

**ON PROPERLY CONDUCTING THE WORK WITH THE PEOPLE WITH
COMPLEX BACKGROUNDS**

Talk to the Officials of the Organizational Leadership Department
and the Propaganda and Agitation Department of the Central
Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea
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As the great leader's 60th birthday approaches, the Party organizations at all levels are now concentrating on political and ideological work in order to unite the people from all walks of life more solidly behind the leader; this effort is very rewarding. Party members and working people are displaying to a high degree the spirit of devoting their energy and talents to socialist construction and a loyal determination to follow the leader to the end, with total faith in him. It is said that even many of the people with chequered family backgrounds, previously dubious about whether or not the Party trusted them, have come to Party organizations to express their remorse for their misunderstanding, firmly resolved to entrust their destiny entirely to the Party and to be loyal to the leader and the Party for ever. This is very commendable.

However, some Party organizations are not yet very successful in rallying all the people closely around the great leader, as intended by the Party, particularly in their work with the people with complex family backgrounds and chequered social and political records. As I said yesterday to the senior officials in the field of art and literature, various deviations are still revealed in work among the people with dubious family backgrounds and complex socio-political records. More than once have I emphasized the importance of work with these people, and last year I even took measures for recalling the people whom some narrow-minded officials in charge of art and literature had dismissed from the ranks of artists on the ground that their family backgrounds and socio-political records were chequered, and reinstating them in their former positions. Nevertheless, they still persist in the practice of giving a wide berth to such people, contrary to the Party's intention. This summer, when a certain country requested us to send our art troupe there, I gave the official concerned the assignment to select the artists to be sent to the country; the official selected only the artists with good family backgrounds in disregard of their artistic skill, leaving out some other artists who were highly qualified but had somewhat involved family backgrounds and personal records. The aim of sending our art troupe abroad is to widely demonstrate our daily flourishing Juche art by giving excellent performances in that country. Therefore, when sending an art troupe to a foreign country, highly qualified artists must be chosen. If we take into account only people's family backgrounds and records and neglect to send our best artists, it will be

impossible to demonstrate our Juche art, and in the long run it will only bring loss to our revolution. So I criticized the official and saw to it that the highly skilled artists were selected and sent instead. The tendency of discriminating and shunning people, weighing up only their family backgrounds and personal records, is in evidence also among officials in other sectors. Some officials only pay lip-service to trusting the people with involved backgrounds; instead of making fair appreciation of them, these officials discriminate against them at various opportunities, even doubting their revolutionary enthusiasm and merits. And some officials are not enthusiastic about educating people with chequered backgrounds and uniting them behind the Party, thinking that trusting and winning them over is contrary to working-class principles. This is a very wrong tendency. If we discriminate and turn away those people who want to follow our Party, just because they have variegated family backgrounds and socio-political records, where will they go? Obviously, to the enemy camp. Such myopia as being unable to see ten or one hundred things beyond one's own nose will only weaken our revolutionary forces and help the enemy.

We must put an end to this practice as soon as possible and get down to work among the people with involved backgrounds, and do so properly. We must not discriminate against them or leave them out in the cold; we must educate and assimilate them all to revolutionaries and unite them solidly behind the Party. To do this is the requirement of the Juche idea, which regards the masses of people as masters of the revolution and construction, as well as the strategic plan of the Party to model the whole of society on the leader's revolutionary idea.

In order to improve work among the people with dubious backgrounds, Party officials and all other officials must first acquire a proper viewpoint on them.

Various deviations now evident in the work being carried out among these people are due to some officials' wrong attitude toward them. Unless the officials divest themselves of their prejudices, they cannot deal with this work properly, as required by the Party.

Nearly half a century of colonial rule by the Japanese imperialists, followed by the division of the country by the US imperialists and the enemy's crafty trick to create bad blood among fellow countrymen during the Fatherland Liberation War, complicated the socio-political composition of our people in the extreme. If we were to examine people's records and their family relations as far as their third cousins, we would probably find very few of them free from blemish in their socio-political records or family backgrounds. Under these conditions, if officials are too particular about people's family backgrounds and socio-political records, and constantly dispute them, a question arises as to on whom we should rely in carrying out the revolution. It would be impossible to make a revolution only with people with a clean slate. Fundamentally speaking, a revolution is an undertaking for the masses and by the masses. Only when the broad masses of people rise to the occasion as one will revolution emerge

victorious. In order for us to accelerate socialist construction and achieve the historic cause of national reunification as soon as possible, we must not discriminate against people, disputing their family backgrounds and socio-political records, but instead, educate and transform the broad masses of different strata and unite them all solidly behind the Party.

How our officials work among the masses with involved backgrounds will greatly affect even the south Korean revolutionaries and other people who are fighting for democratic freedom and national reunification. Because of the long-drawn US imperialist occupation of south Korea and its colonial enslavement policy there, the socio-political composition of the south Korean people is far more complicated than that of the people in the northern half of Korea. Among south Korean people, those whose class backgrounds and socio-political records are considered to be dubious will take a keen interest in how we deal with the people whose position is similar to theirs, thinking of their own futures. Quite few of the south Korean revolutionaries now are from rich families; they are by no means fighting just for food and livelihood. Free as they are from worries about food and clothing, they are fighting in defiance of prison and gallows, unable to tolerate the corrupt south Korean society in which foreign forces are domineering and fascism is rampant. If we go hand in hand with the people from complex family backgrounds and socio-political records, and take the same road to revolution, holding nothing against them, it will undoubtedly have good influence on revolutionaries and people from all walks of life in south Korea.

There is no reason why the people with dubious family backgrounds and socio-political records should be distrusted indiscriminately. The majority of these people came from the working classes; they are people, or children of people, who once made inadvertent mistakes because of lack of class consciousness. Our Party has already come to a definite conclusion about them. At the 20th Enlarged Plenary Meeting of the Fourth Party Central Committee, the leader instructed again that we must disregard materials on the involvement in the 'peace keeping corps' by people who had joined the 'peace keeping corps' and had been sentries for some time, but refrained from intentional atrocities, during the strategic retreat in the Fatherland Liberation War. As for the working-class people who had committed no atrocities, but fled south, deceived by the enemy threat of atomic strike, there is no need to question them, still less their children. Among the masses with involved backgrounds there are people who came from hostile classes and also children of those who committed crimes against our system, but most of these belong to the new generation who have grown up in the care of our Party. They have been more influenced by our Party than by their grandfathers or fathers, and many of them do not even know clearly what crimes their grandfathers or fathers committed. Therefore, having grown up in the embrace of the Party, they should be viewed differently from their grandfathers or fathers. Today, nearly 30 years after the liberation of

the country and 20 years since the Fatherland Liberation War, children cannot be held culpable for the crimes their grandfathers or fathers committed several decades ago. If they part with the disgraceful past of their grandfathers or fathers and follow our Party, they must not be cast aside, but be allowed to join us.

The officials of the Party Central Committee and of the Party committees of provinces, cities and counties must have a proper viewpoint on the people with complex backgrounds and treat them warmly and equally as comrades in the revolution. Only then can junior officials, too, correct their viewpoints on the masses with chequered backgrounds and work with them, as required by the Party. The senior officials of the Party Committee of Myonggan County, North Hamgyong Province, are said to be visiting their primary Party organizations and helping their subordinates to acquire a correct viewpoint on the people with involved backgrounds. That is a good thing. The valuable experience of the Party Committee of Myonggan County must be generalized so that other officials with mistaken viewpoints correct them as soon as possible.

Party organizations and officials must consistently implement Party policy on work with the people with involved backgrounds to the letter.

A long time ago the great leader outlined in detail the principles of dealing with the people with dubious backgrounds, as well as the ways to implement them. To appreciate and trust people, with emphasis on their present-day ideological state and preparedness, to test them through practice, and educate and transform them—this is the consistent policy maintained by our Party in its work among the people with involved backgrounds.

Class origin or family backgrounds cannot be the standard for judging people. It is true that these factors affect the development of one's ideological consciousness to some extent, but they cannot be factors that decide one's ideology. One's class origin shows one's ideological make-up, which is not immutable; it may change for the better or for the worse in the process of one's social life. Even a person whose class origin is undesirable can become an excellent revolutionary who devotes his or her being to society and the collective, if he or she receives revolutionary influence in a different social environment. The historical experience of the revolutionary movement shows that even a man with a dubious family background can in the process of his social life be awakened to the validity of the revolutionary cause for achieving independence for the popular masses. He can participate in the struggle and remain loyal to the revolution to the last moment of his life.

Among the people who unhesitatingly dedicated their youth and life to the struggle for the victory of the Korean revolution, upholding the great leader's revolutionary thought during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, there were many who had dubious family backgrounds. Zhang Wei-hua, an international fighter, was one of them. Zhang Wei-hua, a Chinese, was a son of a landowner, but he became a revolutionary thanks to the leader's revolutionary

education and laid down his life unhesitatingly for the sake of the leader. During the democratic revolution after the liberation of the country, during the Fatherland Liberation War and during postwar socialist construction, many people with involved backgrounds acquitted themselves well to the end of their lives for the Party and the leader. Even among the renowned leaders of the international communist movement there are many whose family backgrounds were chequered. This vindicates the validity of our Party's policy on judging people mainly by their ideology, not by their class origin or family.

We must unhesitatingly trust and win over people who are loyal to the Party and the revolution, no matter how involved their family backgrounds and socio-political records are. What such people crave for is the Party's trust. Awake or asleep, they think of the Party's trust in them, keeping their mental sufferings to themselves. When they are trusted by the Party, they burst into tears, unable to suppress their emotion. More than once have I witnessed such happenings during my guidance over the work of art and literature. Our officials, particularly the Party officials, must clearly understand the feelings of the people with involved backgrounds and work suitably with them. It is important not to discriminate against people with complex backgrounds in social and political life. Now the problems arising from among such people are mainly related to discrimination against them in social and political life. If they are discriminated in various aspects of socio-political life, while only lip-service is paid to trusting them, they will question whether the Party really trusts them or not, and will not fully believe the Party's policies. Therefore, they should be allowed to participate in various aspects of socio-political life without any discrimination and their psychological problems should be found out and resolved, so that they can feel secure in the Party's confidence. The people with involved backgrounds and their sons and daughters must be accepted into the People's Army, their more intelligent schoolchildren should be sent on to schools of higher education. Furthermore, those who have been tested and prepared must be admitted into the Party. Recently the great leader, while guiding the plenary meeting of the Party Committee of South Hwanghae Province, learned about the personal record of an honourably disabled soldier and saw to it that he was admitted into the Party. This man is a good comrade who was wounded in a battle during the Fatherland Liberation War. However, the Party Committee of South Hwanghae Province had not admitted him into the Party, though he was working hard, on the excuse that the socio-political records of his father and elder brother were chequered. Since he himself was steeled and tested in the crucible of the Fatherland Liberation War, there was no reason he should be distrusted. It was unreasonable to visit his father's or his brother's sins upon him, crimes committed while he himself was fighting at the front. As a matter of fact, his father's crime was not very serious. If the leader had not unravelled this knotty problem for him, the disabled soldier would have continued to suffer. There may be many

similar instances elsewhere. Party organizations should study the real state of affairs in detail and take measures. The people who, though with involved backgrounds, give unqualified support to our Party and work with unfailing loyalty to the Party, should be admitted into the Party without hesitation so that their earnest desires are fulfilled. In addition, when such people acquit themselves well and have performed distinguished services, they should be appreciated without any discrimination and prejudice; any one of them who has performed heroic feats should be awarded the title of Hero. Among those with involved backgrounds there may be people who have been unjustifiably subject to mental sufferings, due to our officials' mistakes in dealing with their problems. Such cases must be reinvestigated and settled without fail, so that people with complex backgrounds, together with their sons and daughters, can live optimistically, with nothing weighing on their minds, and constantly follow our Party with their future assured.

Party organizations and officials must in earnest educate the people with involved backgrounds. We trust and enlist such people with the aim of educating and transforming them and taking them into the communist society. However, these people are not being educated with patience. In consequence, some of them are dubious about the Party's trust in them, instead of accepting it from the bottom of their hearts. Party organizations must never slacken the education of these people. Party officials must meet them and educate them sincerely, even ten or a hundred times if once is not enough. Their education must be undertaken either directly by Party officials, or by Party members and the officials of working-people's organizations on assignment, either collectively or individually.

For the officials to work successfully among the people with dubious backgrounds, as intended by the Party, they must make a profound study of the great leader's instructions and Party policy on this work. It is especially important to study hard the instructions given by the leader at the recent plenary meetings of the Party Committees of North Phyongan and South Hwanghae Provinces. These plenary meetings can be said to be a demonstration lecture given by the great leader to teach the officials the principles and methods of work among the people with involved backgrounds. At these plenary meetings he dealt in detail with many matters, ranging from how to define people's class origin, to how to solve the problems still outstanding among these people. All the officials must make a deep study of the great leader's instructions and Party policy, and thoroughly implement them in their work among the popular masses.

wide itinerant training course for Party cell-Until last winter a Party building and on work-secretaries was given on the subjects of Party if organized. Such a course among different sections of people get a profounder will enable cell secretaries to effectively standing of the great leader's instructions and Party policy on working among the people with involved backgrounds; it will also help them to acquire the methodology for the work among these

people. It is the cell secretaries who always contact and live among the people with complicated backgrounds, and it is also the cell secretaries who are better informed of their ideological trend than anyone else. The people with involved backgrounds listen to the cell secretaries and accept what they say as the intention of the Party. Therefore, it is of paramount importance for the cell secretaries to have a good understanding of the leader's instructions and Party policy on work among these people, and embody these instructions and policy in their work. I think it advisable to create a good reference book for the training course by fully reflecting the leader's instructions and Party's policy on work among people with involved backgrounds and organize another itinerant training course for the cell secretaries next year. Meanwhile, the officials of the Party committee at provincial, city and county level should visit the primary Party organizations. They should explain to the cell secretaries and other junior Party workers in detail about the Party's policy on work among people with involved backgrounds, and teach them the methods to implement it one by one, so that they all work among the people with involved backgrounds efficiently, as intended by the Party.

By so doing, we will rally all the people, including those with dubious backgrounds, firmly around the Party so as to make our revolutionary ranks as firm as a rock on the occasion of the great leader's 60th birthday.

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