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BELOVED PREMIER CHOU CAME TO THE LAUNCHING SITE.(U)
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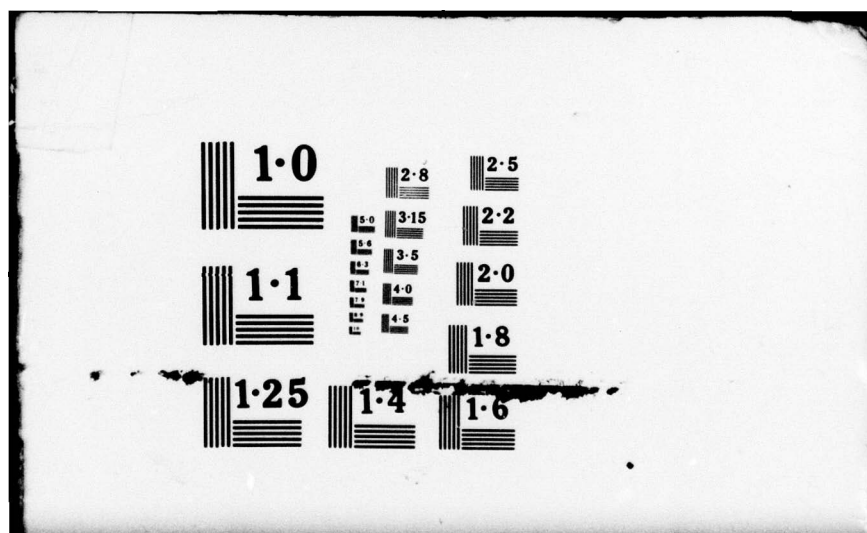
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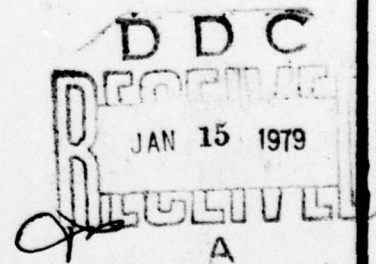
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FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION



BELOVED PREMIER CHOU CAME TO THE LAUNCHING SITE



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Beloved Premier Chou Came to the Launching Site

Defense Department, Science Commission, A Certain Troop

Sometimes, nothing exciting happens; the days pass us by just like a stream flowing in front of us. Other times, sky-rocking and earth-shaking events take place, embedding everlasting memories in our hearts. March 5 -- the 80th birthday of our beloved Premier Chou reminds us of a series of unforgettable events

In the summer of 1965, Premier Chou passed through our troop's station for the fourth time. In the summer of 1966, Premier Chou personally visited our troop again.

That was 12 years ago.

The pointed scientific-technological work for our nation's defense, an utmost concern of Premier Chou, is now growing rapidly.

The series of directives laid down by the Premier already became the great driving force for our advancement, encouraging us to climb the peaks of science and technology for defense.

On June 30, 1966, when the cultural revolution was starting out with enthusiasms all over the country, Premier Chou himself visited our troop. On that bright sunny day, the Premier came with us to the launching site, not minding the fatigue from his long air journey. The giant missile stood upright on the launching pad. With a streak of flame, the missile shot up to the blue sky. Premier Chou stood up from his seat, looked up, and watched intensely at the test. When the test succeeded, the Premier applauded heavily and congratulated us. His loud laughers deeply impressed everyone at the site.

Premier Chou always cared about our work. In the past ten years or so, the Premier personally watched over the progress from our site selection to organization, and from planning to construction, promptly giving directions when needed. On the night before any important test, the Premier himself would listen to all the reports, paying attention to every detail from contemplation to techniques, from small operations to critical data, and from safety of the people to international influences. When we executed the launching of guided missiles with nuclear warheads, Premier Chou demanded that the performance be "serious and careful, comprehensive and detailed, safe and reliable, and fail-proof". These words essentially comprise the interaction of the revolutionary spirits, the scientific attitude, and the meticulous style, and set up a performance standard for our work.

Premier Chou's demand on us was rather strict. But this old man's demand on himself was even stricter. For many years, regardless of ^{an} icy cold winter or flaming hot summer condition, whether it was an all-quiet night or pre-dawn, whenever there was an important testing job going on, our Premier was always next to the telephone ...

We will never forget that, in mid April of 1970, when our nation's first artificial earth satellite was just about to be launched, Premier Chou instructed us "to be serious and careful, to overlook nothing, to examine and check even every screw, and send in the daily test results promptly". The Premier read the reports for eight consecutive days. When the loud "East Is Red" music was broadcast over the sky, the old man immediately reported this happy news to Chairman Mao.

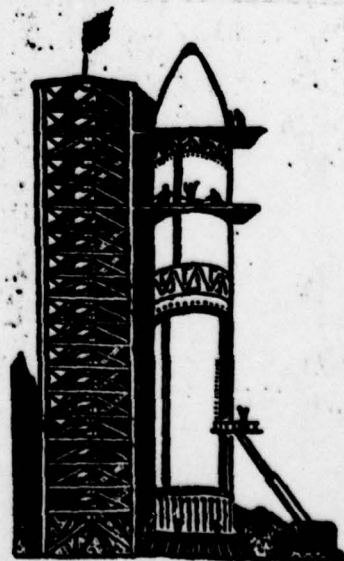
In 1975, our troop steadfastly took up the spirits of "soldiers must be disciplined" and "be prepared for wars" from the Military Committee's Extended Conference, rejuvenated the entire troop and succeeded in launching consecutively three

satellites. Just when we were immersed in the merriment of the success, came a cold blow from Yang Kow Lane: words such as "when the satellites ascend to the sky, the red flags will drop to the ground", "class struggle is not the goal", "all out for weaponry", etc. Faced with this reactionary movement initiated by the "Gang of Four", how we wished to hear the voice of the Premier ! But, as we know, the Premier was very ill at the time! Suddenly, news from Peking reported: Our beloved Premier Chou, while enduring the suffering pains of cancer, asked about our troop's test progress, and even personally read our briefings... This news, like a bird flying with extra wings, spread through the entire site, giving us infinite courage and strength.

The memory left to us by our beloved Premier is undestructible. His everlasting achievements make a beautiful album in the history of revolutions. His shining figure represents a lofty monument in peoples' minds. His eminent virtue is a perfect manifestation of the ideas of communism. His good name is a pride of our great work.

On January 26 of this year, under the direct leadership of Chairman Hua and Party Center, our nation's eighth artificial earth satellite was successfully launched and returned to the ground. Our defense's pointed scientific-technological development rapidly advances, and reports of successes come in one after another. Millions of our soldiers and civilians are now using the four modernized bountiful achievements to console Premier Chou's heroic spirit.

(Picture insert: Chang Bo-chee)



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