

GLORIOUS TASKS OF THE COMBAT HEROES AND MODEL WORKERS

September 25, 1950

Honourable Combat Heroes and Model Workers,

Today you are gathered here in the capital of our People's Republic for your grand conferences of combat heroes and of model workers, both of which are of a mass character. That these conferences are taking place is due to the long struggle waged by the Chinese working people under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, to your heroic deeds and exemplary achievements and to the efforts you made together with the rest of the Chinese people. Therefore, your conferences are of very great significance and should be written down in the history of the Chinese people's struggle as exceptional and memorable occasions.

Some of you are combat heroes from the field armies; some are heroes from the local people's militia units and model figures from the various localities in supporting the army fighting at the front; others are model workers from factories, mines and the rural areas. You have inherited the brave and industrious traditions of the Chinese people. In the great People's War of Liberation (1946-49) and in our difficult national construction, you have yourselves worked tirelessly, displaying patriotism, revolutionary heroism and creativeness, and you have led the broad masses in fulfilling whatever tasks assigned by the state. Your efforts have been crowned with significant successes and have produced remarkable results. Here we extend to you our welcome — and our thanks.

Although we have won great victories in the Chinese revolution, our War of Liberation remains unfinished and our construction work

A speech delivered at a joint meeting of representatives of combat heroes and model workers in industry, agriculture and the army who were attending their respective national conferences. Its text first appeared in *Renmin Ribao (People's Daily)* on September 26, 1950.

has just begun. So we are still faced with great and difficult tasks: We must wipe out the remaining bandits in the country, liberate all our territory including Taiwan and Tibet and build a modern army of national defence to oppose aggression and safeguard peace. At the same time, we must increase production and work for economic prosperity in order to turn a backward, agricultural China into a highly-productive industrial country. In face of such arduous tasks, we cannot in the least afford to relax our efforts. On the contrary, all of us — and our politically aware heroes and model workers in particular — should voluntarily take on these great and glorious tasks that have been made so much heavier for us.

At present the U.S. imperialists are frenziedly waging an aggressive war in an attempt to dominate the entire world and enslave all people of good will. A few months ago, they launched an aggressive war against our friendly neighbour Korea and encroached on our territory Taiwan that awaits liberation. More recently they belligerently sent planes to violate our sacred air space and strafe our innocent and peaceful inhabitants. This series of events indicates that the U.S. imperialists are not going to slacken their aggression against the Chinese people. In such circumstances, although we Chinese people are a consistently peace-loving people, we must, for the independence of our motherland and the freedom and development of our nation, remain unfailingly vigilant against the adventurist acts of the imperialists and be amply prepared at all times to defend our territory and sovereignty. The experiences China and other countries have gained in their revolutions during the past decades fully support the truth that only by building powerful people's armed forces and resolutely opposing counter-revolutionary wars launched from inside or outside a country can the freedom of a nation and the peaceful life and well-being of a people be secured. The task before us, therefore, is to build a modern army of national defence, an army that is powerful enough to repulse the attacks of any aggressor. Only thus can we defend the fruits of our victory and the peaceful construction now in progress.

To build a modern army of national defence, we must create adequate material and political conditions. The material conditions are to be guaranteed mainly by our country's planned production and the strong support of our entire people, while the political conditions are to be provided by our comrades in the military. Being armed forces of the people's revolution with firm revolutionary and mass view-

points, our People's Liberation Army always enjoys high combat morale and its ranks are filled with revolutionary heroism. Countless heroes have sprung from among them, heroes who are staunch, courageous, and unswerving in the face of difficulties, faithful at all times in serving the people and ready to sacrifice their lives for the revolution. They have performed numerous moving and immortal deeds of heroism. We should fully study and publicize their deeds and conduct a more intensive education in patriotism and revolutionary heroism in our army by citing these stirring deeds. On this basis we should launch a widespread campaign for rendering meritorious service so as to further improve the quality of all our fighters and accelerate the development of our army. This is a most important task that must be fulfilled in building our army. It should be understood that, if our army has modern equipment and if its men who use such equipment are heroes utterly devoted to the revolution and possessing revolutionary heroism, then it will be worthy of being called a rock-firm, invincible army. With such an army we can protect the peaceful life and well-being of the Chinese people and ultimately eliminate war.

We are now undertaking a great national construction. We are going to build a new, prosperous and powerful country on the ruins of the past reactionary regime. We are going to rehabilitate and increase our industrial and agricultural production. We are going to produce steel and iron, machinery, grain and cotton and other daily necessities to meet our needs. During the past year, our government has exerted great efforts in organizing this work and our model workers have worked out different ways for advancing and improving it. Our efforts have achieved results, but they are still far from equalling the actual demand. We have to achieve more and better results. For this purpose, we must popularize this movement of model workers extensively, making it a movement with a much broader mass basis. Only thus can we achieve greater successes in production and construction.

Honourable combat heroes and model workers! Your efforts have won the respect of the people and the love of the nation. Glory is yours. But you must not become conceited or relax your efforts. The cause of people's liberation requires protracted and arduous struggle. To preserve your glorious titles of hero and model worker, you will need to fortify your revolutionary will to serve the people all your lives, always follow the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Zedong, be on guard against conceit and impetuosity, learn from the

masses with an open mind, continue to raise your abilities and always remain close to the masses while leading them in doing their work well and fulfilling with flying colours the tasks assigned by the state.

Success to your conferences! Good health to you all!