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HEIGHTENING THE SCIENTIFIC AND REVOLUTIONARY NATURE OF PARTY BUILDING

Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese No 5, May 77 pp 47-53

[Article by Dao Duy Can]

[Text] The scientific and revolutionary nature of Marxist-Leninist doctrine is its most basic characteristic. Ever since it was founded, our party has adhered to and thoroughly understood this characteristic in all of its activities, especially in the field of building the party.

Today, our country's revolution has entered a new stage: the stage of the entire country's advance to socialism. Our party has become the party in political power throughout the country, become the true leader of all of society. The responsibility of the party to the working class, the people, the nation and the international worker movement is larger than it once was. The specifics involved in building the party, the laws of the growth and development of the party, the mode and methods of building the party and the relationship between the party and the masses are very much different than they once were. The ideological and organizational building of the party as well as the training and the improvement of the leadership and work ability and the revolutionary qualities and virtues of the corps of cadres and party members involve higher demands.

Moreover, building the party is a science--a science in the laws of the growth and development of the party, the laws of strengthening the leadership role of the party, the principles, mode and methods of building the party internally, leading the state and leading the mass organizations.

The fact that the building of the party is a science demands that it be treated as a science. This means that it demands that the persons engaged in building the party possess a command of theory, possess a scientific attitude and be thoroughly scientific when examining and resolving matters pertaining to the building of the party; they cannot act in a haphazard manner based on their own desires, act in a manner which disregards the laws, principles and line of building the party.

Moreover, the building of the party encompasses special characteristics which every cadre and party member must be thoroughly familiar with in order to, on

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this basis, think about and find ways to improve the quality of the building of the party. These characteristics are:

--The building of the party is not restricted to one field but encompasses all three areas of politics, ideology and organization. Building the party in each of these areas is not a simple matter. It is even more difficult to avoid mistakes in all three areas. Whether the building of the party politically, ideologically and organizationally is correct or incorrect has a direct and very large influence upon the course of the revolution, upon the destiny of the fatherland, upon the lives of tens of millions of people, upon the prestige and leadership role of the party.

--The scope of the building of the party is very broad. It extends from the mountainous forests and remote border areas to the islands far off shore, wherever there are people there must be an organization of the party, party leadership. Within the state apparatus, there are numerous sectors and organizations whose operations demand a line and viewpoint of the party in order to guide them in the correct direction and increase their role in the common revolutionary undertaking.

--Organization and man are the objectives of the building of the party. Organization is, at the same time, both very revolutionary and very conservative. An organization has its own laws; however, the building of the party organizationally is dependent upon the political line and task and designed to support the political task, not to simply perform organizational work. An organization consists of persons. Man is the basic factor of an organization. The party member, the vanguard warrior of the working class, possesses a high degree of dynamism; however, he also comes from a background of a semi-feudal society and is not free of the influences of the decadent, negative remnants of the old society. We cannot build the party well if we do not fully practice the science of organization, fully adhere to the laws of organizational work, fully understand psychology, the traditions of the nation and the characteristics of the Vietnamese, in general, and the party member, in particular.

--The results of the building of the party, be they many or few, be they good or bad, not only affect many areas of domestic affairs, but they also, depending upon the position and role of the party, influence the revolutionary movement and the worker movement in the world. As a result, to build the party well, we must have knowledge of many areas and, at the same time, possess a high sense and spirit of responsibility.

Heightening the scientific and revolutionary nature of the building of the party is a pressing requirement at this time. This is not a temporary job or one of immediate significance. To the contrary, it must be thoroughly carried out in each field of building the party, from the most basic of matters to specific everyday work.

1. The matter of foremost importance in heightening the scientific and revolutionary nature of the building of the party is to provide cadres and

party members with knowledge concerning the party when it is in political power.

Providing training in the theory of the party when it is in political power equips cadres and party members with the principles of the party in a systematic, theoretically based manner and gives everyone a deep understanding that:

--Our party is the party of the working class, the class which represents the most advanced mode of production, the class which is in the center of the age, the class which has the great historic mission and the ability to lead our people to the pinnacle of the development of mankind. As long as society is still divided into classes and classes have not been abolished, as long as the class struggle in our country is still a sharp, complicated struggle to resolve the problem of "who defeats whom" between the working class and the bourgeoisie, between socialism and capitalism and the class struggle throughout the world is still a profound, sharp struggle, it is absolutely impossible to diminish the class nature of the party, impossible to consider the party a party of many classes, impossible to confuse the party with the class or reduce the level of the party to the level of the class as this leads to negating the class nature of the party. However, it must be realized that our party not only faithfully represents the interests of the working class, but, at the same time, it also represents the interests of the working people and the entire nation; moreover, the party has the responsibility of fulfilling its obligation to the international communist and worker movement.

--The party has Marxism-Leninism as the ideological foundation and the compass of its actions because Marxism-Leninism is a science capable of transforming the world, transforming society and transforming man. The realities of the worker movement and world revolutionary movement over the past century and more have proven it to be the most effective weapon of the working class and working people in the struggle to overthrow the rule of the exploiting classes and build the new society. The party, which was founded on the basis of Marxism-Leninism, protects the purity of this philosophy and combats each attempt to distort or negate it while making every effort to develop and help enrich Marxism-Leninism. On the other hand, the party attaches importance to reviewing the experiences of other parties and nations in the revolutionary struggle, incorporating the essence of the intelligence of the age and setting forth its lines and policies in an independent, autonomous, correct and creative manner.

--The party has been built on the basis of the principle of democratic centralism, the fundamental organizational principle of the party. The party attaches full importance to unified, centralized leadership, strengthening its internal discipline and broadening its internal democracy in a manner consistent with the requirements of the new task.

--The party strengthens its internal solidarity on the basis of Marxism-Leninism, the political line of the party, the organizational principles of the party and the spirit of deep love among communists. The party considers protecting its solidarity the apple of its eye and resolutely struggles against acts of divisiveness and factionalism which weaken its fighting strength.

--The party has made the practice of self-criticism and criticism a law of development of the party and resolutely overcomes such deviations as concealing one's mistakes, hiding one's shortcomings or impeding and restricting criticism, taking action against persons who are critical, etc.

--The party takes action to strengthen its relationship with the masses, always listens to the opinions of the masses and mobilizes the masses to participate in the building of the party; it is concerned with the life of the masses and upholds their right of collective ownership, considering these to be the moving force behind the entire revolutionary undertaking of the party. At the same time, the party resolutely struggles against bureaucracy, remoteness from the masses, arbitrariness, authoritarianism, special rights and privileges and the failure to respect the right of ownership of the masses.

--The party is the leadership nucleus of the dictatorship of the proletariat; it is capable of assembling and organizing the various forces within this system to excellently complete the task of building socialism and communism in our country.

--The party correctly coordinates genuine patriotism with proletarian internationalism and opposes each manifestation of bourgeois and petty bourgeois nationalism.

2. Heightening the scientific and revolutionary nature of the building of the party must be thoroughly manifested in the correct establishment of the political task of each locality, level and sector. This is a very important matter because, as we know, a correct political task is the banner guiding the actions of the cadres, party members and masses within each party organization; it is the political, ideological basis of the internal unity of the party; it is the basis for conducting correct ideological and organizational work; it is the standard for distinguishing between the correct and the incorrect when practicing self-criticism and criticism; it is the origin of each victory.

The correct political task must embody the basic requirements of the line, policy and general political task of the entire party as concretized for a locality or sector and meet the demands of the situation and task of this locality or sector while correctly reflecting the will and fundamental aspirations of the masses.

It is clear that the correct political task cannot be based on subjective desires, empiricism or the administrative style of work. To the contrary, it must be the result of the correct application of the lines and policies of the party to the specific situation of the locality and sector, the result of the collective intelligence of the entire party organization and the scientific work method coordinated with a high spirit of responsibility. As a result, it demands that each party organization be particularly concerned with investigating, researching and assessing the situation well. It is necessary to utilize agencies well to assess and research the situation of the party committee echelon and even state agencies in order to perform this

work well. On this basis, we must analyze and evaluate the situation in an objective and comprehensive manner, clearly see our advantages and difficulties, determine which matters are of vital importance and determine the basic trend of development of the situation and the primary obstacles impeding the development of the revolution. Only by assessing the situation is it possible to have the basis needed to establish the correct task. We must correct the practice of assessing the situation in a superficial, one-sided manner and the practice of not relying upon the objective situation to research and establish the political task.

In conjunction with assessing the situation, we must fully understand the lines and policies of the party, especially those matters pertaining to the line on the socialist revolution and the line on building the socialist economy in the new stage in our country as set forth in the resolution of the 4th Congress of the Party. It is necessary to have knowledge of Marxism-Leninism, the economy and science and technology. On the other hand, we must possess a revolutionary-offensive spirit, dare to think and act and be willing to assume responsibility to the party and the masses; we cannot withdraw in the face of difficulties and obstacles, we cannot be satisfied with the achievements we have recorded; this is the only way to establish a correct political task.

Although difficult, the establishment of a correct political task is only the first step. Endeavoring to successfully perform the political task is even more difficult. Success in this effort is of very important significance because it is the only clear expression of the leadership ability of the party organization.

An important matter in successfully carrying out the political task is that the party organization must be in complete agreement with and be determined to carry out the task that has been established. It must struggle to overcome incorrect viewpoints and thoughts which deviate from the general line and the political task of the party. It must promptly stop and criticize such incorrect thinking as: the fear of difficulties and hardships, a lack of confidence, a weak sense of responsibility and unwillingness to struggle against persons who do not act in accordance with the resolutions, lines and policies of the party. It must establish a clear division of responsibilities, put competent party members and cadres in charge of jobs of central importance and mobilize all party members to endeavor to effectively carry out the task of the party organization. It must utilize and develop the government apparatus and the mass organizations well in the effort to carry out the political task. It must correct that style of leadership in which the party organization takes over the work of the mass organization or does not employ the mass organization well. It must intensify its inspections and promptly detect deviations and mistakes in order to correct them and detect points which are inconsistent in order to supplement and rectify them. It must attach importance to conducting preliminary and final reviews of its work in order to learn valuable lessons for the purpose of continuing to improve the quality of its leadership, etc.

3. The scientific and revolutionary nature of the ideological building of the party:

Heightening the scientific and revolutionary nature of ideological work means that we must, first of all, closely coordinate the following three areas: increasing the knowledge which the corps of cadres and party members has of Marxist-Leninist theory and the lines and policies of the party; increasing its knowledge of academic subjects, economics, science and technology; improving its revolutionary qualities and virtues. Each aspect occupies an important position and there is a close relationship among these three aspects, none can be given light attention or separated from the others.

Only when cadres and party members, especially the corps of core cadres, have a thorough understanding of the basic matters of Marxism-Leninism and the lines and policies of the party, have a knowledge of academic subjects, science, technology and economic management and possess revolutionary qualities and virtues can they take voluntary, effective action and correctly resolve the problems raised by the realities of the revolution, thereby helping to strengthen the leadership role of the party.

Therefore, we must, on the one hand, attach importance to education and training; on the other hand, we must resolutely criticize subjectivism, complacency and the practices of having little regard for learning or theory or only learning from books. We must overcome the practices of working in an irresponsible, haphazard manner, doing just enough to get by or working in the style of the "veteran official." We must combat bureaucracy, arbitrariness, authoritarianism, disdain for the masses and violations of the right of collective ownership of the masses. We must combat the thinking of wanting to rest and take it easy, combat the thinking of the self-important, meritorious official, combat the attitude of passively relying upon others, combat the fear of difficulties and responsibility, combat the attitude of having disdain for organization and the failure to fully comply with the directives and resolutions of the party and the laws of the state. We must combat the habits of lying, submitting false reports, not protecting that which is known to be correct nor struggling against that which is known to be incorrect, humiliating oneself and flattering others or enjoying others' flattery, being prejudiced and looking for ways to retaliate against persons who dare to struggle, dare to speak the truth. We must combat acts of deviousness and factionalism, combat partialism and localism, combat the practices of doing just enough to get by, saving face or struggling in an unprincipled manner. We must combat the thinking of some that they have special rights and privileges; combat the practice of trying to arrange things to one's best benefit; combat the practice of using or abusing public property; combat corruption and favoritism; combat the practice of earning one's living in an illegitimate manner, not through the legitimate labor of oneself or one's family, etc.

The scientific and revolutionary nature of ideological work is also expressed in closely coordinating the thorough teaching of socialist and communist thinking with the struggle to overcome petty bourgeois thinking and combat each influence of bourgeois thinking and the remnants of feudal thinking among cadres and party members.

Ideological work must always be based on the political task and support this task well. Otherwise, it will lack militancy, easily fall into idealism and metaphysics and have no positive effect.

Ideological work must be closely coordinated with organizational work. Because, a correct theory, a progressive line of thinking can only have an impact within a strong, stable organization. Only within a good organization is progressive thinking transformed into reality and negative thinking limited.

Heightening the scientific and revolutionary nature of ideological work also means that we must practice self-criticism and criticism within the party well. Self-criticism and criticism must truly become an important way to improve the leadership ability of the various party committee echelons and improve the work skills, qualities and ethics of cadres and party members, thereby making an important contribution to the successful performance of the political task of the party, strengthening the unity and unanimity within the party and limiting and promptly overcoming the shortcomings and mistakes of cadres and party members.

4. Heightening the scientific and revolutionary nature of the building of the party organizationally is also something with which we must be fully concerned. Doing this well will make an important contribution to insuring that our party is truly a militant, pure and strong revolutionary organization capable of leading our working class and people in completing the large tasks assigned by history.

The matter of foremost importance is that of implementing the principle of democratic centralism in a manner consistent with the new conditions and circumstances as set forth in the Party Statutes. It is first of all necessary to insure the centralized, unified leadership of the Party Central Committee and the various party committee echelons. It is necessary to fully comply with the lines and policies of the party; no excuses can be made for postponing the implementation or incorrectly implementing the lines and policies of the party. No one can take it upon himself to establish positions, policies and regulations which are contrary to common positions, policies and regulations. We must streamline the system of information from top to bottom to insure that the lines and policies of the party are rapidly disseminated throughout the party and among all the people. We must fully comply with the regulations governing reports and requests for directives; reports must be accurate and prompt so that the Party Central Committee and the various party committee echelons can assess the situation of the various sectors and localities.

It is necessary to broaden the practice of internal democracy and create every possible condition for each cadre and party member to actively partake in the establishment of the lines and policies of the party and offer his opinions on how to implement the party's lines and policies well. We must tap the intelligence, the creativity and the experience of the party organizations and of each cadre and party member as well as the masses in order to help improve the leadership of the party. A determined struggle must be waged

against anything which limits the practice of democracy and against democracy for form's sake.

It is necessary to strengthen collective leadership in coordination with establishing a clear, detailed division of personal responsibilities. We must correct the thinking of the arbitrary, dictatorial individual who has disdain for the collective; at the same time, we must combat the practice of depending and relying upon the collective, being unwilling to assume responsibility and being unwilling to make decisions within the scope of one's responsibility.

In conjunction with broadening the practice of democracy, it is necessary to strengthen the discipline of the party. We must heighten the sense of voluntarily complying with the lines and policies of the party, the directives and resolutions of the upper echelon, the rules of internal party life and the division of labor of the organization. The secrets of the party and state must be kept. Determined steps must be taken to eliminate all manifestations of liberalism, the lack of organization and the lack of discipline. We must harshly criticize and take appropriate, prompt steps to deal with cadres and party members who violate the code of discipline of the party and the laws of the state in accordance with the Party Statutes.

Every effort must be made to increase and strengthen the unity within the party. Determined steps must be taken to overcome the individualism which is presently one of the important reasons for a lack of unity at some places.

Every effort must be made to strengthen the various party committee echelons in accordance with the standards that have been established. There must be good coordination between veteran cadres and new cadres, young cadres and older cadres and political cadres and specialized-technical cadres in order to insure that the leadership of the party is strengthened and maintain and develop the continuity within the corps of leadership cadres.

We must thoroughly understand the class line in the cadre work of each echelon and sector. All cadre work, from the selection and training to the assignment, use and promotion of cadres must be based on the political line and task and the task of the organization. We must more thoroughly apply cadre standards to each echelon, sector and job position in a manner consistent with the requirements of the new task. We must correct those mistaken viewpoints which place personal qualities into opposition with abilities or only emphasize qualities or abilities, thereby posing obstacles to the evaluation, assignment and use of cadres. We must bring about a stronger change in the utilization and promotion of young cadres who are capable of undertaking tasks on the various levels and in the various sectors in conjunction with making good use of the corps of veteran cadres who are still able to undertake tasks.

Building a strong corps of party members who possess good qualities and are able to complete the tasks assigned them by the party is, at this time, an extremely important matter in building the party organizationally. There must be good coordination among the following three areas: the training of

existing party members, the acceptance of qualified persons into the party and the expulsion from the party of persons who do not possess the character of a party member. At the same time, we must struggle to correct mistaken viewpoints in the development of the party, such as the following: placing sole emphasis upon quantity and not meeting qualitative standards; the fear of responsibility; being unwilling to accept qualified persons into the party; developing the party without strengthening it; not regularly training new party members so that they soon become fully qualified to be vanguard warriors of the working class. We must combat the rightist thinking of not taking determined steps to expel from the party persons who do not possess the character of a party member; not taking positive steps to train and teach "average" party members to become active party members; and not being vigilant against infiltration of the party by opportunists and decadent elements.

5. The scientific and revolutionary nature of the building of the party are also reflected in the work methods of each level, cadre and party member. We must insure that each level, cadre and party member has a work program and plan which contain a job of central importance during each period of time; insure that they always give their attention to maintaining close contact with reality, with installations and with the masses and always listen to the opinions of the masses. With regard to important matters, pilot projects must be conducted at a few places in order to gain experience for providing general guidance. It is necessary to make good use of the various organizations and not take over the work of them, especially with regard to agencies of the government and the mass organizations. Within the scope of his responsibility, everyone must display a high spirit of responsibility, be willing to assume responsibility and be willing to make decisions. Bold self-criticism and forthright criticism of others are necessary in cases involving shortcomings and mistakes. We must take determined action against the handicraft style of working without a program or plan; performing jobs in a random manner; not adhering to the central task; not completing jobs, lacking foresight and a comprehensive point of view; operating in an administrative, bureaucratic manner; not conducting inspections or research; and not conducting preliminary and final reviews to gain experience.

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A DISCUSSION OF WATER CONSERVANCY IN SOUTHERN VIETNAM

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[Article Hoang Tien]

[Text] The Capabilities Afforded by Nature and the Limitations Imposed by Nature in Agricultural Production in the South

Southern Vietnam is divided into many areas based on its terrain and hydrology, each of which has its own unique characteristics. Generally speaking, the weather and climate of the South are moderate and temperature and sunlight conditions permit agricultural production throughout the year. Except for the several provinces of central Vietnam, the other areas are not subject to hot winds, they experience frost infrequently and they are only slightly influenced by typhoons. Rainfall averages from 1,800 to 2,000 millimeters per year everywhere with the exception of a few places which receive little rainfall, such as the Phan Rang and Phan Ri area. However, the dry season, during which there is very little rainfall, lasts for 5 consecutive months from the final months of the year to the first month of the following year. This is the major characteristic controlling all activities in agricultural production in the South.

The Mekong River Delta is one of the largest rice growing areas. Compared to the Red River Delta, this delta has three times more natural land (nearly 4 million hectares), roughly 3 million hectares of which can be used for farming. Practically all of the soil here is rather fertile alluvial soil deposited by the Mekong River and the land is flat.

The weather here is uniformly warm throughout the year and there are no major climatic changes, consequently, the agricultural seasons vary only slightly. Average annual rainfall is 1,800 millimeters but it is evenly distributed throughout the year and the intensity of rainfall is not high; therefore, there is no waterlogging caused by rainfall only waterlogging caused by floods.

A rather long coastline encircles the Mekong River Delta from the east to the west, therefore, the influence of the tides is rather strong here and supports both irrigation and drainage if effective projects are constructed. The Mekong