

***ON INTENSIFYING POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL EDUCATION  
AMONG PUBLIC SECURITY WORKERS***

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Talk to the Officials of the Propaganda and Agitation Department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and of the Political Bureau of the Ministry of Public Security  
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During my recent investigation of public security work, I found much improvement in the matters which were criticized at the conference of public security workers held last year, but many shortcomings still remain. The old pattern in public security work has not been eliminated completely, and in general the work is being done in a superficial way. There are also instances of public security workers who are not firm in the Party's monolithic ideological system and who lack class consciousness and revolutionary spirit.

These shortcomings have not been completely rectified mainly because public security workers have not been given proper ideological education. Judging from the mission and duty of the public security organs and from the present situation, the education of public security workers is vitally important. However, the Political Bureau of the Ministry of Public Security has not conducted properly the work of political and ideological education, as required by the Party.

Giving priority to political work in all matters is the basic principle to which we must adhere in revolutionary struggle and construction work, and no exception can be made in the case of public security work. Success in any task depends on how well the people in charge of it are prepared ideologically and how thoroughly they are motivated to go into action. Some public security workers are unable to perform their duties properly, not because their technical and practical qualifications are low, but because they are not firmly armed with Party ideology and lack the necessary high degree of revolutionary resolve and enthusiasm. A person's ideology, not his technical skill, is the decisive factor in success in his work. It is only when political and ideological education is intensified among public security workers in such a way that they can work with a high degree of revolutionary resolve and enthusiasm that public security work can be successful.

We are building socialism in a situation in which our country is divided and directly confronted with US imperialism, the chieftain of world imperialism. The US imperialists and their stooges continue to dispatch spies, subverters and saboteurs to undermine our socialist system. At the same time they make vicious attempts to infiltrate our ranks with reactionary and bourgeois ideology by using all sorts of propaganda media. There is also the danger of revisionism and other opportunist ideas filtering into our country. If public security workers

are not given more intensive political and ideological education, they may be affected by bourgeois and revisionist ideas and become degenerate ideologically. There is no assurance that public security workers are immune to poisonous ideas spread by the imperialists and revisionists.

The Party organizations and political organs in the field of public security should have regarded political and ideological education as their most important task and paid close attention to this task, but they did not do so. Particularly, in view of the characteristics of their work, the public security sector should have strengthened education in Party policy and revolutionary education, including education in revolutionary traditions and class education centring on the educational work of establishing the Party's monolithic ideological system, but they did not do so, or if they did, they did it formalistically and without much substance. In consequence, there have been instances of political apathy among public security workers who should have established the Party's monolithic ideological system more firmly and should have maintained their class stand more thoroughly than anyone else.

The Party organizations and political organs of the Ministry of Public Security must learn a serious lesson from their own shortcomings and bring about a new turn in political and ideological education. What is fundamental in ideological education is to firmly establish the Party's monolithic ideological system. Nothing is more important than establishing the Party's monolithic ideological system for those public security workers who fight on the outpost line of class struggle in political defence of the Party. The Party's monolithic ideological system must pervade the organs of public security. A man who has not firmly absorbed the Party's monolithic ideological system cannot carry out his honourable duty to safeguard the Party and the leader politically and is not qualified for public security work. The education of public security workers in the monolithic ideological system must be carried out in an aggressive manner to ensure that they become a collective of steadfast revolutionaries, ready to lay down their lives for the Party and the leader.

Public security workers should be firmly armed with the revolutionary idea of the great leader and with the Party line and policies, its embodiment. The leader's revolutionary idea is the only guideline to our revolution and construction, the criterion for the thought and action of our officials. It is only when the people are armed with the leader's revolutionary idea that we can be sure of the unity of ideology and purpose in the revolutionary ranks and the unity of their action, and that all the problems arising in the revolutionary struggle and construction work are solved successfully. Anyone not firmly armed with the leader's revolutionary idea and the Party's policy, its embodiment, lacks understanding of the Party's intentions. He is liable to act against the Party policy and deviate in some way, or commit errors. Our Party's revolutionary idea and its policies act as a beacon-light to all our officials.

In the past public security workers failed to implement properly the Party's class line and mass line and to combat anti-Party factionalists and revisionists mainly because they were not firmly equipped with the leader's revolutionary idea and the Party's policy. Our past experience shows that anyone who fails to exert himself in acquiring the leader's revolutionary idea and the Party's policy will remain politically ignorant and commit errors, unable to distinguish right from wrong; in the long run, he will stray from the revolutionary ranks.

Public security workers should intensify political study. Political study is the first process in establishing the monolithic ideological system, and through studying officials can get the ideological nourishment necessary for the revolutionary struggle. If they neglect political study, they will remain empty-headed and become degenerate ideologically, infected with bourgeois and revisionist ideas. The Political Bureau of the Ministry of Public Security should make up a programme of political study consisting of topics important to the establishment of the Party's monolithic ideological system. They should ensure that security workers acquire the revolutionary habit of studying, so that all of them understand clearly the great leader's instructions and the Party's policy and strive to implement them to the letter.

Public security workers should be taught to give their all to safeguard the leader. Safeguarding the leader politically, ideologically and with his or her life is the most important duty of a public security worker. Safeguarding the leader means defending our revolution and also the freedom and happiness of our people. In the grim days of the bloody war against the Japanese, the slogan of the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, 'Let us defend the headquarters of the Korean revolution with our lives!' was their unshakable faith. They devoted their youth and lives to defending the leader's revolutionary idea and his line and to ensuring the leader's personal safety. They showed through practical actions what attitude revolutionary fighters must take towards their leader. Public security workers must follow the example of their loyalty, and become a fortress and a shield to protect the leader.

We must combat uncompromisingly the ideological elements and practices which are contrary to the Party's monolithic ideological system. If we fail to combat them, or overlook them, or compromise with them, heterogeneous ideological elements and tendencies may rise to weaken the unity of the revolutionary ranks, seriously harming our efforts to carry out the Party's line and policy. Modern revisionism is a very harmful ideological poison in establishing the Party's monolithic ideological system. Denying the decisive role played by the leader in the revolutionary struggle of the working class, modern revisionists vilify the outstanding leaders of the international communist movement and try to obliterate their achievements. We must prevent even the slightest revisionism from infiltrating our ranks. We must not compromise with anyone who acts against the Party's monolithic ideological system, but combat

him on principle. Public security workers must not harbour illusions about individual cadres, but think and act only on the great leader's instructions and according to the Party's policy, no matter who tells them what to do.

Education for establishing the Party's monolithic ideological system must be conducted in a persistent manner rather than under a crash programme. Since the 15th Plenary Meeting of the Fourth Party Central Committee<sup>6</sup>, the struggle to eliminate the remnants of the poisonous ideas spread by the anti-Party revisionists has managed to firmly establish the Party's monolithic ideological system among cadres, Party members and other working people. However, we should not rest content with this or consider it a final success.

Establishing the Party's monolithic ideological system is a permanent undertaking that must be constantly developed in depth in the course of building socialism and communism. We must eliminate the practice of merely observing outer appearances or of shouting empty slogans in a formalistic manner when carrying out education in the Party's monolithic ideology. We have to teach public security workers everything in a substantial way so that they all uphold the Party and the leader wholeheartedly and safeguard them staunchly. The next important task in educating public security workers is to firmly arm them with a high class consciousness.

Public security itself is a weapon of class struggle and there can be no public security work without a class struggle. Only when public security workers are firmly armed with a high class consciousness and our Party's class policy can the struggle against hostile elements be successful and the security of the Party, the revolution, the socialist system and the people be ensured.

Public security workers must have a correct understanding of the class struggle, which is a serious struggle between the exploiting and exploited classes, between capitalism and socialism—a struggle for one to conquer the other. All the different classes and strata of the population take part in it. Depending on certain stages in the development of revolution, class struggle is conducted in different forms and by different methods. If public security workers, who are the vanguard of the class struggle, do not have a correct understanding of this struggle, they cannot understand clearly whom they should ally themselves with, whom they should fight against and how they should fight, nor can they conduct the class struggle successfully in accordance with the Party's intentions and as required by the developing revolution. In the past some public security workers deviated when attempting to implement the Party's class line and mass line because they were not clear about the Party's class policy.

Struggle against surviving elements of the hostile class must be strengthened. This struggle continues even after the socialist system has been established. In some socialist countries they have given up the class struggle on the excuse that it is not necessary because the exploiting classes have been liquidated after the victory of the socialist revolution and the establishment of the socialist system.

Some of our scholars also once proposed the absurd theory that after the establishment of the socialist system the period of transition from capitalism to socialism comes to an end and class struggle and proletarian dictatorship are not needed. The theory was criticized. The argument that the class struggle ceases or proletarian dictatorship withers away when the socialist system is established is revisionism and a Rightist tendency. There are no landlords or capitalists in socialist society, but surviving elements of them still exist and they are ambitious to revive their system of exploitation. Of course, surviving elements of the overthrown exploiting class in our society are no longer a large force on their own. However, we must not neglect the struggle against them since they bear malice against the socialist system and are easily swayed by the imperialists, who ceaselessly instigate them to counterrevolutionary manoeuvres to undermine our system. This is clearly proved by the counterrevolutionary events that took place in some socialist countries in Eastern Europe. Public security workers must not harbour illusions about the surviving elements of the exploiting class without class consciousness, thinking that all of them have been transformed and will support socialism. It is not necessary to touch them so long as they refrain from evil doings, but we must exercise dictatorship over them if they oppose Party line and policy or infringe upon the socialist system. They must not be tolerated.

Public security workers, to be efficient in the class struggle, must distinguish clearly between friend and foe. We must judge a person by his or her present tendency. We must educate and deal magnanimously with people who, in spite of their undesirable class origin, are willing to follow our Party steadily along the road of socialism; we must fight uncompromisingly against those who oppose socialism. This is our Party's class policy and the principle by which we distinguish between friend and foe.

However, some public security workers do not judge people, or distinguish friend from foe according to this principle. They are waging the class struggle in a superficial manner, defining one person as a hostile element and another as a fine person by going by these people's personal files. If we conduct class struggle in this manner, it is impossible to discover enemy spies and counterrevolutionaries lurking in our own ranks. If we tell friend from foe based simply on their family backgrounds, we may take good people for bad and vice versa and may commit errors in the class struggle.

Some people whose class origins are bad, or who repent of the crimes they have committed against the people, end up by taking an active part in socialist construction, whereas some people with the best of family backgrounds still do evil things. A man from a good family may become degenerate if affected by bad ideas, and may harm the socialist system by playing into the hands of the enemy. The enemy is resorting to all sorts of ways and means to bribe not only the surviving elements of the exploiting class in our ranks but also the people with good family backgrounds. Therefore, public security

workers must have a correct understanding of our Party policy on the class struggle and use it as their yardstick in their work. Combating the remnants of outmoded ideas persisting in the minds of the people in socialist society and educating and transforming them on communist lines is also a form of class struggle. However, the struggle against the remnants of old ideas is fundamentally different in its character and method from the struggle against the counterrevolutionary acts of hostile elements. Hostile elements are combated by the use of violence, whereas the remnants of outmoded ideas are eliminated through ideological education. The ideological revolution we are now carrying out is none other than a struggle to wipe out surviving outdated ideas and to educate and transform the people along communist lines.

If selfishness and other survivals of obsolete ideas remaining in people's minds are allowed to grow, they will result in seriously infringing upon the interests of the state, society and the people. Most of the general crimes committed in socialist society are expressions of extreme selfishness, and though not counterrevolutionary, they assume an anti-state and anti-popular character in that they infringe upon the interests of the state and the people and harm the socialist system. We must, therefore, apply legal sanctions against criminals who infringe upon the interests of the state and people.

Sharpening the edge of class struggle and strengthening dictatorship over hostile and undesirable elements does not conflict with our Party's mass line. We must arm public security workers firmly with our Party's class policy and the experience of class struggle so that they conduct the class struggle efficiently in any complex situation. We must teach public security workers to serve the people with a revolutionary attitude towards the masses and rely on the masses in their work.

Serving the popular masses and solving all problems on the strength of the masses is the revolutionary mass line constantly adhered to by our Party. Public security is the people's own security organ, composed of sons and daughters of the workers, farmers and other working people. It struggles to protect the people's safety and interests. Therefore, public security workers must always work by relying on the masses and by the popular work method and style. In view of the nature of their work, it is all the more important for public security workers to acquire the revolutionary outlook on the masses and the popular method and style of work. If public security workers, serving in the power organization that exercises the dictatorial function of the people's government, lack ideological and moral training, they may abuse their authority and throw their weight about, regarding themselves as special beings, infringe upon people's rights and treat people coercively. Abusing power and oppressing the people high-handedly is the police practice in capitalist societies. The police style of work cannot be tolerated in our public security. If public security workers abuse their authority because they are officers in uniform, the people will fear them, and when this happens, public security workers will be separated from the

people like a drop of oil floating on water. They should be fierce animals to hostile elements, but be gentle to the people and genuine servants who lay down their lives without hesitation for the good of the people. Only then will they be loved and trusted by the people and combat spies and criminals efficiently, with active support and assistance from the masses.

Public security workers must always believe in the masses, mixing closely with them. They should not attempt to fight against hostile elements as a small, select group showing off their narrow wisdom without relying on the efforts and larger wisdom of the masses. Spies, subversives and saboteurs lurk among the masses, so their manoeuvres cannot be detected and wiped out unless the people are kept vigilant against the danger they represent and are thus aroused to action. However cunning the tricks of the enemy, he cannot deceive the people, who have sharp eyes and ears. Only when security workers go among the people and listen to their voice can they discover the movements of spies, subversives and saboteurs and arrest the offenders lurking in our midst. We have favourable conditions for combating hostile elements and criminals on a mass basis because in our country all the people—from children to old people—lead an organizational life, with Party and working people's organizations in all sectors and units. The point is that public security workers should go among the masses with a correct outlook on the masses, firmly relying on them.

Public security workers must be simple and modest in their style of work. They must always treat the people with an open mind regarding them as their close friends and revolutionary comrades, never assuming an air of importance and always acting with modesty when dealing with them. Only when they behave in this way can they be intimate with the masses and mix with them. Only then will the people come to visit them of their own accord and open their hearts. Furthermore, public security workers must handle all matters prudently, for if they lack prudence, they may deal with problems incorrectly and do harm to the people.

Public security workers should acquire the habit of working and living in a revolutionary way.

Their present work attitude shows that they lack the revolutionary spirit and the habit of doing things with lightning speed. Public security service demands that officials work in a militant way with a strong Party and revolutionary spirit, with creativeness and strong will. Lethargic public security workers lacking revolutionary enthusiasm and stamina cannot fight spiteful and cunning enemies. If they work mechanically without the spirit of enterprise, not caring whether their task is finished today or tomorrow, they cannot smash the schemes of spies, subversives and saboteurs opportunely, and the public security organ may weaken as a result. Public security workers are not wage earners, but revolutionaries. A strong campaign must be launched against the practice of working in a non-militant way, a way that does not benefit revolutionaries so that the public security sector adopt the way of militant revolutionaries,

bursting with a revolutionary spirit, working in a combative way, full of stamina and enthusiasm, working through ten or a hundred nights to finish a case if it is necessary.

Public security workers must be upright and honest in their lives. Bearing in mind the leader's instruction that revolutionaries should be satisfied when they can do their revolutionary work, even if they have to live on cold rice and bean paste, they should lead a simple and frugal life. A man who does not lead a simple and frugal life is not qualified to be a public security worker. If a public security worker is worldly, likes drinking and is immoral, he cannot combat wrongdoing without compromise. He may even be bribed by the enemy and play into his hands. The enemy is watching for a chance to bribe those who are avaricious and like to lead an indolent life. We must strongly combat the pursuit of indolence, selfishness and greed among public security workers so that they refrain from taking bribes, going to drinking parties or having licentious relations.

In order to prepare public security workers to be political defenders and true revolutionaries who are boundlessly loyal to the Party and the revolution, we must eliminate the old pattern of formalism once and for all in ideological education.

Ideological education is an undertaking to transform people's ideology. So formalism in ideological work is the greatest taboo. Without smashing the old pattern of formalism, it is impossible to effect a change in ideological education and make it truly contribute to carrying out the revolutionary task. Officials of the Political Bureau of the Ministry of Public Security must unhesitatingly smash the old formalist pattern and conduct political education in a fresh manner.

First of all, political and ideological education should be given in accordance with the characteristics of the sector of public security. Public security workers should be educated in line with the directives and programme of the Party Central Committee, but the instruction must not be given to the lower echelons in a mechanical way, without considering the characteristics and specific conditions of public security service. The public security organ has work characteristics different from administrative and economic bodies or from social and cultural establishments and it has also different branches. Therefore, the Political Bureau should elaborate the content of political education in conformity with its actual conditions and refrain from issuing the same educational materials to its subordinate units.

We must put an end to the administrative method of fulfilling the required number of study sessions and public lectures and sticking to formality, without giving a clear understanding of the content of ideological education. The Political Bureau is now conducting political work in an administrative and businesslike way that has no concrete methodology. In many cases, it prepares uniform study and lecture plans and other educational materials for subordinate units, then receives reports on the number of study sessions and public lectures conducted, together with their attendance. When it acquaints



itself with how studying is done, it is concerned only with how many subjects have been studied, making notes of the gist of the works of the great leader and reminiscences<sup>7</sup>, but not much about how they understand what they have studied or how they apply the knowledge in their work and lives. Such a superficial way of directing political and ideological education cannot produce desired results, no matter how much instruction is given.

Whether public security workers are educated properly or not depends entirely on the role of the Political Bureau of the Ministry of Public Security. Since the Political Bureau, not local Party organizations such as provincial and county Party committees, is in charge of unified political education for public security workers, its duty is very important. The Political Bureau must be fully aware of the importance of its duty and it must direct ideological education properly. The senior officials of the Political Bureau must not leave political and ideological education for public security workers totally to the care of the propaganda and agitation department or their subordinates, but make it the concern of the Political Bureau. They must get a direct hold on the problems arising in this work, take measures for their solutions, sum up the implementation of these measures regularly and arrange new assignments. This method should add new vigour to the work and intensify it in a steady way. The Party trusts public security workers implicitly and expects a great deal from them. Political and ideological education for public security workers must be intensified so that they can fully perform their honourable duty as political defenders of the Party.

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