

DAL SCUBA CLUB

General Meeting

Sept. 30 - 7:00 p.m.

Dal Gym classroom

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interested in learning to dive

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Ho Chi Minh:

Ho Chi Minh, the great Vietnamese leader, died one year ago Sept. 3. Following is an extract of a talk he delivered in 1956 to students at Vietnam People's University.

I am very pleased to see that despite the difference of ages, professions, and abilities, you are all prompted by the same will, that is to make progress so as to serve the Fatherland and the people more effectively. That single-mindedness has resulted in your solidarity even in this class. Unity is the force which leads us to all victories.

Here are some ideas of mine for your consideration.

Revolutionary forces: The main revolutionary forces are the workers and peasants. The reason for this is that they are the producers of all wealth, that keep Society alive, and that they make up the most numerous and also the most heavily exploited section of the population. It is also because their revolutionary spirit is firmer and more persevering than that of all other social strata.

However, the revolution also needs the force of intellectuals (generally called brain workers). For instance: doctors are necessary for the preservation of people's health; teachers for the education of people and the training of cadres; engineers for economic construction, etc.

So, brain workers play an important and glorious role in the revolution and in socialist construction; *and workers, peasants, and intellectuals should be closely united as one bloc.*

Close link with the workers and peasants: The colonialist and feudal regimes have deliberately separated the intellectuals from the bloc of workers and peasants. They have created the thought that "Everything but book-learning is worthless." They used intellectuals in their ruling apparatus for their own profits. To sow dissension between brain workers and manual workers is also part of their "divide and rule" policy.

Nowadays, such severance should be gradually wiped out, and the working people (brain workers and manual workers) should be closely united in order to join efforts in the building of a new and happy society.

I am of the opinion that, on the way towards unity, intellectuals should take the initiative in making the first step to come to the workers and peasants; I am sure they will be warmly welcomed by the latter.

Method of study: The study is a lifelong matter. Theory should be closely coupled with practical work. No one can pretend to have sufficient or thorough knowledge. The word changes every day. Our people are progressing day by day. We should therefore continue to study and practice what we have learnt so as to keep pace with the people's progress.

The time you spend in class being relatively short, *the object of your studies cannot be too great nor too high.* What you learn here can be compared to a small seed. Later, you must continue to take care of that seed. You must make it grow into a plant, then make the plant gradually blossom and bear fruit.

In my personal opinion, that seed can be described in these eleven words "Dai hoc chi dao, tai minh minh duc, tai than dan" (The doctrine of University education consists in promoting lofty virtues and in uniting with the people).

Briefly speaking, "minh minh duc" means *to have righteous mind, and "than dan", to serve the people and put the people's interests above all.*
In other words, "to undergo sufferings before the people, and to enjoy happiness after the people."

We all have more or less inherited the thoughts, habits and manners of the old society. Therefore, it is not easy to materialise the two words "chinh tam" (righteous mind).

We have to go through a struggle between the old and the new in ourselves, an arduous, hard and unremitting struggle but if we are resolute, the new will win over the old and the righteousness of mind will achieve success.

Freedom of thought: Our regime being a democratic one, there should be freedom of thought. What is freedom? In all matters, everyone is free to express his own view, thereby contributing to the establishing of the truth. That is a right and also a duty of all people.

After everyone's view has been expressed and truth has been established, freedom of thought turns into *freedom to obey the truth.*

Truth is what is beneficial to the Fatherland and to the people. What is detrimental to the interests of the Fatherland and people is not truth. To strive to serve the Fatherland and the people is to obey the truth.

Attitude of the Party and the Government towards intellectuals: As a part of the revolutionary forces, intellectuals have the task of carrying out emulation for serving the Fatherland and the people. Our Party and Government therefore *highly appreciate the people's intellectuals who work for the people.*

To build the country, an increasing number of good intellectuals is required. The Party and Government should on the one hand help the present generation of intellectuals to progress day by day and on the other hand strive to train new intellectuals.

The Party and Government should help the intellectuals by educating them so as to give them a firm class stand, a correct viewpoint, sound thinking, and democratic manners. In short, intellectuals should be helped to achieve a righteous mind and close connections with the people.

As far as the method of education is concerned, it should follow the principle of voluntariness and self-consciousness. There should be explanations, discussions, and persuasion instead of compulsion. Intellectuals should be helped to emulate each other in their studies and work. They should also be shown how to practice the method of "sincere self-criticism and frank criticism" so that all of them may make uninterrupted progress, unite with one another, and serve the Fatherland and people.