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FURTHER CONSOLIDATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE'S COMMUNES  
- COMMUNIST CHINA-

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FURTHER CONSOLIDATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE'S COMMUNES

- COMMUNIST CHINA -

Following is a translation of an article by Chang Peng-tu, secretary of the Kansu Provincial Party Committee, in the Kansu Jih-pao, Lanchow, 15 November 1959, page 2.

Yesterday, at the province's Second Six-Level Cadre Conference, Provincial Party Committee Secretary Comrade Chang Peng-tu gave a report on the subject of "Striving for the Further Consolidation and Development of the People's Communes." He stated that it is now a full year since our province has attained people's communication. In the course of people's communication, we have attained collectivization on a larger scale and on a higher level, and have carried out a more penetrating and thorough socialist revolution. This is the new creation of our laboring people in the course of the great leap forward and a new development of Marxism-Leninism made under the leadership of the party Central Committee and Chairman Mao in the concrete conditions of our country.

Comrade Chang Peng-tu stated that in the past year we have been rectifying commune work so that the communes rapidly can be placed on the road to consolidation and healthy development. There are many aspects to the superiority of people's communes which are beginning to become apparent; the masses can see them even more distinctly.

(1) Large in scale, large in forces. There are 553 communes in the entire province; each commune has an average of 3,751 households -- that is, 32 times the 110-household average for the former higher producers cooperatives. This permits a greater concentration of manpower, financial power, and material power for carrying out large-scale construction.

(2) Activities cover all fields. Industry and agriculture can be conducted simultaneously; forestry, animal husbandry, secondary industries, and fishing can be profitably integrated so that there will be all-round development. The fact that many people's communes' "five enterprises" have been developed in a big way proves that the diversity of the regions in our province is great, resources are abundant, products are numerous and varied -- all of which is extra-ordinarily beneficial to the carrying out of many kinds of enterprises.

(3) Planning can be unified and land can be used rationally. In 1959, the Tiao Tan People's Commune of Ho-cheng hsien selected the appropriate commodities for the high-cold and dark-wet areas as well as for the dry areas, carrying out rational planning and attaining an all-round increase in production. Whereas the mou yield was 414 chin in 1958, the

yield rose to 556 chin this year -- an increase of 34.4 percent. This is a very good example.

(4) Members can be mobilized fully and the labor force can be rationally distributed. For example, the operation of communal mess halls liberates a large female labor force; improvements in the organization of production strengthens specialization and division of labor, which results in economical use of the labor force; organization of cooperation can strengthen mutual aid and allow for adjusting any surplus or shortage. The Ping Liang Kung Tung People's Commune carried out animal husbandry in mountain areas, adjustment of the plowing area, and other aspects of the ten-point reform so that from September to the end of 1959, we can economize on the work of more than 66,800 men and animals, or on about 73 percent of the general work-days during these four months.

(5) The development of water conservancy work has been speeded-up considerably. Since last year, a total of 19 large and medium-size water reservoirs were constructed in the province. Total capacity was about 1,213,000,000 cubic meters. We have already completed seven storage reservoirs and there are many small-scale water conservancy projects. Several advanced hsien are now moving toward building networks of reservoirs and channels.

(6) The development of local industry has been promoted. There are more than 27,000 plants of various types in the people's communes throughout the province. From January to August 1959 their output came to a total of more than 157,000,000 yuan. There are 2,107 commune-operated industrial plants in the Chin Lin Hsia Hui Autonomous Chou. Concerning the production of farm tools, in the last year there was a 26-fold increase in the production of walking-plows and a 46-fold increase in the output of smaller farm tools as well as a 31-fold increase in the output of man and animal-powered vehicles. This greatly aided agricultural production.

(7) The technical revolution on the agricultural front has been further advanced. At present, the number of smallscale hydroelectric stations has already reached 162 throughout the province, with a capacity of 2,873 kilowatts. The absolute majority of these had been put into operation following the communization program. Using the method of integrating the modern (foreign) and indigenous, the Tien Chu Tibetan Autonomous Hsien had an all-round development and fully used its hydraulic potential. It is an outstanding example which should be carefully studied in all areas. The commune is able to use the more concentrated method of farming in opening the road for attaining mechanization. Ching Yuan hsien, for example, in recent years had to receive investment funds from the state for irrigation works; more than 70 water pumps were purchased and installed. Following communization, funds collected by each of the communes were used to purchase -- within the course of one year -- 61 water pumps, which amounted to approximately once again the number purchased in previous years.

(8) Production increased rapidly; rich brigades became numerous and poor brigades were reduced in number. According to statistics for 13,896 basic estimated units, classified in brigades, the following contrasts stand against the pre-communization period: there was an increase from 39 percent to 48 percent in the number of rich brigades while the number of poor brigades was reduced from 22 percent to 7 percent.

(9) With the integration of the two distribution systems--wage system and free supply system -- the income of the great majority of the masses has been increasingly stabilized and families on relief have been reduced considerably in number. According to statistics for 37 production brigades of Hsi Li hsien, in 1957 there were 975 families on relief -- or 14 percent of the total number of families -- and the total family relief fund was more than 45,400 yuan. Following communization, the number of families on relief has been reduced by 292 -- with only 10 percent now on relief -- and the relief fund has been reduced by 80 percent.

(10) The great expansion of public welfare facilities has opened the road to socialization of household chores. Public mess halls, nurseries, and old folks houses have been operating in a big way. The female masses, comprising one-half of the population, have been liberated from numerous household chores. This is a great revolution in the history of mankind.

(11) The solidarity of nationalities has been strengthened and construction undertakings of various fraternal nationalities have been developed. In agricultural areas, people of various nationalities have united and established communes; mutual aid and cooperation have been improved. In grazing areas, the exploitation system has been thoroughly wiped out. Fraternal nationalities areas have begun to operate industries and to develop a many-sided economy. These developments have greatly speeded-up the advance of fraternal nationalities along the road of building socialism.

(12) There has also been a great transformation of the people's spiritual face. Following communization, there has been a rapid expansion of production, enlargement of the scope of management, and a flourishing of cooperative activity. These conditions promoted cultural, educational, and health undertakings; basic scientific research has also been established. At the same time, the socialist consciousness of the popular masses has been greatly raised. Commune members state: "Brigades are shoulder to shoulder, mutual aid helps raise production, and the great highway is becoming broader and broader." This attests to the high character of the laboring people and to their faith in a broad advance along the road of socialist construction.

Comrade Chang Peng-tu stated that the above mentioned developments already attest to the superiority of the young people's communes and play a tremendous role in attaining a continued great leap forward in this year's agricultural production. The continued great leap forward in agricultural production will also go hand in hand with a great leap forward in financial work and will promote a great leap forward in

industrial production. These are incontrovertible facts, visible to everyone and raising the spirits of all.

Comrade Chang Peng-tu stated that there have been great achievements in commune rectification in the first half of 1959. Commune rectification must be carried through this winter and into next spring. When we say that the people's communes already are on the road of consolidation and vigorous development, we do not mean there are no problems. When a problem arises it must be rectified. When old problems are solved, new ones will arise; these once again require rectification and once again a solution as we move ahead. The people's communes are undergoing uninterrupted development. Commune rectification must be carried out repeatedly.

This year's winter and next year's spring tasks of commune rectification are to penetrate the spirit of the 8th Central Committee's 8th plenum and the 21st enlarged conference of the provincial party committee's; deeply develop the struggle against right opportunism in order to expand the struggle between the two roads and to make education in socialism the all-pervasive rule; begin a universal and penetrating commune rectification movement; do a good job in current production, in collection and distribution, in arranging the people's livelihood, in making the control system more robust, in preparing for next year's production, and in formulating next year's production plan and the five year plan requirements; integrate all this with party rectification and Youth League rectification in order to attain all-round rectification and an all-round advance and further consolidation of the people's communes. In the course of the commune rectification movement, the leadership must grasp the following: ideological and political work constitute the commander, while production is the core. We must grasp politics with one hand and production with the other. We must from start to finish grasp firmly the expansion of the ideological struggle and from start to finish grasp firmly the raising of production. This is the guide for our general work. Comrade Chang Peng-tu stated we must begin extensive indoctrination of the masses in socialism, assist the broad masses, raise their consciousness, make firm their faith, decisively move along the road to socialism and the road of the people's communes. In all types of work, we must — under firm leadership of the party — rely on party and Youth League organizations, on the poor and the lowermiddle peasants, and on large numbers of basic-level cadres.

Comrade Chang Peng-tu stated the authority of the people's communes lies in their thorough liberation of society's forces of production; the incomparable superiority of the people's communes lies above all in their output. The utilization of all forces in developing production, the increase in communes and in the income of commune members are the basic guarantee for the uninterrupted consolidation and development of people's communes. The commune runs various economic undertakings and in carrying out large-scale basic construction, it has already completely smashed the old concepts of the "busy season" and the "slack season" in agriculture. In the winter season, various kinds of production tasks are unusually

urgent. This urgency is a good thing; moreover, it is what the masses demand. By relying on labor done under sense of urgency, expansion can be considerable, there can be a great leap forward, and a great victory. It will enable our province to transform its "even poorer and even blanker" face quickly. The commune rectification movement must use the opening of the struggle between the two roads and the promotion of socialist education -- and taking production as the core -- to grasp production in a good way from start to finish.

The most urgent production tasks now facing the people's communes are water conservancy and water-maintenance, which engages more than 2,000,000 persons, the levelling of land, and the attainment of making the land like a great garden. According to meteorological forecasts, there can be a drought in our province next year. The mobilization of the masses and the carrying out of the water conservancy movement in a big way have an extremely important, practical significance. Many kinds of undertakings will require a total of 1,000,000 men and women in the province and we will strive, on the basis of population estimates, to distribute an average of more than 10 yuan to each person, or to surpass this figure. We must also carry out the fertilizer-collection, manufacture, and transportation movement in a big way, improve farm tools, energetically develop the feed industry, and rationally develop commune-run industry.

In addition to doing a good job in the above mentioned preparatory work, agricultural production next year must be arranged carefully and in detail. Concerning the basic problem of goods, the problem of large-surface high-yield fields, the problem of increasing economic materials, the problem of increasing livestock, the problem of agricultural technical reform, and so on must all be reliably arranged in a solid manner.

On the basis of unified leadership as well as all-round arrangement of commune and brigade production and construction, commune-run enterprises must be operated in an excellent way and gradually must be expanded. For example, commune-run industry, commune-run transportation, and various commune-run special enterprises and production brigades can be positively developed, relying on concrete conditions.

In addition to doing a good job in planning for next year's production, we must come forth with a five year plan. On the basis of mechanization of agricultural production, water conservancy-ization, chemical-ization, electrification, and making the fields into a great garden, concrete conditions of each area must be taken into account so that a plan to be gradually attained can be formulated. We must educate the masses, look in the direction of the future, establish determination in a big way, make great efforts, and strive to ascend with the tide.

In discussing distribution of 1959 income, Comrade Chang Peng-tu stated that this distribution will be the first such for one full year since communization. If this work is done well, the masses in the communes can be favorably influenced by the good aspects of this year's continued great leap forward and will be able to understand the superiority of people's communes and will strive to attain an even greater leap for-

ward next year. At the same time, we will store up rich experiences in commune distribution work.

In discussing the problem of where to place emphasis in implementing policy connected with this year's distribution, Comrade Chang Feng-tu pointed out: (1) We must appropriately grasp the ratio between the amount to be distributed and the amount to be retained. Generally, 60 percent of the total income should be distributed to commune members. This ratio can be reduced -- but not below 55 percent of the total income where there are relatively large-income units. Make sure that more than 90 percent of the commune members receive a greater income than they did last year. (2) We must give attention to increasing, when possible, the public accumulation. This spring, the provincial party committee decided that public accumulation for 1959 generally would be from 10 to 17 percent of the total income, with a maximum of 20 percent. In implementing this decision, 10 percent can be used as the minimum, about 15 percent as the medium level, and 20 percent as the maximum. Generally, the medium level should be sought after. Where there are large-income units, the maximum should be attained. Where there are a minority of small-income units, we should stay above the minimum. Concerning public accumulation, we should generally set aside 60 percent in the case of brigades and communes; in the case of large-income units, 70 percent can be set aside. (3) We must thoroughly integrate the wage system and the free-supply system. Generally, the ratio between free-supply and wages will be 3 to 7; 4 to 6, in cases of high income; and 2 to 8, in the few cases of low income. In this way we can realize the principle of distribution according to work and also protect the sprouts of Communism. The free-supply part can include food or provisions and we should continue to carry out the provisions-supply system or the grain-supply system in order to plant the flag and to accumulate experience. Where there are an extreme minority of particularly low-income units, we may still temporarily carry out distribution in line with the method used in the former higher cooperatives. (4) Sincerely carry out the system of rewards and detractions. The basic calculating units and production teams jointly participate in the "three guarantees." Their work will be carried out on a reasonable basis. Of the surplus remaining following the over-fulfillment of the directive to guarantee production, 90 percent will go to the guaranteeing unit and ten percent to the basic calculating unit. Of the surplus remaining following the overfulfillment of the directive on the plan, the entire amount will go to the unit which has guaranteed production. Cases in which there is reduced production should be handled according to concrete conditions. Units which have not carried out the "three guarantees" will be subjected to democratic criticism. Reasonable incentive awards will be given to teams with good production records. The basic calculating unit can obtain 10 percent of this type of incentive award. (5) Income from commune-run and brigade-run enterprises will serve as commune and brigade accumulation and will not be included in distribution for the basic calculating units. Plants run by production brigades will receive unified inner-brigade distribution in line with the

method used in handling distribution of income for secondary industries. Rewards for overfulfillment must be given in entirety to the commune members. Twenty percent of the surplus of (a) income from collectively-run secondary industries and of (b) production expenses can be distributed to commune members, while 80 percent can be used as subsidiary funds for basic units and beneficial collective enterprises. (6) There should be unified calculating and all-round arrangement in handling of food distribution, which includes the handling of the buying job, of eating rations part will have a fixed amount for each person and will be distributed to the household. Livestock fodder will have a fixed amount per head; special feed will be carefully used and not misappropriated. (7) As for brigades engaged in cultivating economic crops, the amount of cotton, hemp, and other crops they will retain under unified buying should be in line with national regulations; the estimate should be made and guaranteed by the brigade. The product estimate and value estimate for distribution to commune members should be made on the basis of the wage schedule. Those who do not wish to be paid in kind, will be paid according to the unified purchase value. If we operate in this way, we can more suitably meet the different needs of the commune members, reduce expenses, and increase the market value of our products.

In discussing various systems for dealing with health and safety, Comrade Chang Peng-tu stressed that we must -- on the basis of strengthening political and ideological work -- improve control, accumulate experiences, and do a good job. (1) In the sphere of production control, it is now of central importance that we firmly grasp planning control. The commune must supervise and assist basic calculating units at various levels in fixing the production plan for the next year. Key measures for increasing production should be found and regular, concrete demands should be attained. At the same time, on the basis of concrete conditions an integrated plan for expansion of industry, agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, secondary industries, and fishing should be formulated and we should strive for an all-round high-tide. In organizing poor brigades and rich brigades, we must also formulate a plan and carry it out to the letter. The five year plan must be formulated with the commune taken as the unit; basic calculating units on all levels should be enrolled and a widespread discussion should be set in motion among the masses. Fodder-land should be given to commune members according to a plan. Motivate commune members to cultivate small, empty bits of land in front of their farms, behind their houses, and in their yards; increase the accumulation of grain. This will permit commune members two or three days rest each month, on the one hand, and the opportunity to carry out some household secondary industry activity, on the other hand. These should be continuously carried out. In developing feed undertakings for domesticated animals, we must continue to penetrate the directive on uniting collective fodder-raising with individual commune member's fodder-raising; but we must take as most important the development of collective fodder-raising. (2) In the sphere of labor control, the task of increasing agricultural production next year is enormous and technical reform in agriculture is just getting started. We cannot, there-

fore, economize very much on the size of the labor force. The commune must be able to guarantee more than 80 percent of controlled labor force for agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, secondary industry, and fishing production. There must be economy and control in using the labor force in commune-run industry. In organization and cooperation, the principle of "category exchange" must be adhered to regardless of the scale. (3) In the sphere of undertakings for the collective welfare, public mess halls must carry out the principles of "managing matters in a positive and good manner, and voluntary participation." Happy homes for old people and nurseries must also be managed in a positive and good manner. Our emphasis should be on "managing matters in a positive and good manner." Having "managed in a positive and good manner," we can strive for more and more people through "voluntary participation." Undertakings for collective welfare can in this way be genuinely developed and consolidated. Our current emphasis is on handling the mess halls well and doing a good job of controlling food rations. Everyone, whether he is participating in the mess halls or not, must be educated continually; also, we must make a great effort in advocating planned use of food. We must operate as though fat days are actually lean days, economize regularly so that a tiny, trickling stream will flow for a long time. In this ration-year, the leadership must make several inspections and carry out investigation and research, and then summarize good experiences in the planned use of rations and in economizing on rations. These experiences will then be disseminated widely. (4) In the sphere of financial control, the commune is a big, collective economy which is different from both an individual economy and a small, collective one. As the size of this family increases, financial control work becomes increasingly cumbersome. There must be, therefore, an adequate budget. A financial estimate system must be established for the commune, big brigade, production brigade, and team. The current main task is to grasp the financial control system of the basic calculating unit. There must be strict control over payments not of a production nature and we must penetrate the directive on managing the communes frugally. Loyal and reliable cadres should be promoted and financial work must be strengthened. (5) In the sphere of animal husbandry: current livestock-raising is still the motive force in agricultural production; it is also the heart of innumerable smallscale "native fertilizer plants" and is closely related to agricultural production. However, there is still a weak sphere in animal husbandry control, and we must strive mightily to improve it. We must carry out collective feeding of the animals. We must organize feeding teams from the production teams, which will be responsible for feeding the livestock in their own team. We must guarantee availability of adequate amounts of hay and that set amounts of fodder are available for the animals. We must promote the three-guarantees-one-reward system of guaranteeing fat animals, guaranteeing production, and guaranteeing investment. (6) In the course of commune rectification, each basic calculating unit must adopt the method of convening a large meeting of commune members to discuss the matter of distributing this year's income, the 1960 production

plan, and major problems as well as to formulate a regulations system and to select leadership cadres. In the period following commune rectification, we must convene a commune members congress to sum up rectification work, discuss next year's production plan and the five year plan, and select or change leadership cadres.

Comrade Chang Peng-tu stated that the key to victory in commune rectification is in the hands of the leadership. The commune rectification movement is the central task of the whole party this winter and next spring. Party committees at various levels must be led by the first secretary; they must personally supervise this activity, grasp everything from first to last, strengthen leadership, and struggle for complete victory.

In order to do a good job in leading commune rectification, we must get hold of the net-of-struggle against right opportunism. Right opportunist ideology is the main danger in our current work. We must definitely struggle to push to completion the anti-rightist struggle; we must unite closely, march in order, fight with determination, and strive to fulfill our goal. We will then be able to again lead the masses and victory will be in the palm of our hands.

In all aspects of commune rectification, we must resolutely adhere to the mass line and we must stir up a tremendous mass movement. The special feature of this mass movement is that it is an all-party, all-people rectification movement, an ideological-revolution movement, a mass and personal reform movement. In carrying out socialist indoctrination during this movement, we must fully utilize real people and real things, causing the masses to reflect on former times and to compare these times with the present; we must project their vision to the future, too. We must show the great changes made in ten years and the superiority of the people's commune as well as the achievements and fine points of the great leap forward in each region. We can also organize discussions on special topics, such as "How many superior qualities does the commune have?" "Is basic construction in agricultural lands good when done in a big way?" And so on. We can also hold exhibitions, such as an exhibition on increased income of commune members during the great leap forward. In carrying out socialist indoctrination, it must be integrated with the current production movement; advanced units should be pointed out as examples, as should commune members who attained the "five good's." A mass emulation drive can then be carried out so that ideological consciousness can be raised, the Communist character displayed, a forest of red flags planted, experiences accumulated, mutual aid fulfilled, the red flag of the people's commune further raised, and great leap forward enthusiasm further increased. We must grasp this excellent opportunity, and, in the course of commune rectification, motivate the masses and enable the majority to cast off completely the bourgeois influences. We must, under the leadership of the party, resolutely take the socialist road. There is to be no way for the capitalist ghost to return. And when the people's commune begins to grow, its great life force will become limitless and enduring.