

***YOUNG PEOPLE MUST TAKE THE LEAD IN THE EFFORTS TO  
IMPLEMENT THE RURAL THESES***

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A Talk to the Officials of the Central Committee of the League of  
Socialist Working Youth of Korea  
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Recently I accompanied the leader on a visit of a number of cooperative farms in South Phyongan Province and Pyongyang City and found the crops in good condition as a whole. Both rice and maize were being cultivated well. Although South Phyongan Province and some other areas suffered flooding last summer, hundreds of thousands of tons more of cereals seemed to be produced this year than last year across the nation. The leader was very pleased with the fact that good crops were raised this year. Our young people have recently been doing a great deal of work. True to the socialist rural theses elaborated by the great leader, young rural men and women have devoted intense efforts to increasing the production of cereals, while at the same time conducting the work of modernizing their work places and villages and developing hygienic practices. Young people are involved in a great many different good-conduct drives while still performing their own jobs. This is very commendable.

Young people are honourable activists in the vanguard of socialist construction. They must possess a high sense of honour and revolutionary consciousness as builders of socialism and take an active part in the struggle to implement the socialist rural theses. The Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country put forward by the leader represent a great programme for the building of socialist rural communities which has scientifically defined the route to the final solution of the rural question for the first time in history. The theses on the socialist rural question expound the leader's outstanding revolutionary ideas and theories on communist construction concerning the achievement of the final goals of socialism and communism by carrying forward the revolution in the spheres of ideology, technology and culture after the establishment of the socialist system.

The effort required to implement the leader's theses is the honourable duty which devolves upon our youth.

The goals defined by the theses on the socialist rural question will secure a happy future for our young people, these are the worthwhile tasks they must carry out as vanguard activists. The leader said that he was writing the theses on the socialist rural question with faith in our young people. They are an expression of the leader's great trust in and expectations of our youth.

Young people must become strong supporters and positive exponents of the socialist rural theses, as the great leader expects. The fundamental requirement in implementing the theses is to

conduct the ideological, technical and cultural revolutions energetically in the rural communities.

The leader has said that the maintenance of the distinctions between towns and villages, as well as class differences between the working class and the peasantry and the existence of the two forms of socialist ownership in rural communities, even after the exploiting classes were abolished and the socialist system was established, must be attributed to the fact that the rural communities are ideologically, technically and culturally backward, and therefore the solution of the rural question requires the ideological, technical and cultural revolutions to be carried through fully in the countryside.

In carrying out the great leader's instructions, young people must play the vanguard role in these ideological, technical and cultural revolutions.

Above all, the youth should take the lead in carrying out the rural technical revolution.

The technical revolution consists in the noble revolutionary task of forever freeing from hard labour our working people, who have suffered the burden of grinding toil from generation to generation. Only when the technical revolution is carried out in the rural areas can the peasants be freed from hard, backbreaking toil and, in addition, the cooperativized socialist rural economy be consolidated and agricultural productivity be rapidly developed.

The new generation of young people that has received technical education must be to the forefront in effecting the rural technical revolution, unreservedly devoting their youthful intelligence and enthusiasm to this goal.

Our Party has defined irrigation, mechanization, electrification and the use of chemicals as the basic tasks of the rural technical revolution and has put great energy into the priority struggle for irrigation. We have undertaken large-scale irrigation projects in all parts of the country in a campaign embracing the entire people, with the result that the goal of effective irrigation, the most important task of the rural technical revolution, has been achieved in the main.

The problem on which efforts must now be concentrated in the rural technical revolution is the energetic promotion of mechanization. In order to free the peasants from heavy and burdensome labour it is necessary to mechanize agriculture.

In recent years the state has had many tractors and other farm machines produced and supplied to the rural communities. At present, however, the work ratio of farm machines is low and they are not used efficiently in farming. Last year one province reported that the work ratio of its tractors was less than 70 per cent. This means that on the average throughout the province hundreds of tractors were standing idle and not working every day. Merely increasing the number of tractors and other farm machines without increasing their rate of operation makes it impossible to achieve the mechanization of agriculture in a creditable manner.

Young people in the rural communities must intensify their technical studies and launch a vigorous movement for new, creative ideas in

order to produce new farm machines suitable for the rural situation and discover positive methods for improving the operational rate of farm machines. In addition, they must promptly repair the disabled tractors and farm machines themselves, and return them to service. The rural youth must all know how to operate modern farm machines including tractors. Without acquiring these techniques young people cannot discharge their duties as masters of the socialist countryside. The rural youth should always strive tirelessly to master the most recent advances of science and technology.

Young people must be positively active in their attitude to the achievements of agricultural science and advanced farming technique and in disseminating and developing intensive farming methods.

By nature, the peasants are positively conservative and unwilling to accept new things. During the organization of agricultural cooperatives in rural communities after the war, many peasants did not willingly enter the cooperative movement, but only joined the cooperative farms later, after the superiority of agricultural cooperatives was proved in practice. Even today, some cooperative farms are not quick to accept scientific farming methods and advanced farming techniques, but attempt to continue farming in a backward manner, sticking to their old experience.

The rural technical revolution can be accomplished only through a struggle against backwardness and conservatism. Therefore, young people of the new generation who are sensitive to new approaches and possess a strong spirit of initiative should play the vanguard role in accepting the achievements of agricultural science and advanced farming techniques.

Young people should also take the lead in carrying through the cultural and ideological revolutions in the rural communities.

The purpose of these two important revolutionary tasks is to do away with the outmoded ideas and culture left over from the old society and to train everyone to be a new person of the communist type.

Since the youth are the builders of socialism and communism and the masters of the future society, they should possess a high cultural and intellectual level and exalted communist revolutionary ideas. In addition, they should play the pivotal role of the vanguard in the work of creating a socialist and communist culture and improving the characters of all members of our society along communist lines.

The youth must lead their lives in a sound and cultured manner in conformity with the socialist mode of living.

The appearance of our modern socialist farming villages is altering and the peasants' standard of living is being raised rapidly as the days go by. This situation requires a rapid improvement in the levels of ideological consciousness and culture among the farmers, the masters of the rural communities.

However, some farm members are still ideologically and culturally backward, and indifferent to the development of culture and hygiene in their homes and villages. A number of agricultural officials and farm members do not take proper care of the offices of cooperative farms and houses, and build the sheds for domestic animals

carelessly, under the pretext of the heavy pressure of farming work. Although this was inevitable in the past, when everything was in short supply and people's lives were hard, they should not live in such an uncultured fashion under today's conditions, when life is growing more prosperous.

The youth must fight resolutely against obsolete ideological survivals and the uncultured way of life among farm members and set an example in managing their own homes and villages in a cultural and sanitary manner.

The League of Socialist Working Youth organizations must intensify ideological education among young men and women so as to inspire them to active involvement in the struggle for the implementation of the socialist rural theses.

These organizations must get the youth to make a deep study of the socialist rural theses advanced by the leader and actively engage in the struggle for their fulfilment.

You should conduct the ideological education of rural youth in accordance with their particular characters.

At the moment the LSWY organizations are not efficient in carrying out educational work among rural young people in conformity with their mental state and preparedness. Regarding farming as a worthless activity, some rural youth attempt to move away to power station construction sites and railway projects. This alone is enough to indicate that the educational work among rural young men and women is not being conducted effectively.

The basic tasks of rural youth are to increase the cereal yields by raising crops effectively, and to build their native villages into socialist cultural rural communities in which it is good to live. If they perform their farming work efficiently and creditably fulfil the tasks set by the theses on the socialist rural question by occupying the vanguard position among the agricultural working people, they will be acting responsibly as the masters of the countryside and serving the Party and revolution faithfully.

It is not true that young people can become innovators or heroes only at power station construction sites and on railway projects. Anyone who applies his energies with youthful passion in rural communities, in the awareness of being one of the masters of the revolution, can be an innovator and hero. The LSWY must educate rural youth efficiently and clearly indicate how they should realize the ideals and aspirations of youth.

It is important to provide effective education through published materials.

Published materials are a very effective and powerful means for the education of young people. Through publications young men and women become familiar with the political requirements of the Party, extend the scope of their knowledge and enhance their cultural attainments.

Publications must offer adequate accounts of the great leader's classic works, including the theses on the socialist rural question. At the same time, the Rodong Chongnyon and other publications for

young people and children should give wide publicity to model young people who have performed great feats by appropriately playing their part as masters of socialist rural construction. If they describe the achievements of exemplary young people and publish their photos, the rural youth will be greatly encouraged.

The LSWY must be more energetic in its conduct of the youth shock-force movement.

The great leader said that the youth shock-force movement is an excellent school for revolutionizing young people, by tempering them through labour and organizational life. Conducting this movement vigorously will enable us to enhance the role of young people in socialist construction still further and educate and train them better.

The young people have already achieved a great deal through the shock-force movement. In particular, in the days when we were building a new country after liberation and during postwar reconstruction, youth shock forces did a great amount of work. Monumental structures erected in Pyongyang and other places throughout the country and innumerable streets are associated with the creative labour and heroic feats of youth shock forces. In the struggle to repair the damage from the flood this summer, youth shock forces played a large part. In response to the Party's call, youth are playing the honourable role of shock forces in the building of socialism, a fact of which our country is proud.

The LSWY should direct the youth shock-force movement efficiently so as to encourage young people to do even more work in socialist construction and temper themselves in a revolutionary fashion as they do it, thereby better preparing themselves to become heirs to the revolution.

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