

A LETTER FROM COMRADE MAO TSE-TUNG TO COMRADE LIN PIAO

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(Reply to the report of the Rear Services General Headquarters of the Military Committee "Concerning Advancing the Carrying Out of Subsidiary Agricultural Production by the Troops.")

Comrade Lin Piao:

I have received the Rear Services report you sent on 6 May, and I think this plan is very good. Is it possible to send copies of this report to the various military districts, and to ask people there to gather together the cadres on the army and divisional levels to discuss this together and report their opinions to the Military Committee? Then the Central Committee could be informed as to what agreement had been reached, and then appropriate directives could be issued to the whole army. Please deliberate and come to a decision on this. Under conditions in which world war has not broken out, the army should be a great school, and even under the conditions of a third world war, it is also possible for it to become such a great school. Apart from fighting, there are also various tasks that may be done. During the eight years of World War Two, in every anti-Japanese base, did we not operate in this way? In this great school, one studies politics, military affairs, and culture. One can also do work in subsidiary agricultural production. It is also possible to run small or medium factories, and to produce a number of items the army needs itself, as well as products which may be bartered for other state products. It is also possible to work among the masses, and to participate in spreading the Four Purifications Movement in factories and farm communities. When the Four Purifications are completed, there is other appropriate work to be done with the masses, causing the army and the people to become one. Also, at appropriate times, the army must participate in the

struggle of the Cultural Revolution, criticizing the capitalist class. In this way, the classifications of army and students, army and peasants, army and workers, and army and people can be unified. But one must act appropriately, and there must be order in doing things. A military unit can only unite with one or two categories -- among peasants, workers, and people -- and cannot unite with all at the same time. In this way, the role played by several tens of millions of soldiers is a very great one.

In the same fashion, workers are in a similar situation. Having industrial work as their main task, they must also study military affairs, politics, and culture. They must also carry on the Four Purifications, and participate in criticism of the capitalist class. In places with suitable conditions, they will also do work in subsidiary agricultural production, as is the way in the Ta-ch'ing oilfields.

Peasants have agriculture as their main task (including forestry, animal husbandry, subsidiary work, and fishing), and also must study military affairs, politics, and culture. Under suitable conditions, they also must manage small factories, on a collective basis, and must criticize the capitalist class.

Students are in a similar situation, having study as their main task, but they must also study other things -- not only learning, but also industrial work, agriculture, and military affairs. They must also criticize the capitalist class. The academic curriculum must be abridged. There must be a revolution in education, and the phenomenon of control of our schools by capitalist class intellectuals cannot continue.

Those in commerce and those in the professions, and those working in governmental or Party organs, in all cases where there are suitable conditions, should also act in this way.

What I have spoken of above is not something brand new. It was discovered and created many years ago, and many people have already been acting in this way. It is just that it is still not widespread. As for the troops, they are already acting in this way, but they now just must develop this more.

Mao Tse-tung  
7 May 66.

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