

NEED FOR RESUMPTION OF CLASSES STRESSED
(26 November 1967)

[Full text of an editorial entitled "More on the Need for All Universities, Middle Schools, and Primary Schools to Resume Class and Carry Out Revolution."]

That "all universities, middle schools and primary schools must reopen class and carry out revolution" is the directive of Chairman Mao, of the Party's Central Committee. The broad masses of revolutionary students, revolutionary teachers, and revolutionary workers in schools all over the country actively let class resume and carry out revolution, take a new step forward along the avenue of proletarian revolution of education, and have achieved gladdening successes and preliminary experiences.

Firmly and unwaveringly implementing the directive of letting class resume and carrying out revolution is an important question in the unfolding of the proletarian revolution of education at present.

The Party's Central Committee points out that letting class resume and carrying out revolution means "carrying on with teaching-learning and reform side by side, implementing Chairman Mao's thought on revolution of education in the practice of teaching-learning, gradually proposing revolutionary plans for the educational system and for the contents of teaching-learning." The directive of the Party's Central Committee shows us the correct path for the proletarian revolution of education. Quite unlike what some people think, acting according to this directive is not any "restoration of the old" or "reformism."

Letting class resume and carrying out revolution means teaching in the course of criticism and refutation, learning in the course of criticism and refutation. It means putting the word "Demolition" first so that the word "Construction" is implicit in it. In other words, it is necessary thoroughly to criticize and refute, in the practice of teaching-learning, the revisionist line for education enforced by China's Khrushchev and by his agents on the educational front, to criticize and refute the bourgeois reactionary academic "authorities" thoroughly, and to create a brand new proletarian educational system. Such practice of teaching-learning is revolutionary practice, a great revolution on the educational front.

Chairman Mao teaches us in these terms: "Practice, knowledge, more practice, more knowledge; a pattern of cyclical repetition to infinity in which with each cycle the content of practice and knowledge reaches a higher level." Obviously, for the reform of the educational system, contents of teaching-learning, and methods of teaching-learning, it is essential that the masses be mobilized to carry out investigation and research continuously, and raise standards continuously. We must hail such a practice of carrying on with teaching-learning and reform side by side. We must hail the new things which have emerged from the practice of the revolution of education and which are being gradually perfected.

Young fighters of the Red Guards, do we not often say that we must grasp the main orientation of the struggle? Letting class resume and carrying out revolution is the main orientation of the struggle in the schools at present. In the schools at present all words and acts contrary to this main orientation are wrong and must be cleared up.

The proletarian revolution of education is an undertaking without parallel in history. Hard work is needed. In this, we must do exactly what Lenin said, namely, "We must carry out this work with all our energy. We must have patience, perseverance, determination, and judgment and be good at making repeated experiments and improvements. Nor shall we rest until the objective is achieved." Nothing will be accomplished by empty thoughts divorced from reality or if people passively wait until everything is thoroughly reformed before letting class resume or are unwilling to carry out penetrating criticism and refutation, do serious practice and research, and pay a price in arduous labor.

Chairman Mao points out in his latest directive, "the proletarian revolution of education must depend on the broad masses of revolutionary students, revolutionary teachers, and revolutionary workers in the schools, on the activists among them, i.e., on those proletarian revolutionaries who are determined to carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end." For this reason, so that class may be resumed and revolution carried out, it is essential that the masses be fully mobilized, their opinions be listened to, those revolutionary teachers and cadres who are willing to carry out revolution be allowed to come forward, and revolutionary great alliance and revolutionary triple combination be realized and consolidated.

The Party's Central Committee points out, "The majority of the teachers and cadres in all schools are good or relatively good. Excluding the landlords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries, bad elements, and rightists, some have committed mistakes. Provided they recognize and correct their mistakes, they should be allowed to come forward to work." That the broad masses of revolutionary teachers and cadres, together with revolutionary students and revolutionary workers, have plunged themselves into the practice of the proletarian revolution of education, using "combating selfishness, criticizing and refuting revisionism" as the key link, is a new phenomenon that has appeared in the great proletarian cultural revolution. It must not be confused with the phenomenon of our schools being ruled by bourgeois intellectuals. We should warmly welcome them, trust them, and support them.

The proletarian revolution of education is a struggle on the educational front between two classes, two lines, and two kinds of world outlook. The small handful of capitalist roaders in the Party, the bourgeois reactionary academic "authorities," and the force of old habits are bound to resist and undermine it in all conceivable ways. All types of petty bourgeois ideas within our ranks will also interfere with the correct orientation which is to let class resume and carry out revolution. A high degree of vigilance must be maintained about this.