

1951

Speeches/Documents

Title: Take mutual aid and co-operation in agriculture as a major task

Author: Mao Zedong

Date: December 15, 1951

Source:. The Writings of Mao Zedong, 1949-1976 pg 232

Description:.

Herewith is the Draft Resolution on Mutual Aid and Co-operation in Agricultural Production which you are requested to print for distribution right down to the county and district Party committees. Please give prompt explanations inside and outside the Party in the spirit of this draft and arrange for its implementation. This is to be done in all areas where the agrarian reform has been completed, and please take it as a major task. This draft resolution may appear in inner Party publications but not in newspapers and periodicals for general circulation, as it is still a draft.

According to this source, this was an intra-Party circular that Mao wrote supporting mutual aid and cooperativization and as a rebuff to Liu Shaoqi's opposition to cooperativization as expressed in a July 1951 directive that Liu issued in the name of the Party Center attacking a report of the Shaanxi Provincial Party Committee. This circular was appended to a draft resolution on cooperativization that was prepared under Mao's direction in September 1951.

Herewith we are distributing to you a copy of the Draft Resolution on Agricultural Mutual Aid and Cooperativization. ¹Please make copies of it for distribution to the *xian* and district [Party] committees. Please carry out forthwith the explanation of this draft both within and outside the Party and arrange for its implementation. This [draft resolution] is to be explained and implemented in all areas where the land reform has been completed; please take this as a major task. This draft resolution can be published in intra-Party publications, but since it is still only a draft, do not publish it in publications outside the Party.

[Inner-Party circular of historic significance to rebuff Liu Shao-chi's opposition to the cooperative transformation of agriculture. In July 1951, behind the backs of Comrade Mao Tsetung and the Party Central Committee, Liu Shao-chi wrote and distributed a comment in his own name, wantonly attacking a report submitted by the Shansi Provincial Party Committee on promoting mutual aid and co-operation in agricultural production. In this comment, he opposed Comrade Mao Tsetung's line on the socialist transformation of agriculture, maligning it as an "erroneous, dangerous and utopian notion of agrarian socialism". In September of the same year, Comrade Mao Tsetung personally took charge of drafting the "Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Mutual Aid and Co-operation in Agricultural Production (Draft)", and on December 15 when the draft resolution was to be distributed he wrote this circular and instructed the whole Party to take mutual aid and co-operation in agriculture as a major task.]

Note

1 According to Xuanji, this was drafted under Mao's personal direction in September 1951. For more details on this document, see text July 31, 1955, note 8.

That resolution emphasized two principles guiding the creation of mutual aid teams: “being voluntary” (*ziyuan*) and “being mutually beneficial” (*huli*). It warned against two possible mistakes in the campaign. One was “coercion and commandism” (*qiangpo mingling*), which disregarded peasants’ attitudes and their property right—a tendency likely to occur at the beginning of the movement. The other was a non-interference (*fangren ziliu*) attitude, more likely to appear in the later course of the movement when middle peasants dominated agricultural production, causing the growth of rich peasant economy (GNW 1981a: 95–105). The Party planned in 1952 to organize 80 to 90 percent of peasants into the mutual aid teams in two years in “old liberated areas” and three years in “newly liberated areas” (GNW 1981a: 78). *Village china under socialism and reform A Micro History, 1948–2008* Huaiyin Li Stanford, California 2009 pg 24