Assume the role of one of China's leaders and explain why economic development is important to China's national security

Yin Zemin: I would say that economic development is needed for our growing population. Because we need to feed an additional number of people, the "great leap forward" is needed to improve our agriculture. In fact, our pace is too slow, it is "beyond the power of an agricultural producer's co-operative consisting of a few dozen or hundreds of households.

In fact, other projects such as 'water-conservancy projects, afforestation, combating drought, and flood prevention' are necessary for the benefit for the nation. Besides the obvious physical outcome of reducing the impact of disasters, it provides jobs for the local economy. This is evident in how "small co-operatives spontaneously joined hands, and socialist co-operation between co-operatives of different townships, different counties, and even different provinces was carried out." Water seeks a new level, and since there are jobs available, people can gather. In fact, organizations that are 'small in size, meager in items of production and low in the degree of collectivization are becoming handicaps to the further development of productive forces' (Cheng, pg. 409)

This economic development is not just necessary for the personal welfare of the Chinese people, but for removing counter-revolutionaries and opponents of improvements that we are creating. This includes "bourgeois rightists, landlords, rich peasants" that see us as a rival and thus would do anything in their power to oppose the party, including dissuading the people from what is good and right for them. They would stir up discontent, despite the rectification campaigns that we have carried out.

We would have them undergo re-education campaigns. These people would expropriate the working people's property (Mao, Lushan speech), and "had not properly studied political economy", nor "laws of value, and renumeration according to work done." (pg. 135) In fact, I'm not opposing the re-education campaign for all; just that it would take time. So, I would have started off with the basics of political economy. Perhaps with a study campaign. But not that everyone should attend university, as that would take 15 years of progress that we could have made. In any case, we would have unity via economic development, and the undesirables would have to work with us through proper education.

Economic development in the form of collectivization would eliminate waste for us, such that we could use once dedicated valuable resources for direct economic progress such as the projects that I have mentioned earlier. For example, canteens. When we gather people together to eat together, we are eliminating wastage, we would prevent people from throwing away uneaten food at the end of the day. With communal canteens, labour and material could be saved as a cook can cook food for multiple households, rather than just one.

Another means of eliminating waste would be in the form of small blast furnaces. They say that the iron that we produce is wasted, fit for nothing but cooking pots. I believe that it is an expression of the enthusiasm of the Chinese people. And cooking pots is better than letting the metal waste away. We cannot afford the foreign furnaces that the West offers, so we make our own domestic production. Provided that we "came to grips with the problem and worked really hard", the iron we produce could be even better than what the West provides. In fact, if we would have self-reliance, that would be the best rather than trying to import from foreign nations.

We would also provide for women. Previously in feudal times, the women would be held at home by their husbands, and open to familial abuse. By liberating the woman at home, and following Engel's advocation of sexual equality, we would employ twice the population than previous governments. In addition, mobilizing women to work in factories and in collectives would free up the men to hard labor that the women cannot do. With women, full co-operation would be achieved as their potentialities can be brought into full play.

By putting women into the workforce, their children can be placed in creches and looked after by a single nursery. Once again, this is collectivization in action. By reducing the number of caregivers, we can mobilize a greater populace, and improve the efficiency of the labor force. Taking care of children in a nursery would maximize the labor potential and free up labour-hands, besides minimizing the resources needed to look after a child in a single household. This would improve the economic situation of the household as they do not have to worry about looking after the child.

Work is also properly divided. It would be divided between farming, according to the needs of the women involved, and the capabilities. For example, strong young women could go to work in fields, and family labor can be divided equally. The pay would be appraised according to the work they did. And the co-operative that we organized would bring in cash for the household.