchev.

It is not at all strange that after his downfall Khrushchev's successors should go on doing the same things as he did. Marxist-Leninists pointed out long ago that the emergence of Khrushchev revisionism is not

due to a few individuals and is not an accidental phenomenon, but has deep social roots. It is a product both of the inundation of the Soviet Union by domestic capitalist forces, and of the policies pursued by the imperialists.

After Khrushchev's ascent to power, this arch-schemer gradually usurped the leadership of the Soviet Party and state, and as a consequence the new bourgeois elements in Soviet society gradually became a privileged bourgeois stratum opposed to the Soviet people. This privileged stratum is the social base of the Khrushchev revisionists clique. And this clique is its political representative.

The privileged stratum in the Soviet Union got rid of Khrushchev not because he practiced revisionism, but because he was too stupid and disreputable, and because he was impaled on a dilemma in internal and external affairs, was opposed and condemned by the masses, deserted by his followers, and threatened by a growing crisis, and therefore could not muddle on any longer. The revisionist line was like a ramshackle cart which the rash fool Khrushchev was driving unsteadily, and this inevitably endangered the dominant position of the Soviet privileged stratum. Thus it came to pass that Khrushchev himself became an obstacle to the pursuit of Khrushchev revisionism. To protect the interests of the Soviet privileged stratum and press on with the revisionist line, it became imperative to oust Khrushchev and put others in his place.

As a matter of fact, the new leaders who have replaced Khrushchev are still Khrushchev's old cast. The political careers of its chief members are inseparably linked with Khrushchev. Are they not the same men who, along with Khrushchev, were active in attacking Stalin and in working for the restoration of capitalism? Are they not the same men who, along with Khrushchev, made vigorous attacks on the Chinese Communist Party and other Marxist-Leninist fraternal parties? Are they not the same men, who along with Khrushchev strove to split the socialist camp and the international communist movement? And are they not the same men who, along with Khrushchev, colluded with U.S. imperialism against the people's revolutionary struggles in all countries?

Now these old actors face the very awkward and difficult problem of how to deck themselves out as new ones. Having got rid of Khrushchev, they must make certain gestures and play certain tricks to show that they are somewhat different from Khrushchev. But because they are political representatives of the privileged bourgeois stratum in the Soviet Union, just as Khrushchev was, they can only act in conformity with the interests of that stratum and pursue a revisionist line; there can be no difference between them and Khrushchev on this fundamental issue. Thus, for the past eight months they have been in a predicament, contradicting themselves all the time.

They are unable to explain the contradictions in their own statements. They say one thing today and another tomorrow; and every time they

give themselves a slap in the face. They say that U.S. imperialism is "the aggressor," "the international gendarme" and "the main force of war and aggression in our time," but in the same breath they aver that the Johnson Administration is "sensible," "moderate" and can be expected to "take concrete steps towards the further improvement of the world political climate."² They say that they want to oppose U.S. imperialism, but at the same time they declare that there exist "sufficiently broad areas for cooperation,"³ between the Soviet Union and the United States. At times they profess condemnation of U.S. aggression in Viet Nam, but each time the objective they have in mind is "improvement of the relations between the Soviet Union and the United States" and they try to bring all world problems within the orbit of "Soviet-U.S. cooperation."

Similarly, they are unable to explain the contradictions between their statements and their actions.

Since they assert that, together with the people of the world, they will oppose U.S. imperialism, why do they maintain close contact, strengthen their collaboration and exchange information with it, and work in mutual understanding against the revolutionary struggles of the people?

Since they assert that they will support the national-liberation movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America, why do they want to conspire with the United States to set up a permanent U.N. force, to organize an international gendarmerie for the suppression of the people's revolutionary struggles?

Since they assert that they will strengthen the unity of the fraternal parties and countries, why have they taken an extremely grave step to split the international communist movement by convening the schismatic March meeting?

Since they assert that they will improve their relations with the fraternal parties and countries, why do they persist in the policy of great-power chauvinism which Khrushchev adopted towards Albania and refuse to admit their mistakes? Why do they continue their anti-Chinese propaganda and activities at home and abroad, and even give that U.S. favorite, Shastri, the platform of the Kremlin from which to vilify China? Why do they keep on trying to subvert and disrupt the Japanese Communist Party, the Indonesian Communist Party, and other Marxist-Leninist fraternal parties, and even give open support to such renegades from the Japanese Communist Party as Yoshio Shiga and do their utmost to help Shigeo Kamiyama in his election campaign?

Finally, they are unable to explain the contradictions in their own actions. While making some gestures of aid to Viet Nam, they have divulged their "aid" plans to the Americans in advance and have been busy in Washington, London and Paris trying to bring about peace negotiations, in a painstaking effort to find a "way out" for the U.S. aggressors. Does not this precisely confirm our repeated exposure of the fact that they are

trying to capitalize on their "aid" to Viet Nam and to bring the Viet Nam question within the orbit of U.S.-Soviet cooperation? Certain remarks made by the U.S. imperialists should give food for deep thought. They have said that the shipment of Soviet weapons to Viet Nam is an "encouraging element" and will have a "moderating effect." And they added that "the direct confrontation of American and Soviet forces ... might even hasten negotiations for a settlement in Viet Nam."⁴

Compared with Khrushchev, His Successors are
Practicing a More Covert, Cunning and
Dangerous Revisionism

In a nutshell, there are both real and sham features in all this self-contradictory behavior of the new leaders of the CPSU, some features being real and others sham. Some phenomena reveal the very essence of things and are real; other phenomena do not and are sham. For all their cheap stage tricks and deceptive writings, in none of their changes have the new leaders of the CPSU departed from their essence, namely, Khrushchev revisionism, splittism and great-power chauvinism, and Soviet-U.S. cooperation for the domination of the world. But compared with Khrushchev, they are practicing a more covert, more cunning, and more dangerous revisionism.

This is how things often happen in history. The reactionary, moribund forces craftily take over progressive, revolutionary slogans as signboards for deceiving the masses and for accomplishing their own reactionary purposes. The revisionists of the Second International used the signboard of "Marxism" to betray the proletarian revolution. The Mensheviks took over Bolshevik slogans concerning the soviets and attempted to establish a bourgeois dictatorship. Tito practices capitalism in the guise of "socialism." Today, the new leaders of the CPSU are playing the same old trick. Taking over some of the slogans of the Marxist-Leninists, they are putting up a facade in order to conceal the essence of their continued pursuance of the revisionist line.

The class struggle is very complex, and the external appearances of events in the course of this struggle are even more so. To get to the essence behind the complicated appearances, we have to work conscientiously, to eliminate the false and retain the true and proceed from outward appearance to inner essence. Only by grasping the essence can we acquire a relatively deep and correct understanding of objective things in their totality. Marxism-Leninism serves us both as a telescope and as a microscope; it helps us to penetrate beyond the appearance of things and grasp their essence. After dealing with Khrushchev revisionism for quite a number of years we have become a little wiser. Our experience in discerning Khrushchev as he really was has made it easier for us to see the true nature of his successors without being misled by the false appearances they put on.

Persist in Tit-for-Tat Struggle Against Khrushchev Revisionism

The question confronting the Chinese Communists today is whether to carry the struggle against Khrushchev revisionism through to the end or whether to stop halfway.

To gain a breathing space, to recuperate, and to accumulate capital for a redoubled effort in pushing revisionism, the Khrushchev revisionists are using every possible means to blur the dividing line between Marxism-Leninism and revisionism and are trying in vain to halt the struggle against revisionism. We must do the exact opposite; we must continue our triumphant pursuit and firmly carry forward the fight against Khrushchev revisionism to the very end.

Of late, the new leaders of the CPSU have been loud in chanting honeyed words such as "unity." One must not just think it ridiculous that the self-same people who disrupted the unity of the international communist movement by brazenly calling the schismatic March meeting are now harping on "unity" today. There is more to it than just ridiculousness. They have a despicable aim. They are trying to capitalize on the aspirations of the people of the world for the closer unity of the revolutionary forces in face of the U.S. imperialists' rabid aggression. Under the pressure of events the new leaders of the CPSU have had to change their tactics. Unlike Khrushchev, who adopted the open, naked, crude and high-handed policy of forcing the fraternal parties to submit to his revisionist line, they are pretending to be quite accommodating and to care for overall interests in their attempt to sap the militant will of Marxist-Leninists in fighting against revisionism. To put it bluntly, by "unity" they mean that we should refrain from combating and exposing revisionism and should follow their revisionist practices, or at least leave them a free hand in such practices.

In our struggle against the revisionists, we must be able to deal both with their tough and with their soft tactics, we must dare to resist all their pressure and must refuse to be misled by any of their fine words. In the past, we were not afraid to oppose Khrushchev despite all kinds of pressure. We were fully aware that he would reply by exerting more pressure, yet we persisted in our principled struggle. Today, too, we should not be misled by the various guises and tricks of Khrushchev's successors and give up our principled struggle. On the contrary, we should be still firmer in our stand and raise our banner still higher.

The Chinese Communist Party is a Marxist-Leninist party, a serious and principled party. Marxist-Leninists have always maintained that "a policy based on principle is the only correct policy." It is correct to exercise the necessary flexibility in struggle, as long as this is done on the basis of principle. But flexibility should serve principle. It would be wrong to exercise unprincipled flexibility, to create ambiguity and confusion on questions of principle on the pretext of flexibility. There are clearly a series of fundamental differences of principle between

us and the Khrushchev revisionists. The Khrushchev revisionists have completely transposed enemies and friends. If we were to abandon our principled stand and accommodate ourselves or yield to the Khrushchev revisionists, that would amount to white-washing them, helping them deceive the people of the Soviet Union, of the other socialist countries and of the whole world, and to joining these revisionists in rendering service to imperialism; it would be a grave historical mistake. If we did that, the international proletariat and the revolutionary people of the world would never forgive us.

For quite a long period we refrained from publicly refuting Khrushchev revisionism. While keeping to our principled stand, we made concessions to Khrushchev on certain questions. Our purpose was to bring the leaders of the CPSU back to the road of Marxism-Leninism. But they returned evil for good. In one of our articles commenting on the Open Letter of the Central Committee of the CPSU, we expressed our readiness to accept criticism from comrades of fraternal parties if they asked us why we had not let them know the truth about the differences and why we had made concessions to Khrushchev on certain questions. For us this is an important historical lesson in the struggle against revisionism.

We had hopes regarding the new leaders of the CPSU, and watched and waited for several months. But they soon revealed their true colors and expressed their determination to continue along the path of revisionism. In these circumstances, we must firmly defend the ideological positions of Marxism-Leninism, and persist in our tit-for-tat struggle against Khrushchev revisionism.

The struggle against Khrushchev revisionism has a vital bearing on the future of the international communist movement, the development of the people's revolutionary struggle and the fate of mankind.

Revisionism has always been a force hostile to and disruptive of the revolution. To make revolutions or to support revolutions, it is imperative to carry the struggle against Khrushchev revisionism through to the end.

Revisionism has always been a social prop of imperialism, a force serving imperialism. To combat imperialism, and above all U.S. imperialism, it is imperative to carry the struggle against Khrushchev revisionism through to the end.

Revisionism has invariably engaged in splitting activities against Marxism-Leninism and the revolutionary people, has invariably been a force sapping revolutionary unity. To safeguard the unity of the international communist movement on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism and to safeguard the unity of the revolutionary people of the world, it is imperative to carry the struggle against Khrushchev revisionism through to the end.

The Struggle Against Khrushchev Revisionism Will Win

The struggle against modern revisionism has won great victories in the last two years. Of course, this struggle is a protracted one, and some twists and turns and difficulties are unavoidable. But it is quite certain that Marxism-Leninism will triumph over revisionism in the end. This is proved by what has already happened and will also be confirmed in the future.

The Khrushchev revisionists are confronted with innumerable contradictions. They cannot resolve their contradiction with the Soviet people, Soviet Party members and cadres, who constitute over 90 percent of the Soviet population, nor can they resolve their contradiction with the masses of the people and the Marxist-Leninists of all countries, who constitute over 90 percent of the population of the world. They can neither resolve the contradiction between the great Soviet people who are determined to follow the socialist road, and U.S. imperialism, nor the contradiction within the ranks of the revisionists themselves. It was precisely these irreconcilable contradictions that wrecked Khrushchev's political career. Those who follow in his footsteps will not be able to avoid the same fate.

The forces of Marxism-Leninism have grown immensely in the struggle against Khrushchev revisionism, and particularly so since the beginning of the open polemics. Never have the revolutionary teachings of Marxism-Leninism been so widely propagated. The Marxist-Leninist ranks have undergone a new tempering. As we carry the anti-revisionist struggle forward today, we benefit from Lenin's experience in opposing the revisionists of the Second International, from Stalin's experience in opposing Trotsky and Bukharin and from the experience already gained in combating modern revisionism, and Khrushchev revisionism in particular. We must make full use of all these favorable factors and firmly combat Khrushchev revisionism without Khrushchev.

The task of the Marxist-Leninists is to know the world and to change it. It is through mastery of the laws of historical development, through reliance on the strength of the masses and through revolutionary struggle that Marxist-Leninists push the wheel of history forward. But the revisionists go against the laws of historical development; they side with the reactionary and decaying forces, set themselves against the people, oppose revolutionary struggle and try to hold back the wheel of history. As Lenin said, "The winner in the long run is the side which has the force of historical development behind it."⁵ We have boundless confidence in the complete victory of the struggle against Khrushchev revisionism.

The Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese people will unswervingly follow the general line of the international communist movement which we proposed two years ago. We will raise still higher the invincible banner of Marxism-Leninism and, together with the Marxist-Leninists and

revolutionary people of the whole world, we will carry forward to the end the struggle against imperialism and reaction headed by the United States, carry forward to the end the struggle against Khrushchev revisionism, and strive for the triumph of the cause of world peace, national liberation, people's democracy and socialism, and for a new world without imperialism, without capitalism and without the exploitation of man by man.

NOTES

1. Brezhnev's speech at a mass rally in Moscow, 19 October 1964.
2. Commentator's article in Izvestia, 5 November 1964.
3. Gromyko's speech at the United Nations General Assembly, 7 December 1964.
4. Washington Post, 17 April 1965.
5. V. I. Lenin, "The Tsar Against the Finnish People," Collected Works, Eng. ed., F.L.P.H., Moscow, 1963, Vol. 16, p. 80.

CSO: 3530-D

GROWTH OF OUR COUNTRY'S TABLE TENNIS TEAM

Following is the translation of an article by Jung Kao-t'ang (2837 7559 2768) in the Chinese-language periodical, Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Peiping, No. 7, 14 June 1965, pages 9-20.

At the 28th World Table Tennis Championship Series, our country's table tennis delegation gathered together with the representatives and fine players from table tennis organizations in 46 countries and areas, promoted friendship and exchanged experiences with them, and learned many things. Our country's players displayed a fine ideological style and refined techniques. They won five championships, four second places, and seven third places, and thus brought honors once more to the motherland. This was an important achievement without parallel in our country's history of the sport of table tennis.

Our whole country was delighted and cheered by the victory of our table tennis team. To this day, enthusiastic discussions of table tennis are still heard. To be sure, the people are no longer running about, telling one another what the score is or hotly debating who will win and who will lose. What they are now discussing with full interest is why the women players were able to improve so fast and the men players to keep the honors, and what force it was which enabled this team, which was still comparatively unknown the first time it took part in an international match in 1953, to become, after repeated defeats and repeated leaps, a formidable team in world table tennis matches and a sports team with red thought, good techniques, and a fine style.

The victory of our country's table tennis team is not fortuitous, nor is there any special secret to the victory. The victory of the team, like the victories on all fronts in our country, is a result of raising high the great red banner of the thought of Mao Tse-tung and of continuous revolution and continuous improvement under the educational and fostering efforts of the Party and with the care and support of the broad masses of the people, which enabled both thought and techniques to pass hard tests.

The growth of the team has not been altogether smooth. During its advance, it consistently followed the correct direction and underwent a process of hard training.

Playing Table Tennis for the Sake of Revolution

The sportsmen in the state table tennis team are youths or children who have grown up in the new society. They are talented in sports and they are very enthusiastic about study and work. Some of them, however, first joined the state table tennis team with motives of all kinds. Some thought that table tennis was full of fun and glamor. They did not regard playing table tennis as some serious revolutionary work. Some were ideologically far from being prepared for the great difficulties which might be encountered during the climb to the top, although they realized that players in the national delegation should try to bring honors to the motherland. Such conditions of the mind were obviously incompatible with the expectations of the Party and the people from the state team. For this reason, the table tennis players had to solve first of all the question: For whom are they playing?

The practice of life as sportsmen, too, posed this acute question to them. They often faced tests of victories or defeats in matches. Without the guidance of correct thought, they were liable, at critical moments in matches, to fail this test because they attached too much personal importance to victory or defeat. Again, they might lose where they could have won, because they could not correctly analyze the relation of strength between the two sides and could not control the development of the match. After the match, they often failed to correctly sum up the lessons of experience whether they had won or lost. In this way, they could not grow up rapidly and properly in the training of victories and defeats. They realized that they must correctly settle the question "For whom are we playing?" before they could properly settle the question "How should we play?"

The state table tennis team is a revolutionary sports team under the leadership of the Party. It serves the revolution mainly by playing table tennis. In this team, there is no place for those whose techniques are no good, whose thought is no good, or whose style is no good. Its members must be both red and expert. During periods of group training, the central task of the sports team is to make a success of the training and the sportsmen are to devote their main energy and time to improving their techniques. But the politics of the proletariat must be put in command. The purpose of politics is to lead and safeguard techniques. Politics produce a concrete effect on techniques and techniques serve politics in turn.

During the past few years, the table tennis team always gave prominence to politics in group training. Since 1958 especially, under the bright illumination of the Party's general line for socialist construction and encouraged by the situation of great leaps forward in the whole

nation and the great leap forward in sports, the sportsmen have been organized to study Mao Tse-tung's works on a large scale. Beginning with class education, the ideological and political work of the team has been greatly stepped up, and the sportsmen have received much education in revolutionary heroism and collectivism. In practice, they have gradually come to understand that the arming of sportsmen's heads with the thought of Mao Tse-tung is the fastest and most effective way of revolutionizing themselves and revolutionizing the sports team's work. They have firmly put the study of Mao Tse-tung's works in the first place in all ideological and political work. They have studied and applied the works with regard for their own thought and action. They have studied with regard for specific problems, which they have then solved after the study. The effect of this is quite remarkable. Hsu Yin-sheng's speech to the women players, which was full of dialectical materialism and which opposed idealism and metaphysics throughout, was produced on the basis of several years of flexible learning and flexible application of the thought of Mao Tse-tung by the table tennis team, and was a summing up of collective wisdom and collective experience.

Through studying Mao Tse-tung's works and through practice, the players have clearly realized that sports work is a part of socialist construction. Playing table tennis is also revolutionary work which serves the people. Table tennis is not to be played for fun or for individual fame. In playing table tennis, as in all other socialist construction work, one must try to be foremost in the world.

Being foremost in the world cannot be accomplished at once. Many difficulties will be encountered. But it is for the sake of solving difficulties that the revolutionaries work and struggle. The more difficult a place is, the more must they go there. They must display revolutionary heroism and advance against the difficulties. "Knowing that there are tigers on the mountain, they deliberately go to that mountain." They regard the overcoming of difficulties as their greatest joy.

The sportsmen are determined to contribute their strength toward bringing honors to the motherland. The change from playing for personal ends to the playing for revolutionary collective ends and the change from fear of difficulties to daring to challenge the difficulties are qualitative flying leaps in the thought of the table tennis players.

Possessing the thought of playing table tennis for the sake of the revolution, the sportsmen become broad-minded and far-sighted. Indeed, they have succeeded in "being physically present in the match, thinking of the motherland, and looking at the whole world." On ordinary days, they have high revolutionary consciousness and full vigor; they study diligently and practice hard all the time; they are not afraid of hardship, fatigue, or difficulty, and become increasingly energetic as they go on practicing. During matches, they have a fearless heroic spirit and a strong faith; they dare to win, to struggle, to fight and to venture, and try to take risks. They become increasingly high-spirited as they go on

playing. They look down upon the difficulties strategically while giving them due recognition tactically. They dare to challenge all the good players in the world, and they are good at learning from them. Proceeding from the strategic objective which is to be foremost in the world, they adopt a scientific attitude, conduct extensive investigations and researches, and make faultless tactical preparations. They try their utmost to know their opponents as well as they know themselves and maintain their faith throughout a hundred matches. They do not isolate themselves from the rest of the world or hold a better opinion of themselves than is warranted. Nor do they lose sight of the final goal by attaching undue importance to the results of individual matches.

This point can be very well illustrated by the rapid progress of our country's women table tennis players. Summing up the lessons of defeat in the last match, they changed their mentality which had been manifested in shortsightedness and fear of losing. They firmly put the honor of the motherland first, formed a great ambition, studied and practiced techniques capable of passing tough tests, and thus made full preparations for the recent match. After studying Comrade Hsu Yin-sheng's speech to them and the comments on this speech by the responsible comrades in the central authorities, they became even more far-sighted and their morale rose higher. They were filled with enormous strength and with confidence in victory as well as a determination to win. Eventually, in the recent match, they maintained their usual style and standard and won a major victory. We can see that, in this match, their mentality was quite different from what it had been. In the group match, Liang Li-chen and Li Hei-nan were in the lead all the time and they advanced with crushing force. Before the final match, Lin Hui-ch'ing encouraged Cheng Min-chih to bring honors to the motherland, and Cheng Min-chih had pasted to her wrist the inscription "Be brave, calm, and resolute; persevere to the end." All this resulted from the fact that they went to play table tennis with a high revolutionary sense of responsibility and a high degree of political fervor. It was precisely such a strong determination to fight hard for the glory of the motherland which, coupled with the solid effort of hard training without distraction, helped the women players to win the world championship.

Possessing the thought of playing table tennis for the sake of the revolution, sportsmen can unite into a strong combat group, in which every individual advances himself to meet whatever difficulties may be discovered, and resigns in favor of others whatever honors may be gathered. Every individual practices his techniques as required by the group, and individual interests are subordinated to collective interests. To be sure, such division of labor is determined after consideration of such factors as the talent, technical characteristics, and standard of training of the individuals. The sportsmen are aware that, while individual capabilities may vary, the group will benefit enormously from complete selflessness on the part of everyone. It is only when every individual does his utmost in emitting light and heat that a strong group can be formed. Also, it is only a strong group that can foster representative individuals with high

combat strength who can defeat the good players of the world. To help team members to cope with all schools of players in the world, many such as Ho Tsu-pin, Lin Chiu-sheng, and Lin Hsi-meng, imitated the techniques of foreign well-known players. They did not give any thought at all to personal gains or losses. Some of them did not hesitate even to change the techniques which had become a part of themselves. In the team, such nameless heroes are called "People who walk in front of the world champions." Nor have the mainstay team members proved unworthy of the expectations of others. They love the collective passionately, and among themselves, they encourage and help one another. They labor self-effacingly and volunteer bravely to do the most arduous jobs. They practice the hardest, play the most exhaustingly, and complete their tasks in the most distinguished manner. They deserve to be called the fine representatives of the group.

A group of ordinary children before, the table tennis sportsmen have gradually grown up as red and expert pace setters on the sports front. From this advanced combat group of youth, we can see the glory of our socialist system and the greatness of the thought of Mao Tse-tung. This group represents our people in playing in matches and in winning distinctions. People are glad not only because several championships and second places have been won. What is even more important is that, as is being said, one can see in the players "the New China which is like the morning sun rising in the east."

Thought and Techniques Pass Hard Tests.

The issue of a match in sports is determined by the relative technical strength of the two contestants and by the correctness or error of their tactics. To a large extent, it is determined also by the good or bad spiritual conditions of the contestants. Comrade Mao Tse-tung said, "People who direct a war cannot strive for victories beyond the limit allowed by the objective conditions, but within that limit they can and must strive for victory through their conscious activity." (Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung, Vol. 2, People's Publishing House, 1952 edition, p. 468.) A table tennis player whose technique is very poor or whose tactics are unsuitable will find it hard to win even though his thought may pass hard tests. On the other hand, good techniques constitute only a possibility for victory, which can be realized only when there is correct ideological guidance. In a match, one often sees the weakening or defeat of the technically superior contestant because his thought is wrong, and the strengthening or even victory of the technically inferior player because his thought is correct. From an encounter between two equally strong men, the more brave will emerge victorious. This shows that thought and techniques are a unity of opposites, and interrelation between strength and weakness and between victory and defeat is possible under certain conditions.

In its effort to be foremost in the world and in bringing honors to the motherland, our country's table tennis team often has to face powerful

opponents and complex environments. The team must be able to pass the test of storms inside and outside the arena, make their thought and techniques able to pass tough tests, and secure a full victory politically, ideologically, and technically. To do this, they must depend on normal training. First of all, they must safeguard techniques with politics and safeguard techniques which can pass tough tests with thought which can pass tough tests.

During the past few years, the table tennis team did a great volume of work in ideological basic construction. All kinds of measures were adopted for stepping up socialist and Communist education among the sportsmen. The establishment and consolidation of the proletarian conception of the world and the struggle for building proletarian thought and demolishing bourgeois thought among the sportsmen, as on all other fronts in our country, are long-term and arduous efforts, which must not be slackened for a single moment.

At the same time, on the basis of the Liberation Army's experiences and its own characteristics, the table tennis team attended energetically to living ideological education. The sportsmen take part in training regularly, and a large measure of ideological fluctuation is often due to problems in training. For instance, a player is liable to feel self-complacent and slacken his effort when his technical progress is fast. He is apt to feel impatient or even uncertain of his career when his technical progress is slow. Again, ideological problems may arise from improper handling of technical problems such as defense and offensive, strong points and weak points, and forehand and backhand. For this reason, it is necessary to let ideological and political work permeate training and produce a concrete effect on techniques. In solving technical problems, the principle of letting ideology take the lead must be adhered to. Dialectical materialism guides concrete work.

In solving all these problems, the table tennis team stressed the great significance of playing table tennis for the sake of the revolution; pointed out that diligent learning and hard practice on a long-term basis was the only way of being foremost in the world; opposed conceit and bad temper; and advocated standing on solid ground, solid training in basic skills, gradual improvement, and hard work to master the most advanced techniques. In this way, the sportsmen were able to show a high degree of consciousness in going about long-term hard training. They preferred hardship and strictness and proceeded from the needs of actual combat, and in this way, underwent training which involved a large amount of sports activities, and doggedly trained and improved themselves in respect to determination and other qualities of the mind, in techniques and tactics, and physically. Every time they practiced, they would move their arms some 10,000 times and trot for several thousand meters. When blisters appeared on their fingers, they would put some tape on them and then start again. When corns appeared on their soles, they would put some sponge in their shoes and start again. When they felt really exhausted, they would display the spirit of "going on for a bit yet" and continue to

play as long as they could. When they practiced with a ball, they would often give it several hundred or up to a thousand strokes. Hsu Yin-sheng is famous for his tricks and these tricks are the result of hard training involving hundreds and thousands of strokes. Because of wear and tear over long months, a groove and two finger marks appeared on his bat. The players not only practiced hard to acquire skills able to pass hard tests, but also used their brains diligently. Whenever they had a bat in hand, they would think of a match. They practiced while thinking of the "enemy situation." Every time they practiced, "they went to the arena with problems and left the arena with a harvest." Often, in studying to improve some motions, or in studying some new techniques and tactics, they would concentrate so hard that they forgot to eat or sleep. They tried their utmost to raise their standard in the sport.

Because they always set high standards for themselves normally, they are able to excel even themselves in matches. They excel themselves in both style and in technical standards. People can see in matches that their hitting motions have a high degree of precision, and that these do not change in shape or form in moments of danger. This is precisely because, beginning from the most tedious and most basic exercise, and beginning by practicing the simplest motions, they have gradually, through repeating the motions hundreds and thousands of times and improving them bit by bit, turned these precise and technical motions into a part of themselves. During the matches, their minds and hands work in coordination in making tactical changes. This ability and their clearly technical style and devastating blows so effective on the opponent, are all the results of training and study on the basis of a considerable degree of knowledge with the basic techniques. Their confidence in victory during the matches is materially supported by their techniques which are able to pass hard tests. Their thought, which is also able to pass hard tests, enables their techniques to exert their fullest effect, and thus provides the greatest guarantee of victory. From this, people can see the dialectical relationship contained in the saying "Skill makes one bold; boldness raises one's skill."

The results of normal training find concentrated expression during matches, while the quality of ideological and political work during the period of the match, whether good or bad, will strengthen or weaken these results or even affect the issue of the match.

During the period of a match, especially an important match, the thought of the players often changes more violently and in a more complex manner. This is because they have a heavy task to carry out, have strong opponents to deal with, and are stimulated by victory or defeat. During this period, it is very important that ideological and political work has a combat character and is directed against specific problems, and the time factor is also very important. If, immediately prior to a match, the real ideological work is to the point and the ideological problems are solved, this will produce an immediate effect and directly contribute to victory in the match. If this work is not to the point or is not well done, if

the ideological problems are tackled only indirectly, if the proper opportunity is not seized, or if only the smaller problems are tackled while the bigger ones are neglected, this may bring about defeat in the match. The real thought of the players must be promptly understood and dealt with. Concrete problems must be solved concretely. One particular key must be used for opening one particular lock. Shouting of such empty slogans as "Go ahead" or "Try harder" by way of agitation during a match may sometimes produce some effect, but its effect will never be great. Sometimes, it may even produce some ill effects. What is even more important is that, since ideological and political work immediately prior to a match may be very complex, it is necessary to grasp the key factors and discover the main contradictions so that forces may be concentrated for dealing with them.

The match between Chuang Che-tung and Kao Ch'iao Hao, a fast rising Japanese player, was a key match in the men's singles.

In the group final, Chuang Che-tung had lost to Kao Ch'iao. After that, he and the others analyzed the concrete conditions and discovered the causes of his loss. On the surface, it appeared that he had lost because of some concrete technical problems. In substance, however, he had lost because there was some burden in his mind which had not been properly removed.

In recent years, Chuang Che-tung developed the thought of security. He thought that taking a secure course was the rule of old sportsmen and that he need not take risks as much as the new players had to. As a result, his method of initiative in offensive was weakened, and his style of daring to hit and to venture became less than what it used to be. He then studied dialectics and correctly analyzed the relationship between security and risk. He realized that, by seeking security and not daring to hit, he could not turn his good points to account. All the time, he let others take the offensive, and this was actually the most risky. In the past, he used to take the initiative in an offensive, making it difficult for the opponents to turn their strong points to account. That appeared to be risky but was really the most secure. After his understanding had improved, he sought improvement in practice. But the improvement had not yet been consolidated. In the group final, when he came across some technical difficulties, the thought of security again became dominant in him. So he failed to maintain his usual style and usual standard.

Before the singles this time, he further disposed of the thought of security and he was given help in solving the concrete technical difficulties. While his opponent had learned rather successfully to cope with some special techniques of his, Chuang used instead a kind of technique which was not his strongest point but with which his opponent was not familiar. In this way, he removed the ideological and technical factors which had prevented him from fully turning his techniques to good account. As a result, he played well in the match, in which he defeated Kao Ch'iao Hao by three to zero.

Chuang Che-tung's victory showed once more that nothing should be treated as completely immutable, still, and isolated. Ideological work cannot be carried out all at once. Old ideological problems may yet arise under new conditions. Under certain conditions, interrelation between technical problems and ideological problems will take place. Of two contestants, the technical superiority of the one and the technical inferiority of the other are relative. Because one's opponents are different, interrelation between superiority and inferiority will also take place. In solving technical problems, the principle of letting ideology take the lead must be adhered to. In this way, the problems can be solved more thoroughly and the state of affairs in which each matter is dealt with separately and the main point cannot be grasped, can be avoided.

Immediately prior to a match, the ideological activities of the players, though comparatively complex, also follow laws. If these laws are grasped and guidance is provided accordingly, the numerous ordinary problems can be solved more properly. Judging by the ideological activities of sportsmen during the period of a match, the problem of general concern to them is nervousness in the match which will make them unable to maintain their usual standard. Causes of such nervousness are varied. In some cases, it is due to inadequate preparation in advance, which will lead to accidents in the match. In some cases, it is due to an objective influence or failure to adapt to the new conditions. In many cases, it is due to lack of a correct understanding of the match and lack of sportsmanship which makes one equally at ease whether one wins or loses.

In order to solve this problem, it is necessary, during normal training, to raise the ideological consciousness of the sportsmen fundamentally, to make them ideologically more refined, and to cultivate in them a firm determination which will free them from nervousness. Full account must be taken of the difficulties and preparations must be made for them.

In the course of a match, the player must get rid of all irrelevant ideas and concentrate his thought and his attention completely. He must proceed in measured steps. After finishing one game, he must consider the next. He must not distract himself by asking such questions as what the people outside will think of him and what will happen to him if he wins or if he loses.

In the past few world table tennis series, the table tennis team, directed by Vice Premier Ho Lung, put forward the slogan "Maintain your usual style, maintain your usual standard," thus helping the players to adopt a correct attitude toward winning or losing. This slogan, while it encourages the sportsmen to do their best to win a full victory politically, ideologically, and technically and to attain the goal of the match, is also permeated with a practical scientific spirit. It does not require the sportsmen to do anything beyond the objective possibility. A man is not considered a hero merely because he wins, or a non-hero merely because he loses. The defeat of sportsmen, where their best has proved insufficient, should be permitted. But undesirable style in a match is not permitted.

In sports, we always oppose winning for the sake of winning or winning as the end which justifies whatever means may be adopted. The requirement "Maintain your usual style, maintain your usual standard" serves the purpose of "Letting the player win the match and win as a man, or lose the match without losing as a man."

In the singles, Chang Hsi-lin, after fighting hard in five games, lost to West Germany's famous cutting player Schuler. Although his tactics were capable of improvement, generally speaking, he still maintained his usual style and his usual standard. In this way, he lost the match without losing as a man. He exemplified the good style which all Chinese sportsmen should have and won the admiration of the spectators, who treated him as if he had been the victor. Later, when Chuang Che-tung defeated Schuler by three to zero, people not only praised his personal style and technique as "not unworthy of the world champion," but also exclaimed, "The Chinese will eventually emerge victorious whatever setbacks they may have sustained. In this arena, we see a miniature of our time."

The "One into Two" View of Questions.

Table tennis playing, like everything else in the world, is full of contradictions. Such as redness and expertness, victory and defeat, defense and offensive, study and creation, inheritance and innovation, etc., all these are unities of opposites and cases of "one into two." It is necessary to treat these objectively present contradictions as they are and to solve them by the "one into two" revolutionary dialectics.

The table tennis team tries hard to follow Comrade Mao Tse-tung's teaching: "We must learn to take a comprehensive view of questions. We must see not only the positive side of matters, but also their negative side. Under specific conditions, bad things may lead to good results, and good things to bad results." (On Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People, People's Publishing House, 1957 edition, p. 34.) In this way, one can take a more comprehensive and more realistic view of oneself and of one's opponent and correctly treat favorable and unfavorable factors.

In the analysis of the situation in the recent match, both the favorable side and the unfavorable side were seen. Disadvantages were seen in the advantages, and advantages in the disadvantages. Full account was taken of the disadvantages and the maximum effort was exerted to secure the advantages.

Analyzing the situation in the women's match, some thought that the Japanese women's team, which had been the group champion four times and possessed three and a half cups (three women's events and one mixed double), was a formidable team; that individual Japanese women players had "beaten every Chinese;" and that, therefore, our team was technically no match for the Japanese team. This was a superficial view of the question. The viewpoint adopted was a metaphysical viewpoint.

We thought, however, that although the Japanese women's team was formidable, it was not completely free from vulnerable points. During the International Invitation Match in Peiping last year, although the Japanese women players won all the championships, they did not win all the games but sometimes lost to us. Only a few of them won all the time, and in many games, they were down in points at first but finally caught up and won. This showed that the difference in technical strength between the Japanese team and our team had been reduced and that the main problem with our team was that its thought was unable to pass hard tests, and it did not dare to win. This time, taking part in the world match, our team held a low position in comparison with the Japanese and Rumanian teams. It was a new team and lacked experience. The important thing should be to see the advantage in this disadvantage. In terms of thought, our team had a great ambition and was vigorous. Because it had lost in the last match, it did not have to carry the burden of a champion. The players said, "We are poor and blank. We have held no top positions. What we have is large-scale learning from the Liberation Army." In terms of battle array, the strength of the Japanese team was not evenly distributed, and the Rumanian team contained no new players, whereas in our team the players were more evenly developed and their techniques and styles were numerous and varied, there being no lack of tough techniques or soft techniques. In terms of techniques, after two years of hard training, our team had made tremendous progress. Conditions for victory were thus present, and the question was how to turn these conditions to good account. Taking such a "one into two" view of the matter, our team became much more self-respecting and confident.

The situation having been correctly analyzed, emphasis was laid on carrying out more concrete preparatory work. Full preparations were then made for a hard battle. The battle plans for the matches with the Japanese and the Rumanian teams included two alternative sets of preparations. We would try to win by three to zero. At the same time, we were prepared to fight to the end even after we had lost by zero to two. During the match, the players tried hard and realized the first possibility. This showed that taking a "one into two" viewpoint in the analysis of problems, which enabled the substance of the problems to be seen through their appearance, was the best able to turn conscious activity to account and the most suited to the objective reality.

Our battle array for the two matches was such that we first defeated the opponents' tough playing with soft playing and next defeated their soft playing with tough playing. Surprisingly, it was considered that our players were "taking a risk." In fact, what we did was merely proceed from reality, adopt different policies in dealing with different opponents in accordance with the tactical principle of "using our strong points, attacking the opponents' weak points," and adopt a dialectical materialist attitude.

In analyzing the situation in the men's match, we comprehensively and objectively analyzed the relation of strength between our team and the

opponents and their respective advantages and disadvantages. Apart from this, in view of the fact that our men's team was holding the leading position in the world, we emphasized looking for disadvantages in our advantages, removing the burden, and discovering unfavorable factors in all respects. We then made preparations for the unfavorable factors in advance and turned them into favorable factors.

In a table tennis match, the two contestants are a pair of contradictions which are very much alive. From the beginning to the end of the match, they remain in opposite positions in which they have to struggle against each other. How could we cause the contradictions to develop in a direction favorable to ourselves? The key was that during the match, our players must apply the dialectical materialist viewpoint in dealing with various kinds of situations on the supposition that we led or were down in points or there was a deadlock, and in examining the strength or weakness of the opponent. We could then turn our conscious activity to account and make the situation in the match favorable to ourselves.

Our table tennis team proposed, "Do not relax your effort when you are leading; do not feel discouraged when you are down in points." Our players must take account of the fact that although leading now, they may yet be down in points, and they must realize that victory in view does not mean victory in hand. At the same time, they must take account of the fact that, though being down in points now, they may yet lead; and they must realize that they must not concede defeat until they have lost the whole match. Before the final match point has been scored, every point may be a latent turning point from victory to defeat or defeat to victory.

When they were leading in points, our players always reminded themselves emphatically that they must not expect to be lucky and to win an easy victory, but must take account of possible risks which the opponent might take. In this way, they prevented themselves from taking a safe course or becoming indifferent to what the opponent might do, and from losing a match after nearly winning it. Our players must display the spirit of "Chasing the bandits to the end of the world while courage still lasts, instead of stopping to become a king for the sake of this title." They must keep on beating the opponent to the bitter end and refrain from beating the retreat till a complete victory has been won. During the women's group final, when our team was leading by two to zero, Cheng Min-chih, guided precisely by such thought, told Lin Hui-ch'ing, "You must suppose that the match has just begun, with no score on either side." Our women players then kept up their good performance and ventured till final victory.

When they were down in points, our players always told themselves emphatically that they must try hard and catch up, make the opponent afraid and weak-limbed, seize the opportunity, and turn danger to safety for themselves. During the men's group final, Li Fu-jung was down by 16 points to 20 in a game with the leading Japanese player, Mu Ts'un. Though in danger, he was not afraid. Seeing that his opponent would now take a

safe course, he took the initiative and changed his tactics. He sometimes hit the ball hard and sometimes lightly sent it across the net. In this way, he scored six points in a row, and so he won instead of losing. During some games, our players finally lost. But because they had tried hard to catch up, they succeeded in frightening the opponent and making them perspire. This might well lay the foundation for victory in the next game or the next match. Where effect on the spiritual conditions of the opponent is concerned, losing in this manner is entirely different from giving up upon losing hope in victory.

Another experience of our players concerning the handling the situation in a match is "Do not feel nervous at a deadlock, do not be weak-limbed at the critical moment." During a deadlock, especially after the 15th point, when scores on both sides are close, the contestants are apt to feel nervous. At such a moment, the two contestants are afraid of each other. He who seizes the initiative now will be able to cause the situation to develop in a direction favorable to himself. At such moments, our players must muster up courage, compose themselves, concentrate their thought, use their strong points fully, attack the opponent's weak points, and thus beat the opponent and secure the victory. Whenever they reached a score of 20-all, Chuang Che-tung, Li Fu-jung et al would feel that there was no longer any retreat for themselves, and that they were left with no alternative but venture. Thereupon, they would cease to be afraid and would exploit the nervousness frequently felt by their opponent at such a time, and play boldly to win. In the recent match, 30 games were won by our players after a score of 20-all.

The table tennis team also proposed, "Do not take it easy when the opponent is weak; be braver when the opponent is strong." All weak opponents have their strong points, and all strong opponents have their weak points. For this reason, our players must prevent themselves from forfeiting their technical superiority owing to ideological relaxation, and from failing to maintain their usual standard owing to fear. When the opponent is strong, they must not be afraid. On the contrary, they must be braver than usual, turn their spiritual force into a material force, supplement their techniques with it, and thus increase their technical power and increase their chances of defeating the opponent. Our new player Li Li, who was 18 years old and was taking part in a world championship series for the first time, defeated both Fu-erh-ti-ni and Kuan Cheng Tzu, both world-famed players, by three to zero. She was able to do so because she discredited blind beliefs, emancipated her thought, looked for the weak points of her formidable opponents, fought with increasing courage like a new-born calf which is not afraid of tigers, overwhelmed her opponents in spite of their technical superiority, and let her own techniques exert their full effect.

The table tennis team always demands comprehensive analysis of the results of every match. It stresses discovering shortcomings in victories and good points in defeats, and preventing arrogance due to victory and disheartenment due to defeat. It firmly opposes the metaphysical viewpoint

of "All is well when victory is won, or all is not well when defeat is sustained," and the over-simple conclusion "Victory is won because politics is in command, or defeat is sustained because politics is not in command." Generally speaking, victory is often due to comparatively full vigor and correct thinking methods and tactics, and letting techniques exert their full effect. Sometimes, however, even though vigor is full, and the laws of the match are understood, defeat is sustained because, owing to technical limitations, tactical changes cannot be effected when desired. In some matches, the two contestants are equally strong, but owing to some accidental factors during the match which cannot be fully controlled, we eventually lose after nearing victory. In short, it is necessary to subject concrete conditions to concrete analysis, look for ideological, technical, and other factors, and learn lessons from experience.

Our country's table tennis team has good techniques and dares to win in matches. But it does not consider itself to be invincible. For instance, it is completely possible that defeat may be sustained upon encountering new techniques to which we cannot immediately adapt. In such a case, a process must be undergone before methods of securing victory can be found. With politics in command and with revolutionary vigor, such a process can be greatly shortened and progress can be quickened. Whether they win or lose, those sportsmen who really put politics in command will correctly sum up the lessons of experience and advance always. They are not "heroes" who always win and never lose. In fact, such "heroes" do not exist.

Each Follows His Own Course But Learns Strong Points of All Others.

During the last match, the Chinese team fully showed a technical style which answered the description: "A hundred flowers blossom together; each banner is unique." Although this applied at the time mainly to the men players, after the recent match, the women players, too, could honestly claim that their varied methods, mixing tough with soft playing, won the admiration of the world's table tennis circles. While Liang Lichen, Li Hei-nan, and Li Li were praised for forceful and quick attacks, Lin Hui-ch'ing and Cheng Min-chih surprised everybody with their ingenious cutting techniques which differed from the European technique of cutting the ball with horizontal bats. This was the result of the Chinese players' consistently and modestly learning the advanced technical experiences of all fine sportsmen in the world, continuously enriching and improving upon these experiences, and creating and developing unique styles of their own.

In sports, matches always follow the same rules of direct competition between techniques, struggle between tactics, and separation of the winner from the loser. In order to be superior in the world table tennis match, it is not enough for the Chinese players merely to learn the general strong points of others and compensate their own weak points. They

must consciously learn and adapt to different styles of play and possess unique techniques of their own which are sufficient to secure victory.

The techniques of table tennis have undergone a long period of development. Their contents are quite rich. Within the limited period of training, a sportsman cannot become conversant with all the techniques. He can only have some outstanding strong points on the basis of a mastery of basic skills. The Chinese table tennis team is formed by selection of talented sportsmen from millions of table tennis lovers. When the team as a whole is well coordinated and presents a scene of "a hundred flowers blossoming together," it can foster, with planning and leadership, ranks which offer a full range of choices and in which every individual has unique strong points of his own. This team can accommodate in itself all kinds of techniques in the world so that, within this "small world," all schools of table tennis players can compete with one another, adapt to one another, restrict one another, advance one another, and improve together continuously. This shows the superiority of our country's socialist system. In such a furnace, it is possible to produce, by tempering, some distinctive styles which are of a higher form, newer, and more comprehensive, and by refinement, group after group of fine players with wide adaptability and unique methods for securing victory.

The Chinese players attach importance to learning all good things from fine players in the world and to inheriting all good things from traditions. But they neither run after others all the time nor repeat history. Regarding themselves as the center, they adopt a scientific critical attitude, purposefully and selectively absorb the strong points of all schools, digest them, and create unique styles of their own. They follow their own course. They walk in front of the world and in front of time. For instance, in learning the arc-shaped path of the ball as practiced in Japan and Europe, our players' one purpose was to adapt to it and overcome it. Their other purpose was to master it, to reform and develop it according to their own conditions and needs, and to turn it into an arc-shaped path of the ball with Chinese characteristics and into a weapon for securing victory. In the doubles, our country's player with this technique, Yu Ch'ang-ch'un, projected the ball along an arc-shaped path with great speed and great momentum. In this way, he defeated Mu Ts'un, who was called "the expert in the arc-shaped path of the ball." This is food for deep thought.

While there are a hundred flowers blossoming together, we have a direction of our own, which is stress on offensive. In attacking, we firmly and unwaveringly cultivate the style of "speed, precision, force, and change." Under the guidance of the tactical thought of seizing the initiative whenever possible, we have improved upon the traditional method of quick attack near the table with vertical bats, and absorbed the strong points -- precision and spinning -- of some formidable Asian teams. After refining them, we have developed the style in question. The relationship among speed, precision, force, and change is a relationship of dialectical unity, and this unity is achieved in the seizing of the initiative whenever

possible. First, it is necessary to be quick. Time can thus be won and this will facilitate the seizing of the initiative. One can then be on the offensive. However, if one is fast without being precise at the same time, one's initiative will be useless where scoring is concerned. So, while being fast, one must overcome losses which are liable to result from the high speed. If one is fast and precise but is not forceful, one's blow will not be devastating. For this reason, force, or heaving hitting, is also necessary. One must hit the ball with force and deal telling blows at the opponent. In addition to speed, precision, and force, frequent change of tactics and versatility are necessary, so that one may more successfully make the opponent dance to one's own tune, seize the initiative, let one's strong points exert their full effect, and defeat the opponent.

In cutting the ball, the style of "Good defense, low cutting, proper change of spinning, and ability to counter-attack with both sides of the bat" is energetically advocated. This style is proposed in consideration of the characteristics of defensive playing and in accordance with the guiding tactical thought of active defense. The technique of defensive cutting is intended not only to resist the offensive of the opponent but also, by changing the spinning of the ball and making the ball fall on different points, to control the opponent and make him dance to one's own tune. Such a form of defense is actually a kind of offensive. It often makes the opponent lose a point owing to erroneous judgment or because he does not have enough time to return the ball and it also creates opportunities for counterattacks on the opponent. The tactics of sportsmen who cut the ball is basically to attack by means of defense, to overcome the opponent's fast playing with slow playing, and to overcome the opponent's tough playing with soft playing. But, under specific conditions such as when they serve the ball or have an opportunity to counterattack, they still should attack and defend with fast playing and harass the opponent by surprising him. This style makes it possible for the technique of cutting to produce a better effect.

While importance is attached to advocating the above-mentioned styles of offensive and defense, the other styles are never excluded, but it is proposed that a hundred flowers should blossom together. When different styles are compared, some of them will be found superior and better, and others inferior and not so good. But the contradictions between them are not always ones between the advanced and the backward, nor oppositions between correctness and error. Each style has advantages and limitations of its own, and it can contribute from a specific angle to the sport of table tennis. The styles which are mainly advocated can be improved upon only during matches with different Chinese and foreign schools of table tennis playing. Purity or uniformity is a suicidal policy. If the whole nation or the whole team played after Chuang Che-tung's fashion, then Chuang Che-tung would not have been what he now is. Besides, during matches in sports, the phenomenon of one particular thing overcoming another particular thing often appears. Method A may be very advantageous when employed against Method B. But it is apt to be ineffective when employed against Method C, while Method B is apt to be very superior to

Method C. What is even more important is that the limitation and counter-limitation between methods of playing are determined mainly by the extent to which the players have mastered or overcome the respective methods.

Chang Hsi-lin provides a clear illustration of this. During the last match, he easily defeated the Japanese team. But some other Chinese players who employed the same method of playing as he did, lost to Japanese players because they were not so conversant with the method as he was. During the past two years, the Japanese team carefully studied the characteristics of his techniques, and in actual matches, gradually became familiar with and adapted to his method. As a result, during the recent match, Japanese players sometimes beat him and sometimes lost to him. This shows that no method of playing is perfect and there is no method to which people cannot adapt or which cannot be overcome. To be sure, the fact that Japanese players had adapted to him and defeated him to some extent does not signify that his method is ineffective or useless. Such a conclusion could not have been drawn even if the Japanese players had beaten him in all games. After all, Chang Hsi-lin has not perfectly mastered his own method.

It is easy for some trend to arise after an important match, especially a world match. Where victory is won by employment of a specific method of playing, everybody will tend to imitate this method. Similarly, where defeat is sustained because a specific method of playing is employed, this method will be treated with coldness. After the recent world match, some people in international table tennis circles have again been debating the question of which is better, the vertical bat or the horizontal bat. It is always our opinion that victory or defeat does not depend on the way in which the bat is held or on the method of playing, but depends on the degree of the individual player's mastery of this way or this method. After victory has been won by employment of a specific method, one may be sure that this method has some advantages and it is only natural and normal that people should try to learn it. Similarly, after a defeat has been sustained where a specific method of playing was employed, one may be sure that this method is capable of improvement, and it is necessary to point out its disadvantages. But one is bound to go astray if one affirms a specific method completely or negates it completely, and acts in a fixed fashion in all cases. In the practice of sports, it is often necessary to struggle against uniformity and bending with the wind. The world is a diversified unity, and it is an objective fact that different people do not share the same degree of love of sports and do not have similar talents and conditions for sports. The objective development must be respected and guidance provided accordingly. With planning, different schools and styles of playing are to be advocated so as to adapt to the needs. The guiding thought for the technical development of our country's table tennis is erected on such a foundation of understanding.

Our country's table tennis team always opposes rigid application of rules and conservative thought. On a large scale, it smashes idealism and metaphysics and proposes that, with ourselves as the center, we should

allow a hundred flowers to blossom together, follow a course of our own but also learn the strong points of all others, depend on our own resources, make ambitious efforts, combine learning with creation, and combine inheritance with innovation. Under such dialectical materialist ideological guidance, our country's table tennis sport presents the scene of ten thousand purple flowers and one thousand red flowers joining in a beauty contest in spring. There are different schools of playing, each with a specific style of its own and representative players of its own. Those who use the same method have an individual style of his own. Of the five members of our team who took part in the men's group event in the recent match, four were attackers with a style marked by speed, precision, force, and change, but each of them had a most distinctive characteristic of his own. Chuang Che-tung was especially fast. Li Fu-jung was especially forceful. Hsu Yin-sheng was especially tricky. Chou Lan-sun was especially aggressive. Of the two cutters taking part in the women's group event, Lin Hui-ch'ing was a safer player, while Cheng Min-chih was more tricky. Their varied characteristics were more than the foreign players could cope with. The power of each method of playing was made highly effective, and this constituted the superiority of our country's table tennis techniques. Some well-known persons in the international table tennis circles have observed that the hundred flowers blossoming together in the Chinese table tennis sport have shown the direction for the world table tennis sport. Many foreign players have drawn strength from the success of the different methods of the Chinese players. They have seen in this success the future of their own methods of playing. Their confidence has thus risen.

Implementation of Triple Combination Mass Line.

The triple combination of the leadership, coaches, and sportsmen is a concrete way of applying the mass line in a sports team, and an important magic weapon in solving the problems of the team. To make a success of the work of the sports team, it is necessary to combine very well the role of political leadership, the leading role of coaches in training, and the consciousness and active character of sportsmen. The purpose of the triple combination is to mobilize the masses fully and to turn all positive factors to account. The key to a successful triple combination is whether the leadership trusts the masses and depends on them.

Some on the table tennis team thought that, since the sportsmen were comparatively young, it would be enough merely to consult some cadres or coaches when matters arose. They did not believe in the wisdom and strength of the masses. In the course of work, such a view was gradually changed. The mass viewpoint was continuously deepened and perfected. As a result, the triple combination of the leadership, coaches, and sportsmen has been achieved rather successfully.

During periods of group training, the State Physical Culture Commission will organize a leadership group to sit in at a point with the table tennis team. Together with the cadres of the team, this group will go deep

into the scenes of training and the contest, set examples for all, show full concern over men and over the work of the team, and lead the coaches and sportsmen to love their work and to contribute their strength wholeheartedly. At the same time, the leadership group will learn from the coaches and sportsmen, live and discuss matters together with them, promote democracy fully, listen both to favorable and adverse comments, firmly implement the mass line, promptly discover, analyze, and solve problems, and sum up experiences. Inside the team, conditions are created to enable everybody to speak to his heart's content, and to make him dare to argue. A vivid and lively political situation will then arise. The objective to achieve is to make the upper levels and the lower levels communicate to each other, show concern over each other, mix as one, and unite as one, so that the leadership will share the concern of the masses, and its intentions will become the conscious actions of the masses.

The coaches, too, show comprehensive concern over the growth of the sportsmen. They not only teach techniques to the latter, but also improve them as men. During technical training, the principle of letting ideology take the lead is adhered to. Since learning Kuo Hsing-fu's advanced teaching method, the coaches have paid special attention to live thought and to work on men. Training in techniques and tactics and training in ideological style have been combined. In training, the coaches impart knowledge with their words and give guidance with their actions. Democracy in technical matters is promoted. The teacher and the pupil teach each other and learn from each other, thus improving each other.

Among the sportsmen, a tendency has been gradually formed whereby everybody shows concern over the group and everybody takes part in discussing and solving problems which arise. In the team, many important problems have been solved by the method of triple combination. Apart from the conferences and some technical research groups in which all three parties are represented, difficulties in technical training are often solved by the method of "collective diagnosis." In the planning of every match, meetings of "wise men" are held to make suggestions and offer ideas. Concerning who should be selected to play in matches, this is discussed extensively and repeatedly inside the team. During the discussions, everybody expresses his opinions. Then, on the basis of full promotion of democracy, the leadership sums up the opinions of all and makes the decisions.

In the recent match, the question of who should play in the men's group event and the women's group event was settled after a process of "From the masses, to the masses." The leadership listened attentively to the different opinions advanced, repeatedly compared the suggested plans with regard to their respective advantages and disadvantages, and then took the decision. For instance, the question of who should play in the men's group final was discussed by all. With regard to strength, all the five players taking part in the group event were good players. Which three of them should be selected? Concerning the first choice, everybody agreed on Chuang Che-tung whose thought and technique were better able to

pass hard tests. Concerning the second choice, everybody agreed on Chang Hsi-lin. Although he was no longer as "mysterious" as he had been during the last match, and although the Japanese team had studied him carefully and adapted to him in many ways, his method of playing was still advantageous in a match with the Japanese team. Besides, his basic skills were good. Concerning the third choice, however, three kinds of views were expressed. Hsu Yin-sheng said, "I would be the safest player, Chou Lansun would be the most aggressive player, and Li Fu-jung would be a combination of aggressive playing with safe playing." The leadership of the delegation also took into consideration the fact that Li Fu-jung was younger and more eager to win. So he was finally chosen. Judging from the results of the match, such a decision was correct.

Among the women players, the problem of triple combination had not been well solved in the past. During the last two matches, the question of who should be chosen to play in a specific match was often the most puzzling problem. Disagreement was general and the leadership hesitated to make decisions. Sometimes, with the match to take place on the following day, discussions were carried deep into the night without coming to a decision as to who should play. When a decision was hesitantly made, thought remained disunified and actions unconcerted. This was against the principle: "Don't use a person if you doubt him. Don't doubt a person if you are going to use him." As a result, though the chosen players went to play, they did not feel sufficiently encouraged and found it difficult to play well. The women's team then summed up experiences and made practical improvements. Unity was strengthened. When matters arose, everybody began to take part in their discussion. After full discussion, agreement would be reached. Once a decision had been made, it would be carried out, and nobody was to doubt or blame the decision even if the match was lost. It was on such a foundation that the women players dared to do what others dared not do and made up their minds to adopt strange tactics in major matches where the honor of the motherland was at stake.

In the table tennis team, full attention is paid to promoting every member's active character and creativeness. Individual effort on a collective basis and a strong collective on the basis of individual effort are realized. Everybody does his best in pressing ahead. The many able individuals compose a formidable collective. There are training plans for the team as a whole as well as training plans for every individual. In this way, better consideration may be given to the characteristics of every individual player. He is taught in a specific manner suited to his case, and consequently is able to improve faster. In the process of formulating and executing combat plans for matches, attention is paid to proceeding from the actual conditions of the players and the actual conditions of the matches. Account is taken of the possible development of the objective conditions, and the players are allowed to act at their own discretion, subject to observance of the principles of the original plans. In the group final and the individual final for doubles, in which Cheng Min-chih and Lin Hui-ch'ing played, the combat plan emphasized cutting as the main tactic. Because Cheng Min-chih was not precise enough in

attacking, it was specially stressed that she should try to win by safe cutting. At the same time, however, it was explained to her clearly that, should an opportunity offer itself during the match, she should attack boldly. As a result, at a final critical moment during the match, she dared to seize an unexpected opportunity. She then attacked boldly to score. Both matches were won. If her initiative and creativeness had been restricted by a rigid combat plan, she would have missed the opportunity. Alternatively, she might have seized the opportunity but, because she was not sure of herself and dared not act resolutely, she would still have lost.

Under the guidance of the directive of combining generalization with standard raising in physical culture and sports, our country's mass table tennis sport made tremendous progress during the past more than 10 years. Group after group of fresh troops have appeared, continuously adding to a formidable reserve for the table tennis team. The examples set by the table tennis team and the successive making of world champions have been a strong attraction to the broad masses, especially youths and children, to take part in the table tennis sport enthusiastically and have provided forceful guidance for mass sports. Standard raising on the basis of generalization and generalization subject to standard raising are basic measures in our country's physical culture and sports and basic measures for rapidly developing the table tennis sport. During the Mao Tse-tung era, when "all the 600 million people of the godly territory are sages," there are dormant tigers everywhere, and talented people have emerged in group after group. In the table tennis sport, the exceedingly favorable situation, in which the waves are rolling on, pushed forward by higher waves behind, reveals the glorious future of our country's flourishing and ever green table tennis sport.

From the process of growth of the table tennis team, it can be seen clearly that it is the thought of Mao Tse-tung which has led this team from weakness to strength, from defeat to victory, and from victory to greater victory. The success of the table tennis team during the 28th World Championship Series has once more revealed the all-conquering power of the thought of Mao Tse-tung. The women players, who were defeated in the last two world matches, won two world championships in the recent match. This process, too, clearly reflects a flying leap whereby material becomes spirit and spirit reverts to material. The thought of Mao Tse-tung is our people's guide to action in socialist revolution and socialist construction. It is a great revolutionary teaching which leads us to victory and then to greater victory. Whoever learns and applies the thought of Mao Tse-tung well will achieve a great success. This truth has once more been proved by the practice of the table tennis team. The table tennis team has learned and applied the thought of Mao Tse-tung, and has achieved successes. But it has not done enough either in the learning or in the application. The recent match has exposed many ideological and technical problems, which must be solved correctly through better learning and application of the thought of Mao Tse-tung.

Taking the physical culture front as a whole, in the past few years, the broad masses of the physical culture workers and sportsmen followed Comrade Mao Tse-tung's instructions concerning "development of physical culture and sports and improvement of the people's physique," actively unfolded mass physical culture and sports, created fine sports results, and rendered service to labor production and national defense construction, as well as the politics of the proletariat. But the flexible learning and application of the thought of Mao Tse-tung is still far from being sufficient. They are far behind in this respect in comparison with the table tennis team. In the future, they must raise higher the great red banner of the thought of Mao Tse-tung, insist on the four first's, continue to learn from the Liberation Army on a large scale, further unfold the movement of comparing, learning, catching up, and helping with a view to producing 4-good sports teams and 5-good sportsmen, regard the table tennis team as their example, try to catch up with it, and work hard to make greater contributions.

At the moment of its victory in the 28th World Match in face of the immense honors, the table tennis team remembered even more firmly Comrade Mao Tse-tung's teaching: "Modesty leads to improvement, while conceit leads to retrogression." The team realizes that it still has many shortcomings. The development of the techniques of table tennis, like the development of everything else, goes on forever. Match will be followed by match. In the contest between players from all countries in the world, those who do not advance will lag behind. Nay, those who do not advance fast enough will also lag behind. In order to continue to lead in the world, our country's table tennis team must fully realize this objective law, maintain their sensitiveness toward new things and their courage to explore new things, carry out revolution continuously, learn hard, seriously sum up experiences, try to invent and create something, and advance faster than before. Our country's table tennis team is now greeting its new tasks and climbing a new peak in the spirit of those who "defy the hardship of the journey through difficult passes and advance in big strides."

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ONLY WHEN WE DARE TO WIN CAN WE BE VICTORIOUS

Following is a translation of an article by Lin Hui-ch'ing (2651 1979 0615), Cheng Min-chih (6774 2404 0037), Liang Li-chen (2733 7787 3791), and Li Ho-nan (2621 6378 3948) in the Chinese-language periodical, Hung Ch'i (Red Flag), Peiping, No. 7, 14 June 1965, pages 21-23.

On the night of 19 April, Lin Hui-ch'ing and Cheng Min-tzu played the last set in the finals for women's groups. When they left the tournament grounds, comrades all surrounded them, excitedly shaking hands with them and congratulating the women's group for having "stiffened their backs."

Since the women's group lost in the last tournament, we had used the words "stiffening the back" to express our determination to win first place in the world table tennis championship. We had said these words for nearly two years, but today we finally succeeded in realizing our pledge. In our jubilation we were utterly speechless. We thought of the great strength the Party had given us in the last few years, the favorable conditions provided by the State, all the concern shown by the people of the whole country, and the sweat of all our fellow players who fought with us in the tournament. All this had now produced results. We were so overwhelmed with emotion that tears filled our eyes.

Two years ago our team was defeated by the Rumanian team at the 27th World Table Tennis Championship held at Prague. We therefore lost the chance of competing with the Japanese team for the world championship. We were all very depressed. Although the four of us did not play in the match, we all thought of the responsibility placed in each of us. Veterans had played pingpong for ten years and 31-year-old Sun Mei-ying in particular was already a coach. If at that moment they were still required to play in the contest, then our younger players would be to blame, because they were utterly not ambitious and made progress too slowly!

At that time, some foreigners who sat beside us said coldly: "Chinese girls are not qualified to take part in the final." We were really furious when we heard this scathing remark. Bearing a grudge against others was to no avail. After all we were to blame for not exerting our utmost. So, we had better keep the grudge to ourselves! We all secretly pledged ourselves to "stiffen our backs" at the next world championship! This was to let all see that Chinese girls, after all, are qualified to take part in the final match.

After our return from abroad, we were given a big ovation throughout the country. Hearty congratulations were extended to men players for having achieved a total victory. Greetings were also extended to women players for their "significant contribution." This all the more made us feel ashamed and embarrassed.

Some comrades comforted us by saying: "The women's team after all has not let us down because three and a half of them are in the third place -- in the front rank of world contestants! This is a not very easy achievement."

We knew this was intended to encourage us. However, we were not satisfied with what we had achieved at the contest. Our objective was not to win third place. Besides, we lost the first and second places won in the previous contest. Was it not plain defeat?

Of course we did not endorse another view which predicted our defeat because we put women in the team with the object of using them to advantage. We lost and it was a fact; but our defeat was far from being a foregone conclusion. We conceded defeat but we were not reconciled to it. We were determined to learn profitably from defeat and turn failure into success and ultimately victory.

Leading cadres together with all of us found out the causes of the women's team's defeat. One of them was that they dared not think of winning a victory. This disease of the mind was most harmful to people because players who had this ailment became so impotent that they could not play pingpong no matter how hard they tried.

We found out that this was the common fault of women players and all four of us had this defect. Take Liang Lien-chen for example. Before competing in the single event against Matsusaki, the number one Japanese contestant, she watched the five full rounds of the match between Hu Ke-ming and Matsusaki. Finally Hu lost to Matsusaki by a mere difference of two points. After this keenly contested match, Matsusaki said: "Indeed, I have sweated all over."

However, Liang Lien-chen did not have the whole situation in mind. She merely watched Matsusaki's really marvelous slamming techniques in the final sets. She thought: I am impressed. She will defeat me, too.

Playing against Matsusaki in this frame of mind, Liang Lien-chen was in the lead, 12 to 3, in the first round. She wondered how she herself could have played so furiously and accurately. With this perplexing problem on her mind she became hesitant in serving and slamming the ping-pong ball. She dared not strike the ball forcefully but passed it over lightly with the result that her opponent gained the upper hand in attack and scored a clean victory.

From defeat we learned the lesson that if a person does not believe in himself, he will all but be finished. We were picked collectively. Since everyone said we could make it, we must have confidence in ourselves. If we did not dare to win a victory, where would victory come from?

How could we have confidence in ourselves in a tournament? Hsu Yin-sheng advised us to think more of the interests of the State and favorable conditions. What he said was totally correct! His talk was approved by Vice Premier Ho Lung and it was later published in Jen-min Jih-pao. Together with the Jen-min Jih-pao Editor's Note, Hsu Yin-sheng's views on how to play table tennis showed us the direction for advance. Our eyes opened and confidence became stronger after looking at problems from the viewpoint of one dividing into two. Using this method to compare ourselves with the Japanese team, we became much bolder than before.

The Japanese team had three and a half winners of first place. We had none. Therefore we had no burden weighing on our mind. Although some players of the Japanese team were good in technique, they were not of uniform standard. Some of our comrades were not all-round players as far as technique was concerned, but each had her own individual style. Therefore, working as a team, we were fairly evenly matched. In this way we kept comparing ourselves with our opponents in light of favorable conditions. The more we compared, the more energetic we became.

The reason we lost in the tournament held in Peiping by invitation last year was that we dared not compare ourselves with our opponents and failed to tell the favorable factors from the adverse conditions. Only by displaying the spirit of daring to do anything and daring to win would victory come our way.

By grasping the whole situation in our minds and by improving our skill through hard practice, we thus had a real sense of confidence.

The second reason for the defeat of the women's team at the previous tournament was that women players had not acquired the real skill of playing pingpong.

How could we learn and truly master the real skills of playing pingpong? The team captain and coach told us over and over again that revolution was a very arduous task which called for storing of strength at ordinary times. Fighting with the object of "stiffening our back" called

for day-to-day improvement of skill and steeling through hard practice in the course of playing every round of the game. These words were indeed correctly said!

It was much easier to make up one's mind than do it. But we wanted to overcome this difficulty. If we studied Chairman Mao's works and upheld the Yu Kung spirit of moving mountains, there would be no difficulties that could not be overcome. Therefore, every day we kept challenging difficulties, defying difficulties, and advancing while facing difficulties!

We often asked ourselves: Have we forgotten the big issue of "stiffening our back?" Have we listened to the words of leading cadres? Have we studied and practiced hard?

The women's teams formed many mutual-aid groups. Men's teams also adhered to the "one assists one" principle, working out measures for helping, examining and encouraging one another. We realized that to put up a really good performance at the world tournament, we must by no means be slack in practice at ordinary times. To achieve worthwhile results, nothing would be gained without exerting our utmost and bearing great hardships. We must not choose the easy path because it would not lead to a first place in the world championship. We learned the basic skills conscientiously and earnestly, practicing playing pingpong and mastering, step by step, all techniques of the game. When we were exhausted after having played the game for long hours, we would look at the placards hung on the net, bearing these words of encouragement: "You are charged with heavy responsibilities." "Strive for stiffening the backs of the women players." We then got our second wind and persisted in playing several more rounds.

We tried hard to build our physique by practicing running for long hours. When we were exhausted, comrades kept shouting at us: "Learn from the People's Liberation Army's spirit of hard practice!" We got our second wind again and reached our destination. We knew very well this was not just learning skills and training our bodies. What was more important was to develop our will power!

To learn and master real skills, we made a practice of requiring each player to learn hard those things she was particularly afraid of. Sun Mei-ying and Yung Kuo-tuan, our coaches, often attacked our "soft spots" when practicing pingpong. Li Huh-nai was the timid type so she learned swimming. Liang Lien-chen was poor in her footwork so the coach furiously slammed the ball at her in the direction of the two corners of the table. Lin Hui-ch'ing was impulsive and excitable so Liang Lien-chen grappled with her tenaciously by keeping with her in scores and even up to a hundred strokes for a point. In one round of the game, Liang was tied with her until 37 to 35 before beating her. Many men players who could even tug better than Liang Lien-chen came to her assistance. They dragged so hard that Lin Hui-ch'ing was practically out of breath.

When things went wrong in the course of training, Cheng Min-tzu and several of us were apt to lose our tempers. We made it a rule for those who showed temper to be penalized by making them practice playing five difficult games and repeat the practice once more. After serving the penalty, of course, the offenders would have to heighten their ideological understanding. After all, we played pingpong for the revolution and in this regard getting into a temper was an irresponsible act.

Often at a crucial moment we were unable to pass the hard test. Hsu Yin-sheng, Chuang Che-tung, Li Fu-jung, Chang Hsi-lin, and others had special talks with us women players, telling us about their experiences in passing the hard test. Li Fu-jung said, "Even in matches for points at ordinary times, no matter how far behind in scoring, I will always try my best to win back the points. Although it is indeed difficult to do so each time, you will go for it energetically once you think of the world tournament." Yes, it is true that to pass the hard test one has to practice hard bit by bit. There is no short-cut. For instance, we often said to ourselves: "Forget it this time." How would it be possible for us to develop our firm will power? Only by constantly learning, comparing ourselves with others, and practicing could we become fearless and tough.

To help us, the leadership and fellow players expended considerable energy at great sacrifices! We were most grateful to many unknown heroes on our team who bravely sacrificed their personal interests and contributed significantly to the collective. Let us give an example. Although her hand had become swollen because of hard practice, she would not take a rest. She even insisted on imitating the techniques of crack European players so she could help us practice playing the game. She found her hand aching terribly when smashing with the back-hand stroke but much less painful when making the frontal attack. However, to meet the needs of practice, she made a point of playing with the aching hand as much as possible. She said to us, "I don't mind my aching hand. I'm more concerned about affecting your practice." This kind of selfless spirit indeed was a deep education to us. Her strokes were not merely confined to the pingpong table but to our hearts. We said to ourselves: "Bear this closely in mind! Remember the collective well and never let it down!"

The world tournament was approaching. Copies of data on our opponents were delivered to us. Hardly had we taken off and put aside our perspiration-soaked sports shirts than they disappeared. But on the following day, they were thoroughly cleaned and neatly pressed for us. "Everything for the 28th World Table Tennis Tournament!" Comrades seriously and fervently translated this fighting slogan into action. A powerful wave of rising fervor kept pounding at us so we would fight for the honor of the motherland!

It was the time for holding the contest. Confident of victory and determined to "stiffen our backs," we fought our opponents, unleashing the pent-up grievances we had nursed in the last two years on each and every

stroke, and wrestling with our opponents point for point. Ultimately we passed the hard test of the keenly contested match and eventually defeated our strongest opponents. We won the world championship for the women's group. Finally, we fulfilled the wish that had been locked in our hearts for many years.

Although we have made some achievements, they are as yet far behind those made by comrades on all other fronts of the motherland. Even in comparison with the men's teams fighting shoulder-to-shoulder with us in the world tournament, we were no match for them either in ideology or in skill. In the single event, our score was not very satisfactory. On the way to scale the pinnacle of world records, numerous difficulties still lie before us. We must try to catch up with the men's teams. In addition we must learn from all outstanding pingpong players in the world in a determined and constant effort to overcome difficulties and forge ahead energetically.

An old saying goes that when one is desperate, one thinks of change. The pauper's spirit has helped us "stiffen our backs" in this tournament and win two cups -- in contrast with the last tournament when we did not even win a single cup.

Today, we have no intention to hold the cups as packs on our shoulders. Rather we should do as Comrade Chuang Che-tung has said; from the day we won the cups, we should regard them as being handed over to the organizers of the next world tournament. Now, beginning from zero, we have to start everything from the beginning. We must continue to carry on and promote the pauper's spirit and that of fighting with the object of "stiffening our backs." We must press ahead without carrying any burden on our backs and contribute our own strength to the cause of the motherland.

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ONE TO THREE

Following is the translation of an article by Chuang Tse-tung (1641 0463 2767), in the Chinese-language periodical Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Peiping, No. 7, 14 June 1965, page 24.

Many have said to me: You lost to Hiroshi Takahashi three times. Why did you beat him so easily when you met him for the fourth time?

I myself couldn't answer this question at once. Why did I play so differently against the same opponent after a lapse of four days? I gave it careful thought.

On the surface, the reason for this seemed to be a technical one. In essence, however, the problem of ideological understanding had influenced my standard of play.

At the 26th World Table Tennis Championships I captured the men's singles title. After retaining the 27th World Table Tennis Championship, I felt that to retain it was much more difficult than to win it. So I continued my hard training.

At the same time, however, the "championship burden" was imposed on me. Since I was a world champion, I thought, I couldn't afford to lose. If I did, what would I look like as a world champion?

In 1962, a Japanese team visited our country. I saw that when Comrade Ch'iu Chung-hui lost to Yordhsis, the reactions from some spectators were very strong. I then also recalled the emotions aroused by the losing of points by Comrade Jung Kuo-tuan during the matches for the world team championship in 1961. Whenever he dropped one point, the audience would heave a sigh of regret. The concern shown by others for us should be regarded as a motivating power, yet I treated it as a pressure.

Besides, my understanding of my play was also questionable. I felt that since I was an attacker, my skill was not complete. I must learn to defend and spin, too. A world champion must be able to face any opponent.

Thus, thinking of this or that, my special skill for defeating an opponent had become weaker, my smashes were not so forceful as before, and my spirit of initiative for attack paled. Many comrades pointed out sharply: "Little Chuang has lost the style of a little tiger."

When we visited Japan in May last year, I met the new Japanese player, Hiroshi Takahashi, again. I had lost to him once. But technically speaking I was not any worse than he. As far as experience was concerned, I did not have any less than he had either. I wanted to beat him, yet I was afraid of losing to him. This was an ideological burden on myself.

But Takahashi had no such a burden. If he lost to a world champion, he was not to be blamed. If he won, that would be an extraordinary triumph.

As a result of these different mentalities, he played hard while I played soft. There was no worry in his head; in mine there was. Although I led in the first two games, I was beaten at last.

After our return from Japan, the leadership and my fellow comrades criticized me for bearing the championship burden.

At this time, with the problem in mind I studied Chairman Mao's works once again. Study and help from others had enabled me to recognize that service to the people was unlimited. Winning the title might be regarded as climbing to the summit, but technical progress was unlimited. I should continue to work hard to achieve greater perfection. I must not carry the championship burden. The achievement does not belong to me; it comes from the training given by the Party and from the concern and collective wisdom of the people of the motherland. To maintain the honor, I must arm myself with the idea of uninterrupted revolution, lay down the burden, and march forward with light equipment.

By then I had had a more complete understanding of my play, having realized that for an attacker like myself, attack was the best defense. When I concentrated on attack, my opponent would be busy coping with it and thus placed in a passive position.

Superficially, therefore, the offensive appeared to be very risky, but in fact, it gave the greatest assurance for victory. If I gave up my original style and concentrated on defense, I would be placed in a passive position. What seemed to be "stable" was actually most "risky." I must restore my original style.

Arriving at Ljubljana, as I was not familiar with certain objective conditions there, when I ran into difficulties, particularly when I met Hiroshi Takahashi in the finals for the team's championship, the idea of "being stable" raised its head once more. I still fought with restraint. I dared not use all my might and dared not return Takahashi's serves with force. In a mood of hesitancy, I lost 14 points because I could not stand up to his serves. The result, naturally, was another defeat.

This shows that my ideological problem had not been solved with thoroughness. Understanding a problem does not mean solving it. You can solve it only when you turn your understanding into action.

In the men's singles, I met Takahashi again. This was a decisive match. Foreigners commented on it. My partners discussed about it. I, too, thought of the expectation of the people of my country.

Before the match, my fellow comrades and I sat down together and talked. They helped me analyze both the favorable and unfavorable conditions from the ideological and technical standpoints and draw up several sets of tactics.

As I had solved my ideological problem and eliminated impure thoughts, during the match I was able to concentrate to a high degree. Technically, I also made careful preparations. I threw myself into the battle swiftly and launched my lightning smashes from left and right. I defeated Takahashi quickly.

Takahashi is a fine player. He has a very sound technical foundation. It was no accident that he beat me three times. Naturally I also had technical strength in winning the world title. As my techniques are similar to his, it is certainly "the brave who wins." This last match was indeed an ideological triumph.

One to three -- this I shall remember. Victory and defeat are nothing unusual. But when we sum up the experience and lessons from victory and defeat, they will tell us how to go forward.

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LISTEN AND THINK

[Following is the translation of an article by Hsu Yin-sheng (1776 1377 3932), in the Chinese-language periodical Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Peiping, No. 7, 14 June 1965, pages 25-26.]

There have been many comments about our table tennis teams. In dealing with these comments, our attitude is: Whether the comment is good or bad, we will listen to it and think about it. Good comments will not make us egoists. If the criticism is right, we will change. Derogatory words will not cause us to succumb to despondency.

At the 26th World Table Tennis Championships held in Peiping, we captured the titles in three events. Some foreigners then said: "You can win at home, but not abroad."

When the 27th World Table Tennis Championship was held in Prague, we again carried the day with first prizes in three events. It was then acknowledged in the world that we were truly good players.

At this time, more praises were showered on us. "The Chinese men players are invincible;" "the technique of the Chinese men's team has reached the zenith;" and "to the Chinese players, European players can only play second fiddle."

The saying that we have reached the zenith is a "theory of limit." We have not and shall not claim that we play the first fiddle. The winning of places in a contest is not predestined and will not last. When we win this time, we shall have to win again next time.

Some say: "To defend the title is much harder than to capture it. Let's see how long the silver cup will be held in Chinese hands."

To win, one places one's self in an active position. To defend, one is placed in a passive position. It is indeed more difficult to defend

than to win. When you win the championship, you become the "target of all." All will study ways and means of beating you.

What is even more dangerous is that we may carry a load on our backs which forms an ideological burden. But these problems are not untrans- formable if only we look at them from the viewpoint of dividing one into two.

At each new contest, we have to hand back the cup and then try to recapture it. It can be said that at each contest it is all a question of capturing. Others want to capture; so do we.

Viewing the question in this light, we shall have the initiative that we want. Why do we have to be on the defensive? Others study us and we can study them. If we expend more energy, we shall get ahead of others. Provided that we do not sink into blindness and keep ourselves awake on the question of championship, we shall not carry a burden. Indeed, our winning the championship shows that we have the experience of fighting a hard war and have the technical superiority for it. This, in turn, gives us a psychological superiority. We are feared by others. By taking advantage of these favorable factors, we shall move ahead from victory to victory.

When our women's team suffered its defeat at the last World Championships, unpleasant comments were made about it. "The Chinese girls are hopeless;" and "they always lose," etc.

But, hearing these, our women players were not downhearted. Nor did they admit defeat. Instead, they trained hard and were determined to win.

Chairman Mao said: "In a time of difficulty our comrades must see the achievements which they have made and their bright future. We must raise our courage." ("Serve the People," Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung, Vol. III, People's Publishing House, 1953 edition, p. 1004.)

These words gave them great encouragement. They recognized that the road before them was devious but their future was bright. They finally made it -- through hard work.

They fought a beautiful battle at the present World Championships. But then, different kinds of comments were made about them.

"You fielded surprise troops." This might be so. The surprising thing is that China had the courage to field four young players for the team championship. The surprising thing was that the Chinese women players used different styles of play and each defeated her opponent. The surprising thing was that Liang Li-chen and Li Ho-nan -- this pair of attackers who have won so many matches -- did not appear for the finale. Their place was taken by Cheng Min-chih and Lin Hui-ching. Above all, the

surprising thing is that China, which traditionally had adopted the penholder grip, has produced two handshake-grip players.

As a matter of fact, however, all this was not surprising at all. For, under the guidance of the thought of Mao Tse-tung and under given conditions, the human factor was brought into full play. Any miracle could be performed.

Some said: "You bet on chance." Not at all. We have figures in our heads. We do not say this because we have won. The truth is that we do not fight a battle for which we have not prepared ourselves.

For the past several years, our women players have been studying their opponents. They have summed up the experiences of victory and defeat. They trained with the "knowledge about their enemy." They did a lot of hard thinking about this contest. They trained for it in ordinary times too. They were confident of their ability to win the victory.

On the other hand, they took full account of the difficulties and made strenuous preparations for them. They concentrated fully on their matches and fought for every point.

Victory in sight does not mean victory gained. When they led by two to one, they still fought as if the score were still 0 to 0. In adopting such realistic tactics and not playing any tricky ones, what was the chance we bet on?

Of course, for such important matches, when two strong sides met, there was bound to be fierce competition. It would not be unrealistic to say that there was an element of chance here. But this chance was worth taking -- and one must dare to take it.

When our women players lost the singles title, some people said: "If the same players meet again, Japan will beat China."

It does some good to hear such comments, for they urge our women players not to pile up their pillows and sleep without worry. They must remain vigilant and ready to fight at any time.

A man always lives in the midst of comments by others. The question is how to deal with them. Some turn a deaf ear and refuse to listen. Others listen but refuse to draw on the positive factors and get rid of the negative ones.

When we have the teachings of the Party and the thought of Mao Tse-tung in command, we shall be able to draw a correct conclusion from these comments and turn them into strength for going forward.

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A LIST OF PLAYERS IN THE FINALS

Following is the translation of an article by Jung Kuo-t'uan (1369 0948 0957), and Sun Mei-ying (1327 2734 5391) in the Chinese-language periodical Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Peiping, No. 7, 14 June 1965, pages 27-28.

In the finals for the women's team championship, the Chinese team chose Lin Hui-ching and Cheng Min-chih, two handshake-grip players.

This took people by surprise before the battle was fought. They were even more startled when these two defeated the Japanese team, which had held the world title for eight years, with the impressive score of 3 - 0.

People said: "This was taking a chance."

In all our athletic lives, there has never been a match for which there was not some chance taking.

An important match is always keenly fought, to say nothing of the finals for the world championship. Chance taking is an objective existence and we must dare to take chances.

If we do not dare to take a chance, if we refuse to eat because of fear of hiccups, that is the act of a coward. But if we merely have the courage to take a chance without making preparations to turn it to good account -- that is the act of an adventurist.

The Chinese women players were determined to win honor for their motherland. Faced with strong opponents, they not only had the revolutionary courage to take a chance, but also made preparations for turning that chance to good account. Thus, chance taking does not pose any serious threat to us. We go to the match with full confidence in our triumph -- and we fight hard for it.

During the last two years our women players have been working hard and making fast progress. On the occasion of the invitation matches held in Peiping last year, our women's team lost. But after this trial of strength with the Japanese girls, we knew what we should do. Our seeded players already possessed the strength to fight a decisive battle with the Japanese team.

Which four players should be selected for the team championship? Lin Hui-ching, Liang Li-chen, and Li Ho-nan were quickly chosen. But who was to be the fourth? We had to choose between Ti Ch'ang-hua and Cheng Min-chih.

As we recalled, not long before the 27th World Table Tennis Championships, the fact that the women's team was in need of new players to take over from the old received serious consideration from the leadership. It picked a young and versatile handshake-grip player, Cheng Min-chih, for training as seeded player No. 5.

But after a period of observation, we felt that she was relatively inexperienced in various respects, particularly with regard to her thinking. If she were chosen for the team championship, she might take others by surprise -- but she might not be able to win.

Any surprise tactic which can not bring victory -- and victory is the supreme goal -- is not worth taking.

At this time, moreover, public opinion was in favor of Ti Ch'ang-hua.

Each of the two had her own special skill. But, judging by their play, Cheng Min-chih obviously held the edge in fighting against the Japanese team.

Cheng Min-chih had made great ideological progress during the last two years, but from time to time there was still fluctuation, which influenced the display of her skill.

For this reason, there was doubt in our minds. After consideration, the leadership decided to extend the period of observation for the two players before a final decision could be reached.

Cheng Min-chih is young and ambitious. She came forward to ask to take a heavy load. She wrote the leadership a note requesting to join the team championship matches.

Her determination aroused attention from us all. After repeated consideration and deliberations, the majority of our comrades favored her and the leadership approved her request.

She answered others' confidence in her with action. She trained harder than before, and hard training had all along been characteristic.

The purpose of her joining the team championship matches was clear: to fight against the Japanese team. With singleness of purpose and in all seriousness she went ahead with elaborate preparations. She often discussed them with Lin Hui-ching into late night, going over the various things which might possibly occur during the finals.

In drawing up the list of players for the team championship matches, we and Liang Yu-nung, Hsueh Wei-ch'u, and other coaches gave it all-round consideration.

The strategic arrangement for all the team championship matches was: Fight the European handshake-grip players with pen-holder grip players, and the Japanese pen-holder grip players with handshake-grip players. As regards whom we would choose for each match, we would make the decision in light of the concrete characteristics of the particular opponents.

In selecting players to fight against the Rumanian and Japanese teams, we worked out three separate plans under the principle of the general strategic arrangement. These plans were repeatedly studied and compared by the leadership and the final decision was made.

Making a choice was a long process of thought. This was because all of the four women players had the strength of fighting two decisive matches. Taking into full account such factors as their emotions and physical power during a match, it was very difficult to make any distinction between them.

But we knew that in arriving at a decision, a slight error might mean a world of difference. The leadership, the players, and we together considered this problem repeatedly and carefully and made a fine choice.

For the six matches for the women's team championships, Liang Li-chen and Li Ho-nan fought all along the way. Cheng Min-chih, after fighting in a double against the Soviet team, did not appear again. She was preparing for the finals.

That a player directly would enter the finals without fighting one or two hard matches in order to prepare herself was something rare for important matches. This was our courage and we also used this tactic to confuse the opponents.

Judging by the whole course of the team championship matches, Liang Li-chen and Li Ho-nan did the job of "drawing the dragon" while Lin Hui-ching and Cheng Min-chih were given the task of "drawing the dragon's eyes." Particularly in the case of Lin Hui-ching, her technique was

complete and her thinking was steady. It can be said that she is capable of taking on two important jobs at the same time.

The final list of players for the finals was decided upon after we concluded that choosing a pair of handshake-grip players might give us the technical as well as psychological superiority.

We could not do this without having a foundation of strength. Nor could we do so without the guidance of correct thinking. In a time of success we think of the teaching and training provided for us by the Party and the State. They have also provided us with the best spiritual and material conditions. This is the basic cause of our success.

We are happy and proud of the fact that we are living in this great era of Mao Tse-tung.

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