

MAY DAY ADDRESS

April 29, 1950

Comrades,

With great elation we celebrate the first May Day after the founding of the People's Republic of China. In the past, the majority of Chinese working people outside the liberated areas not only did not enjoy government protection but were strictly prohibited by the reactionary government from celebrating their own festival. They spent their holiday under the watchful eyes of reactionary troops, secret agents and police and in self-sacrificing struggle. Today, as the Chinese working people celebrate May Day, the situation is entirely different. The Central People's Government has decided that May Day should be one of the most important official festivals⁴ and has directed factories, mills, government institutions, schools and People's Liberation Army troops to observe the day as a holiday. The people's troops and police, instead of preventing the people from holding celebrations and parades, will themselves join in. It is the duty of the People's Government to protect the labouring people and ensure that they celebrate their own May Day in an easy and cheerful atmosphere. In other words, this is the first time in history that the majority of the Chinese working people can celebrate their own holiday in freedom and joy and under the protection of their own government. How can we here and the Chinese labouring people in other parts of the country fail to be proud and elated by all this?

Comrades, what does this change mean?

It means that the great Chinese people's revolution is victorious, that the labouring people of China have been liberated, that the re-

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gime of the reactionary classes that oppressed us and despised the labouring people has been overthrown by the people's forces, and that the labouring people have established a people's regime with themselves as its mainstay. This is the first and greatest victory of the Chinese labouring people in history. We celebrate this greatest victory! We celebrate May 1, Labour Day, of 1950! We celebrate the liberation of the Chinese labouring people!

Comrades, why is May Day worthy of such solemn celebration by our country and our people?

It is because man's world and man himself are the creation of labour. Labour is the foundation on which human society exists and develops. Workers are the creators of civilization. Therefore, labour must command the highest respect in the world, workers must command the highest respect in the world, and Labour Day must become a day most deserving of celebration by our people and our country. Labour Day is a festival of solidarity between us workers and all other labouring people, a festival of international solidarity of the workers and other labouring people throughout the world. On this day we must with solemn ceremony honour all that the workers have created, celebrate all that the workers have achieved by their labour, thank the workers for all the means of production and subsistence and the means of enjoyment of culture and art they give to mankind, and inspire the people to higher enthusiasm for further labour and creation. At the same time, we give our fraternal salute, with the greatest enthusiasm, to the working class and labouring people of all the other countries in the world, first and foremost the working class and labouring people of the Soviet Union!

The Chinese people's revolution is victorious and the Chinese working people have been liberated, but the idea and habit of paying respect to the social parasites who never work but live on the labour of others and of despising work and workers have existed for thousands of years in Chinese society and are still there. We must resolve to wipe out these utterly mistaken notions and habits that have done great injustice to the working people. We must give the labouring people the honour due to them, especially the labour heroes and inventors who have made important inventions and innovations in their work, and we must show our just contempt for the social parasites who never work but live on others. This is one of our new moral standards.

The change that is now taking place in our country and occurred much earlier in the Soviet Union and the people's democracies is really the greatest change in the history of mankind. Like the people of the Soviet Union, the Chinese people will complete the change step by step and, by their own labour, will gradually approach a future of boundless splendour themselves. There are perhaps at present quite a number of people who do not perceive the great significance of this change, but as time goes on, they will realize more and more clearly the magnificent prospect that is opened up by the change that is beginning now in our country. Clearly this great change and the creation of a magnificent future are possible only under the leadership of the working class and the Communist Party. Because of this change, the Chinese working class has become the leading class in the country, and precisely because the working class has become the leading class and is carrying out its historic mission under the leadership of the Communist Party, it is able to unite with the people throughout the country and ensure the transition of the country to a state of wealth, strength and prosperity and the gradual transition from new democracy to socialism.

But, comrades, while we celebrate the people's victory and see the future of unlimited splendour, we must not ignore the temporary difficulties we are confronted with. The remaining Kuomintang reactionaries are still clinging to Taiwan, Zhoushan, Jinmen and other islands. Aided by U.S. imperialists, they are bombing our cities and blockading our seaports. Our troops must, therefore, pursue the campaigns to liberate Zhoushan,⁵ Jinmen and Taiwan and must also advance into Tibet.⁶ We must wipe out the large numbers of Kuomintang bandits in the newly liberated areas in the rear. At the same time, millions of victims of natural disasters that swept several provinces last year must be given huge amounts of grain by the state. As our national economic system used to be semi-colonial in nature and could not stand on its own feet, depending for its survival on imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism and working in their service, besides being seriously undermined by prolonged war, naturally great pains and efforts are required to heal the wounds of war and transform the national economic system into one that is independent, relying on the people and serving the people. Precisely because the old economic order has already been destroyed and a new order is not yet established, serious dislocation and anarchy have emerged in various economic undertakings. The current price stability has resulted

in temporary slow sales and the need to reduce production for certain enterprises that experienced a false and superficial prosperity during the past twelve years of inflation and rocketing prices. As a result of these objective difficulties and certain shortcomings and errors in our own work, a number of workers have become unemployed and certain difficulties have arisen for industrial and commercial enterprises. The government and people of all circles should jointly try to overcome these difficulties and they can assuredly overcome them.

Why do I say this?

Because they are difficulties that have occurred in the course of victory and progress, and victory and progress contain within themselves all the factors for overcoming the difficulties. If we can skillfully use these factors and create the necessary conditions, we can overcome the difficulties. Hence, our difficulties are temporary.

For the present we do, indeed, have difficulties. This is known to all. But by analysing the present situation, we can clearly see that some of the basic conditions for the development of China's economy and industry have already been created and others are being created. We thus have sufficient confidence that we shall overcome the present difficulties and gradually improve the situation. I shall now list some of these basic conditions:

1. Imperialism has been driven out of China and the many prerogatives enjoyed by imperialists in China have been abolished. The customs policy and foreign trade policy of New China have become an important means of safeguarding the development of industry. That is to say, the key to China's front door is in our own pockets instead of in the pockets of the imperialists and their running dogs, as was formerly the case. From now on China's industry will not suffer from the competition of the cheap commodities of the imperialists. China's raw materials will first of all supply the needs of its own industry. This clears away one of the biggest obstacles that has hindered the development of China's industry for the past hundred years.

2. The people's war of liberation is coming to a victorious end. The People's Liberation Army recently landed successfully on Hainan Island in spite of the enemy's strong fortifications and routed a large number of enemy troops. The experience in liberating the whole island — which will soon be completed — can therefore be applied to operations against Taiwan and other islands occupied by the enemy. After the liberation of Taiwan, enemy bombing and blockade will naturally come to an end. The state's military and administrative

spending will be reduced considerably, and it will be possible to increase greatly the volume of investment in economic reconstruction. Our country will turn completely onto the path of economic development. All this we can clearly foresee.

Today the Northeast is already turned to economic reconstruction. In 1950 the Northeast People's Government,⁷ in addition to providing the Central People's Government with 2.6 million tons of coarse food grain to support the war, remedy food shortages in deficiency areas and develop production, has set aside in its budget the equivalent of 3.99 million tons of grain (calculated in terms of millet south of the Great Wall) for investment in economic undertakings in the Northeast. According to the report of Gao Gang, Chairman of the Northeast People's Government, industrial production in that area amounted in 1949 to 35 per cent of the gross industrial and agricultural output. In 1950 it will increase to 43 per cent. The industrial production of public enterprises in the Northeast this year will be 193 per cent of the previous year, and agricultural production will be 137 per cent. In 1949 the number of workers employed in northeastern public enterprises increased by 240,000. The real wages of the workers increased an average of 27 per cent. In 1950 the state will receive in profits and depreciation from northeastern state-run enterprises an amount equal to almost half the total revenue of the area. The burdens of the Northeast peasants were lightened in 1949, compared with 1948, and will be further lightened in 1950. Private industry and commerce in the Northeast also developed. For instance, the number of private industrial enterprises in Shenyang increased by 23 per cent in 1949. The number of workers employed in these enterprises increased by 18 per cent. There are now no unemployed workers in the area, and a shortage of labour power is beginning to be felt. The living standard of the people there is beginning to improve. The demand for all sorts of consumer goods has greatly increased, and the market has greatly expanded. What has happened in the Northeast will also happen in areas south of the Great Wall in the not too distant future. This shows that future prospects for development of China's economy and industry are unusually bright.

Apart from the Northeast, people in the vast areas south of the Great Wall have now begun to turn to economic reconstruction. The People's Government is reviving key branches of the economy. In 1950 the Central People's Government invested the equivalent of 3.93 million tons of grain in economic undertakings. Investments both north

and south of the Great Wall add up to 7.92 million tons of grain, or approximately US\$700 million. Besides, the state bank is extending big loans to public and private enterprises. The People's Government is making these investments and loans under the difficult conditions of war and natural disasters. So, when the war ends, finance and prices become completely stable and military and administrative expenditures are greatly reduced, it will not be hard to tell how vast the amount of capital the state will be able to invest in economic undertakings. Without doubt, this will promote swift rehabilitation and development of the economy.

3. Land reform has been completed in northeast and north China, except for Suiyuan Province.⁸ In Henan Province and some other areas it will also be completed this year. In the newly liberated areas land reform⁹ will begin this autumn in accordance with the decree of the People's Government. It will basically be completed throughout the country within the next two to three years. Then the productive forces of the rural areas will be emancipated, which will subsequently serve to provide an adequate supply of grain and raw materials to the cities and solve the problem of markets for industrial development. Taking northeast China for example again, sale of cloth was 800,000 bolts in 1947, 1.2 million in 1948, 3.2 million in 1949, and it is expected to reach 9 million bolts in 1950, 2.5 million bolts having been sold during the first quarter of 1950. In other words, after land reform the peasants' production has increased, their standard of living improved, their purchasing power risen markedly and the market for industrial goods expanded considerably. We have created or are now creating the fundamental and important conditions for stimulating industrial development. After the completion of land reform and after two or three reasonably good harvests, the shrunken purchasing power in the rural areas will revive swiftly and will gradually increase, so that industry and commerce in the urban areas will flourish. This is beyond any shadow of doubt.

4. At the present time the financial and economic work of the state has been unified, state revenue and expenditure are approaching balance (it is most likely that complete balance will be attained before long) and banking and prices will soon become stabilized. This is in the interest of the overwhelming majority of the people throughout the country. Apart from the victories won by the People's Liberation Army at the front, this is the greatest achievement scored in favour of the people by the Central People's Government since its establish-

ment. Historically, China's finance and economy were never unified. Nor were state revenue and expenditure balanced for many decades, so that the reactionary governments had to issue huge amounts of banknotes and contract enormous domestic and foreign loans every year for survival. Financial and price stability has been unknown in China for the past twelve years and the people have paid heavily for losses occasioned by inflation. The People's Government, however, adopted important measures and attained the results mentioned above within a very short time, under conditions of war that is still going on and of natural disasters and imperialist blockade. This is something that no reactionary government could possibly achieve and that in fact could be achieved only by a genuine people's government. It proves that our slogan for the unification of China is not an empty slogan but one full of serious political, military and economic content. It is an extremely important step forward for our country, which has helped create the conditions for the rehabilitation and development of all legitimate industrial, commercial and other productive undertakings, so that capital will not be used for speculation or squandered in inflation, but will be used for those undertakings.

Naturally, some hardships and difficulties are bound to arise in this new, progressive situation. They are like labour pains before childbirth. In order to balance the budget and stabilize prices, the People's Government has had to be very strict about collecting taxes in cash or in kind, issuing state bonds¹⁰ and cutting expenses. Otherwise, it would have meant further inflation and fluctuation of commodity prices. But strict collection of taxes and issuance of state bonds have added to the burdens of some of the people in rural and urban areas and led to difficulties for many. In order to save expenses, several million military personnel and government functionaries have to continue to live under a frugal supply system, which has made it impossible or nearly impossible for them to look after their families, many of whom have to lead a hard, half famished life. Thus difficulties have arisen for them, too. This is one expression of labour pains. Thanks to these pains, a new situation has been brought about in which the financial budget is approaching balance and commodity prices tend to be stable. Stability of prices has put to an end hoarding that was prevailing in the past, and consequently speculators have to put on the market the goods they hoarded. Many consumers who bought and stored considerable quantities of goods at a time of inflation do not have to buy any more for the time being, even though they

have money in hand. Instead they keep their money in their pockets or deposit it in the bank. As a result, commodities cannot be sold quickly, and prices have to go down. Cash deposits in the banks increase by a wide margin and the banks find nobody to lend the money to. A number of factories are suffering from overproduction and many shops find no outlets for their stocks of goods. They find it difficult to keep going, so some of the workers become unemployed. Such hardships and difficulties inevitably arise when commodity prices become stable; they are unavoidable.

In the new situation some pain and hardship might certainly be reduced if all the doctors and assistants in the maternity hospital, that is, the People's Government, were first-rate and if there were sufficient facilities and medicines for midwifery. Unfortunately, not all the doctors and assistants in the hospital are first-rate and not all the necessary facilities and medicines are present. In pursuing various creative activities these "doctors" must work and study at the same time, gradually drawing conclusions from their experience and accumulating it. Hence, the hardships and difficulties that could otherwise have been avoided. In other words, they are caused by shortcomings and errors made by many of our comrades in their work. Serious efforts must be made to correct them. We hope that people will criticize the work of the government and make suggestions, so as to help government functionaries correct their shortcomings and mistakes and thus reduce unwarranted hardships and difficulties.

Yes, there are shortcomings and mistakes, and hardships and difficulties. But, after all, a new situation has emerged in which revenue and expenditure are approaching balance and prices tend to become stable. Comrades! Countrymen of all circles! Let's grit our teeth, continue to exert ourselves, and the critical phase will be over in due course. Our hardships and difficulties are a temporary phenomenon, and this is beyond doubt.

5. The international conditions are also favourable for our development. When the war is over and the country is unified, we shall urgently need a peaceful environment for economic development. In our relations with other countries, the People's Government will, of course, earnestly pursue a policy of peace and work to defend world peace side by side with the Soviet Union and the people's democracies. It is unequivocally clear that the imperialists are extremely hostile to the Chinese people who have won liberation. The American imperialists are still helping the Chiang Kai-shek gang in Taiwan in all

sorts of conspiratorial and disruptive activities against New China. Therefore, people throughout the country and the People's Liberation Army must enhance their vigilance, resolve to liberate Taiwan, consolidate national defence and be prepared to counter any possible imperialist provocation. However, the imperialists' aggressive front, headed by the United States, has already met and will continue to meet with resolute resistance of all peace-loving people throughout the world. The strength of the peace and democracy front, headed by the Soviet Union, has seen unprecedented growth. Should the imperialists dare to stage a provocation and run the risk of launching a war, the result will be the complete doom of the imperialist system. Now that the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance has been signed,¹¹ we have acquired a powerful ally. As Chairman Mao Zedong said, this will free our hands to carry out construction work. Besides, we have received low-interest loans and the help of specialists from the Soviet Union, and we are going to conduct economic co-operation with the Soviet Union in a number of undertakings that we are not able to start ourselves in the near future. This will help reduce the difficulties arising from our lack of capital and experience.

Thanks to these favourable conditions, we shall, without doubt, be able to overcome the present difficulties one by one and gradually improve the economic situation after going through a short period of hardship and bring about a fundamental change for the better in two or three years.

From this analysis we can see clearly what the present tasks and the direction of effort of the Chinese people should be. In the thirty-eight slogans it issued for May Day, the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party has clearly and correctly posed the tasks for all fronts and I shall explain a few things about the following tasks.

1. Liberation of Taiwan and Tibet, elimination of bandits and enemy agents, and consolidation of national defence.

People's Liberation Army troops at the front should prepare for the campaign to liberate Tibet and Taiwan and other enemy-occupied islands and thus end the nationwide war. The PLA troops operating in the rear area and public security organizations and troops must, as swiftly as possible, wipe out all bandits and enemy agents and maintain public order, so as to enable the people to engage in production with peaceful minds. At the same time they should engage in

production, learn to read and write, raise the level of their military skills and consolidate national defence. These are the first and foremost demands of the people at the present moment. People all over the country, including people of Taiwan and Tibet, should do their best to support and co-operate with the People's Liberation Army in fulfilling these glorious tasks. And here we want to say a few words to the Kuomintang generals on Taiwan and other islands and to the rulers of Tibet: Stop your futile resistance immediately, sever all relations with the imperialists and send representatives to negotiate with the People's Liberation Army. Either come over to the side of the People's Liberation Army or lay down your arms in co-ordination with its operations to liberate these places. Only by doing this will it be possible for the People's Government to pardon your past crimes and will you have the barest reason for asking the People's Government to forgive your past and observe your future actions. This is your last chance to obtain the people's pardon.

2. Readjustment of industry and commerce and the relations between public and private enterprises.

In accordance with the Common Programme¹² and the directions of Chairman Mao Zedong, the Central People's Government will take certain concrete measures to readjust industry and commerce and the relations between public and private enterprises, so as to facilitate the organization and planning of the economic life of our country under the present circumstances, put the relations between public and private enterprises and between different branches of enterprises on the right track and overcome anarchy. The People's Government should assist private productive enterprises that can carry on and are beneficial to the national economy and people's well-being but are facing difficulties. The owners and workers of these enterprises, on their part, should do everything in their power to keep their enterprises going, pending improvement in the conditions. It is extremely important for state institutions and enterprises to centralize and allocate all the orders for goods and for processing of materials in the most appropriate manner, in order to readjust industry and commerce and the relations between public and private enterprises and overcome the present difficulties. Since the amount of these orders and volume of processing are enormous, defects and losses have often occurred owing to lack of proper centralization and allocation. Our military and government departments and enterprises are expected to do all they can to draw up systematic budgets of orders and processing for given periods,

especially for orders and processing in large amounts, and hand them to the industrial, commercial and trading institutions, together with their own suggestions. At the same time, the industrial, commercial and trading institutions in different places, on their part, should ask the local public and private productive enterprises to submit factual reports on the conditions of production. They should investigate these conditions and report to their superiors. This will make it possible for our central industrial, commercial and trading institutions properly to centralize and allocate the various state orders for goods and for processing of materials and to readjust production of all enterprises. On the one hand, this can help state institutions avoid certain unnecessary losses and, on the other, regulate the market and readjust production, extend relief to many productive enterprises facing difficulties and stimulate the development of new productive enterprises. In regard to state orders for goods and for processing of materials, it is necessary to give consideration to industries and commerce in Shanghai that are facing particular difficulties.

3. Shift of certain enterprises to other products and the way out for private capital.

There is no future for enterprises that used to serve imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism, such as those making high-grade consumer goods and goods used for superstitious purposes or for businesses dealing in commercial speculation, and financial businesses dealing in usury and stock market speculation. All these enterprises should switch to manufacture other products. Some enterprises suffering from temporary overproduction, such as the ones making cigarettes, matches and soap, have to reduce production temporarily or turn to make other products. Others have to make substantial changes and turn out things to suit the needs of the peasants before they can expand their market. Moreover, because speculation has ceased, large sums of idle capital are available in society for production. Fundamentally, these are favourable phenomena without doubt. On the other hand, they will doubtless cause some pain. Reduction of output, suspension of production and shift to other products will inevitably cost some workers their jobs and force others to change their occupation. People are already asking, "I am willing to change to another trade, but where to? Will the People's Government please tell me what enterprises one may operate?" This is a good question. In order to answer each question like this concretely and precisely, concrete investigation and study must be conducted beforehand. I

can here reply only along general lines. That is, all enterprises may be operated that properly serve the needs of the people, especially the needs of the peasants, and that cannot at present be operated by the state or, though put into operation, are still few in number. Communications and transport enterprises, undertakings in the service of the economic departments that the state is concentrating efforts to restore, and medical enterprises may also be operated. In addition, people may set up private enterprises to exploit and extract certain special minerals, build certain factories and power stations, with which the state will sign contracts under appropriate conditions. At present the People's Government does not forbid individuals to set up enterprises that are beneficial to the people but do not hold sway over the national economy and people's well-being. So, private enterprises will have a wide scope of operation. Certain inappropriate competition between state enterprises and private productive enterprises and inappropriate ordering for goods and for processing of materials should be set right in the course of readjusting industry and commerce. Labour-capital relations may also be directed into normal channels by labour legislation of the state, collective contracts and labour-capital consultative organs. Hence, private capital is not without a way out. Of course, private enterprises should be conducted honestly and entrepreneurs should spare no capital or efforts in the operation of the enterprises that are truly beneficial to the national economy and people's well-being. The People's Government will provide them with the necessary facilities and guidance so as to keep them from acting blindly and help them succeed in their undertakings.

4. Relief for people affected by natural disasters and unemployment.

Thanks to the efforts made by the People's Government and the people to transport grain, we can say with certainty that food supplies this year are adequate. The wheat harvest is only about forty days away. The present moment is critical for relief work, and therefore relief workers should not hold in reserve the relief grain sent to them by the government; they should distribute it swiftly in accordance with the policy of organizing the people in the affected areas to help themselves in production, thus enabling them to tide over the difficult period. Thanks to the efforts of the people themselves and large-scale organizational work of the People's Government, we are certain to get through this year's period of famine without an iota of relief grain from other countries. Having helped the Chiang Kai-shek gang

to kill several millions of Chinese people, the American imperialists suddenly became philanthropic and said they would come here to help relieve the people in affected areas. Their purpose is to conduct subversive activities among the people there. The Chinese people welcome really well intentioned assistance from abroad, but as to the “good intentions” of the imperialists, we have had enough. We do not need these people to conduct subversive activities here.

Since certain economic enterprises have to reduce the number of their workers, suspend work or switch to the manufacture of other products, all possible relief must be given to unemployed workers in big cities — this is absolutely necessary and must be done without delay. The Central People’s Government has decided to allot a certain amount of grain and money and, at the same time, has asked industrialists and merchants, as well as workers in employment, to contribute some money as a relief fund for unemployed workers. The Ministry of Labour of the Central People’s Government is now drafting measures for the relief of unemployed workers and is preparing to set up relief departments and employment agencies for unemployed workers in all big cities. Before the measures are made public, temporary relief measures may and should be taken in Shanghai and some other cities. Former governments of China never helped unemployed workers, but the People’s Government, although it is still confronted with difficulties, is working out practical relief measures for unemployed workers and will carry them out.

5. Future land reform.

Land reform should be carried out this autumn in newly liberated areas where preparatory work has been done, but the areas involved should not be too many. Now that victory has basically been won, only landlords’ land and much public land should be confiscated and distributed in land reform to peasants who have little or no land. Landlords will also be given a similar share and the rich peasants’ land and property should be kept intact. Other property of the landlords will not be subject to confiscation and distribution, with the exception of the means of production needed by the peasants. These points will be incorporated in the provisions of the new agrarian law. On the basis of past experience, land reform should be carried out under guidance, with preparations made beforehand, and in good order. Disorder will not be permitted. Therefore, we must not be over-anxious to complete land reform in all the newly liberated areas, but must stagger it. If land reform can be basically completed through-

out the country in three years, that will be very quick and a big success.

6. Conscientious correction of shortcomings and errors, and training of cadres.

Since the field armies of the People's Liberation Army began to advance to the south and the northwest on April 20 last year, all parts of the Chinese mainland, except Tibet, and more than 300 million population have been liberated within this very brief period. The territory under our control is vast and work in various fields is heavy and complicated. We are short of experienced cadres but have large numbers of new cadres. All this, plus the lack of time for training, has led to many shortcomings and errors in the course of attaining great achievements. We must take an overall view of the question. That is, we should see both the achievements and the shortcomings and errors in our work, both the hard work and the defects on the part of the cadres. Underestimation of any aspect should be avoided. Now people throughout the country are acclaiming our achievements and at the same time demanding that we correct the shortcomings and errors that have already occurred. We should face these shortcomings and errors squarely and correct them. The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party has decided to conduct criticism and self-criticism¹³ and to train cadres.¹⁴ After these steps have been taken, we believe our shortcomings and errors will be corrected.

The most fatal among our mistakes is that of arbitrarily enforcing orders. We have a considerable number of cadres who, although striving to fulfill the tasks assigned to them by the state and the Party, do not take the trouble to execute them according to the policies of the state and the Party. They do not try to fulfill those tasks within the strict confines of the policies of the state and the Party. Instead, they adopt a crude manner of work, taking no heed of the actual conditions and feasibilities, unwilling to consult local people earnestly, just trying to fulfill the tasks mechanically. The result is that they have fulfilled their tasks, but the people have suffered entirely unwarranted losses. Arbitrary orders are enforced in levying public grain, collecting taxes and selling state bonds to such a serious extent that it has roused the dissatisfaction of many people. Unless we set right this practice, we shall divorce ourselves from the masses. We shall soon carry out agrarian reform over a vast territory, and it will be difficult for us to succeed in the work if we do not start training cadres immediately.

The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party has every year emphasized the need to correct such an erroneous work

style among its cadres, but even after it has been corrected repeatedly, it may recur. The Party now has a membership of more than four million, nearly half of whom have joined the Party for just two and a half years, two years, one year or even a few months. During the past year or so we have taken over large numbers of old personnel to work in government institutions. In this entirely new situation we are required to undertake large-scale training immediately, first of all the training of cadres. The main task will be to review our work and correct any authoritarian work style, then to correct other mistakes and shortcomings.

Comrades! After we have improved our work style, our shortcomings and mistakes are fewer, and we do our work better, then we can better unite with people throughout the country, enhance their enthusiasm, further increase their strength, more quickly enable our country and people to tide over the present difficulties, and create a bright future. All these are the objectives we set for ourselves as we celebrate May Day this year.

Long live May Day — the great day of unity of the labouring people throughout China and throughout the world!

Long live the unity and co-operation of all nationalities, all democratic classes, all democratic parties, and all people's organizations in China!