

## C. Article 3

### **Xi Zhongxun Speech at the Forum Commemorating the Sixty-Seventh Anniversary of the “May Fourth” Movement (3 May 1986)**

**Flora Sapio, translator**

习仲勋在纪念“五四”运动六十七周年座谈会上的讲话

习仲勋

青年朋友们，同志们：今天，我参加这个座谈会，同各界青年代表一起庆祝“五四”青年节，感到很高兴。我代表中共中央和国务院，向你们，向全国各族青年，表示热烈的祝贺！

一九一九年发生的“五四”运动，是我国历史上一次反帝反封建的伟大革命运动。“五四”革命精神，一直鼓舞着我国青年前进。什么是“五四”革命精神呢？概括起来就是：爱国主义的精神，倡导民主和科学的精神，青年知识分子同工农相结合的精神。我们今天纪念“五四”，就是要求广大青年结合新的历史条件，发扬光大“五四”革命精神，更加紧密地团结在党和政府的周围，为建设高度文明、高度民主的社会主义现代化国家作出新的贡献。为此，我们对广大青年提出几点希望：

第一，要积极参加改革。改革是我们建设具有中国特色的社会主义的必由之路。当前，经济、科技和教育体制改革，正在城市和农村深入发展。广大青年工人、青年农民、青年知识分子和其他劳动青年，一定要认真学习领会改革的目的、意义、方针和政策，以主人翁态度参加各项改革。这也是新形势下发扬社会主义民主的一种要求。前几天，《工人日报》发表了鞍钢一位青年工人的万言建议书，就工厂的改革、生产、经营、管理和思想政治工作，向厂领导提出了一系列很有见地的建议。一位普通工人，这样关心改革大局，关心国家富强，关心企业命运，是难能可贵的。这种主人翁精神，应当大力提倡。广大青年职工和青年农民，处在工农业生产第一线，对搞

好改革有很高的热情。应当鼓励他们解放思想，勇于探索，大胆实践。各级领导者应当重视青年人的改革建议，热情支持各种符合改革要求的创举。在改革的过程中，广大青年还要学会正确认识和处理国家、集体、个人三者利益关系，自觉地把国家利益放在首位。广大青年这样做了，就会有力地促进改革的健康发展。

第二，要出色做好本职工作。去年全国团代表会议报告中有一句话，叫做“创四化大业，应当立足本职岗位，争创一流成绩”。我认为，这句话讲得很好。大家知道，六届全国人大四次会议刚刚通过的“七五”计划，是个很好的计划，但是计划再好，只有经过我们在各自具体岗位上努力实践，才能把它变为现实。所以，工业、农业、科技、文教、卫生、财贸等各条战线的广大青年，一定要按照“七五”计划的要求，围绕本行业、本单位的奋斗目标，在本职岗位上创造第一流成绩。青年是各条战线建设的生力军，大家都在平凡的岗位上作出不平凡的成绩，那么，我们“七五”一定会比“六五”干得更好！为完成“七五”计划和实现四化而建功立业，这就是我国当代青年应有的爱国主义壮举。

第三，要踊跃参加社会主义精神文明建设。青年人，富于理想，接受新事物快，对精神生活有多方面的需求，是建设精神文明最活跃的力量之一。近几年来，广大青年倡风气之先，例如：城市的职工读书讲演活动，农村的帮困扶贫活动，部队的英模报告团活动，学生的街头咨询服务活动等，这些都是首先由青年工人、青年农民、青年战士、青年学生干起来的，对全社会的精神文明建设起到了很好的作用。对广大青年在精神文明建设中的地位、作用和主流，必须充分肯定。同时，也必须指出，在对外开放和对内搞活的新形势下，青年在理想、纪律、道德等方面，还存在这样那样不容忽视的消极现象，要认真克服。广大青年要继续努力学习科学文化知识，熟练地掌握劳动技能，并且逐步养成文明、健康、科学的社会主义生活方式。要在青年中大力普及法律知识，做到人人学法、知法和守法；大力加强职业道德教育，增强劳动纪律，纠正带有行业特点的不正之风；大力加强婚姻家庭道德修养，提倡正确的恋爱观，发展平等和睦的家庭关系。在农村要注意破除封建迷信、买卖婚姻和红白喜事大操大办、铺张浪费等陈规陋习。我们相信，广大青年，一定会把自己锻炼成为有理想、有道德、有文化、有纪律的新一代。

青年知识分子要自觉地同工农相结合。青年知识分子有较多的文化科学知识，思想敏锐，创新精神较强，弱点是缺乏实践锻炼，容易脱离实际。一切有作为的青年知识分子，应当自觉地

向工农学习，同工农相结合，同实际相结合。既勇于“向上攀登”，努力学习马克思主义；又勤于“向下深入”，广泛联系群众和实际。只有把自己的理想和追求，扎扎实实地同党和人民的利益紧密联系在一起，把自己的聪明才智投入到解决经济、政治、文化、社会等实际问题中去，才能使自己在更广阔的领域内经受锻炼、增长才干，成为祖国需要的合格人才。广大团干部担负着带领和组织团员、青年开展活动的光荣任务，在与工农相结合等方面，都应当走在前头。

最后，我想引用两句古诗：“桐花万里丹山路，雏凤清于老凤声。”这是唐代诗人李商隐写的，说的是桐花盛开的时候，小凤凰唱出了比老凤凰更为清亮的歌声。我想借用这两句诗，寄希望于我国的年青一代。希望你们团结一致，在社会主义现代化建设中，创造出比我们老一辈更加辉煌的业绩！

Speech at the  
 Forum Commemorating the  
 Sixty-Seventh Anniversary of the “May Fourth” Movement<sup>1</sup>

Xi Zhongxun

(May 3, 1986)

Young Friends, Comrades: today, I am very happy to participate to this Forum to celebrate, together will the Youth's delegates from all walks of life, the May Fourth Youth Day. On behalf of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and of the State Council, I would like to extend warm congratulations to you, and to the young people of all ethnic groups of China! The “May Fourth” movement that took place in 1919 is a great revolutionary movement against imperialism and against feudalism in the history of our country. The spirit of the “May Fourth” revolution has always encouraged the young people in our country to move forward. But what is the spirit of the “May Fourth” revolution? Generally speaking it is the spirit of patriotism, the spirit of advocating democracy and science, the

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<sup>1</sup> Originally published on page 1, of the 4<sup>th</sup> May 1986 issue of the People's Daily, and reprinted in Xi Zhongxun, *The Selected Works of Xi Zhongxun* (*Xi Zhongxun wenxuan*), Beijing: Zhongyang Wenxian Chubanshe, 1995, pp. 423-426.

spirit of binding together young intellectuals, workers and peasants. Our commemoration, today, of “May Fourth” is to require the vast majority of young people to relate to the new historical conditions, to carry forward the spirit of the “May Fourth” revolution, to more closely rally around the Party and the government, to make new efforts to construct a modernized socialist country that is highly civilized and highly democratic. To this end, I have several hopes for the vast majority of young people:

First, they must actively participate in reform. Reform is the only way for us to build a socialism possessing Chinese characteristics. At the moment, systems reforms in the economy, science and technology, and education are undergoing an in-depth development in urban and in rural areas. The vast majority of young workers, young farmers, young intellectuals and other working youth must diligently study and understand the goals, meaning, direction and policies of reform, and participate to all various reforms with the attitude of masters. This is also a requirement for promoting socialist democracy in the new circumstances. A few days ago, the “Workers’ Daily” published the 10,000 characters proposal of a young workers from Angang, presenting a series of insightful suggestions about reform, production, operation, management to the factory leaders. An ordinary worker, who cares in such a way about the overall situation of reform, about the strength and prosperity of the country, about the future of the enterprise is rare and precious. Such a spirit of ownership should be vigorously promoted. The vast majority of young manufacturing workers and young peasants are at the forefront of industrial and agrarian production and have a high enthusiasm for reform. They should be encouraged to emancipate their minds, dare to explore, and be bold in their practice. Leaders at all levels should pay attention to the reform proposals of the youth, and warmly support all those various initiatives that meet the needs of reform. In the process of reform, the vast majority of young people must learn correctly understand and treat the interest relation between the three interests of the state, of the collective, and the People, and willingly place the interest of the state first. By doing so, the vast majority of young people will vigorously promote the healthy development of reform.

Second, one’s job must be done well. In last year’s report of the National Youth Leagues’ Delegates there was a sentence: “the

creation of the great cause of the Four Modernizations should be based on striving for first-class results in one's own work". I believe that this sentence is very good. As you know, the Fourth Plenary Session of the Sixth National People's Congress just adopted the Seventh Five-Years Plan. This is a very good plan, but no matter how good the plan is, it can be made a reality only through our practical diligence in our specific positions. Therefore, the vast majority of young people in industry, agriculture, science and technology, education, health, finance and trade and any other front must be sure to follow the requirements of the Seventh Five-Years Plan, the struggle objectives concerning their own industry, their own work-unit and create first-class successes on their own posts. Young people are the new force for the construction of all fronts, and we are achieving extraordinary successes through our ordinary work. Therefore, with the Seventh Five-Years Plan we will do a better job than we did with the Sixth Five-Years Plan. The heroic patriotic undertaking of our contemporary youth is completing the Seventh Five-Years Plan and contributing to the achievement of the Four Modernizations.

Third, actively participate in the construction of socialist spiritual civilization. Young people are full of ideals, and they quickly accept new things. They have multiple needs for spiritual life and are one of the most active forces in building a spiritual civilization. In recent years, the vast majority of young people have advocated trends such as: teaching and lecturing offered to urban manufacturing workers, poverty alleviation activities in rural areas, military model report groups, and street counseling services for students. These have all been organized first of all by young workers, young peasants, young soldiers, young students, and have been very useful to the construction of a socialist spiritual civilization. The place, role and main current of the construction of a socialist spiritual civilization for the vast majority of young people must be affirmed. At the same time, it must also be pointed out that under the new situation of opening up to the outside world and domestic invigoration, young people display negative phenomena in their thought, discipline and morality, phenomena that cannot be ignored, and that they must be resolutely overcome. The vast majority of young people must continue to work diligently to earn scientific, technological and cultural knowledge, skillfully master technical abilities, and gradually develop a civilized, healthy, scientific socialist lifestyle. We must vigorously popularize legal

knowledge among the vast majority of young people, so that everyone can study the law, know the law and abide by the law. We must vigorously strengthen education in professional ethics, strengthen labor discipline, and correct those unhealthy practices that display characteristics specific to their industry. We must vigorously strengthen the moral cultivation of marriage and the family, promoting a correct outlook on love, and develop equal and harmonious family relationships. In rural areas, attention should be paid to eliminating feudal superstition, arranged marriages, and red-and-white wedding ceremonies, extravagance and waste. We believe that the vast majority of young people will definitely train themselves into a new generation with ideals, with morality, with culture and discipline.

Fourth, young intellectuals should willingly integrate with workers and peasants. Young intellectuals have a lot of cultural and scientific knowledge, are sharp-minded, and have a strong spirit of innovation. Their weakness is that they lack practical training and are easily separated from reality. All talented young intellectuals should willingly learn from workers and peasants, integrate with workers and peasants, and integrate with reality. They should not only dare to “climb up” and work hard to learn Marxism. They should also diligently “descend deep down”, making extensive contact with the masses and with reality. Only by firmly linking our ideals and pursuits with the interests of the party and the people, and putting our ingenuity and wisdom into solving practical problems such as economic, political, cultural, and social issues, can we make ourselves more broadly In the field, they have undergone training and growth, and have become qualified personnel required by the motherland. The broad masses of cadres bear the glorious task of leading and organizing the activities of youth members and youths, and they should be at the forefront in integrating with workers and peasants.

In the end, I would like to quote two verses from an ancient poem: “Ten thousand miles away on the path to Mount Dan, the song of the young phoenix on the Tong tree is clearer than the song of the old phoenix.” This was written by Tang poet Li Shangyin, and it says that when the Tong tree was in full bloom, the chant of the young phoenix was much clearer than the chant of the old phoenix. I hope you will unite as one, to create a performance in the construction of socialist modernization, that

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*C. Xi Zhongxun, Speech—  
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will be much more brilliant than the performance of the older generation!

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