

ICU

"All right then, chapter 6 for next class, comment sheets up front, please!" As soon as the professor signals the end of class, a crowd forms around his desk. Third period is over. Comment sheets pile up, and students start to file out of the classroom. I am not in the queue yet though. I sit at my desk, thoroughly checking over my comment. I have already been called out twice, and I cannot make any further mistakes. I must show the professor that I have the right Thought.

One student whom I once called friend received dismissal last term. She had asked too many questions, and her comment sheets reflected her reactionary thinking. She was marked, and no one heard from her again. I despise her greatly; such dangerous ideas she had! She is a threat to progress and prosperity and the enemy of the People. But I despise her more than that. She tried to lure me into reactionary thinking, and my reputation has been tainted.

Fortunately, her attempt to mislead me has failed; true comradeship cannot be challenged by false friendship. I stand resolute in the ideals the Revolution and with the glory of the People! But now I am suspected of being one of her associates. It is truly unfortunate that my comrades cannot see the revolutionary spirit in me. I must show them that I hold the true Thought. I cannot be seen as a reactionary.

My comment cannot simply be the standard proclamation of praise. It has to reflect the lecture content, and also sound intelligent. I reread my comment sheet:

"It is clear that the leadership of the Party, in embrace of the glorious Revolutionary Thought, has guided the People into the current level of economic prosperity. Only the People, united in an iron will and working towards victory, could have lead the SSR Japan through the progress of the post-war period. The USSR has liberated Japan from imperialism. Although the initial stage of the Occupation was punitive, not just to military leaders and capitalists, but to the People of Japan as well, this can be seen as a test on the People; the USSR Occupation saw the People renounce the evils of imperialism, and embrace the Revolutionary Ideal. They saw that even in a former imperialist land, the People were together with the world-wide struggle against imperialism. The united purge against the capitalists and counter-revolutionaries in the initial postwar years made the Occupation certain that the People were on the right track. Postwar Japan has proved to the world its strength and will to strive for the cause of the People. It signified that the People of Japan were united in spirit with the People of the world in the revolutionary struggle against imperialism."

This should be all right. I did not mention the USSR-Japan security treaty, as I know that topic is

controversial. There is nothing in my comment that can be read as reactionary. Yes, this is a good comment that echoes with the ideals of the true Thought. I take the comment sheet up to the professor; I am the last one in the room.

Out the classroom and down the crowded corridor I walk, coming to the main hall. Amid the shuffling crowd, comrades from the ICU revolutionary opera troupe are handing out fliers for their next performance. I receive one, check my mailbox (it is empty), and head outside. It is a beautiful autumn day; a bit chilly but the breeze is pleasant. Many people are lying on the grass napping, and many more are having lunch. I notice a new slogan on the Honkan building: **"Let us strive for the People in the spirit of Revolutionary Thought!"** it reads.

A few OYRs are joking around on bakayama; they are not speaking Russian, so they must be Bulgarian or German or something. There are other voices of students laughing as they walk towards the dining hall. That is interrupted for a second, as three fighter jets cut across above our heads, heading for Chofu airbase. A stream of white remains in the sky, and below it, the bell tower's red star glimmers under the soft autumn rays. Another pleasant day at the International Communist University.