

Letter of Mao Zedong to Stalin with a request for professors for Beijing and Nanjing universities

[March 30, 1950]

To Comrade Filippov.

We asked the Soviet government to send 60 professors and lecturers to us for Peking People's University and Nanjing University. I, being in Moscow, on this issue sent a letter to you personally, in which it was stated about the qualifications of teachers. Peking University has now recruited over 3,000 students and has already started teaching classes. But the curriculum of this university was built on the basis that the disciplines will be read by Soviet teachers. Therefore, without Soviet teachers, the lessons of this universities cannot be carried out normally. We ask for your instructions on the rapid selection of professors and teachers in accordance with to our plan and to send them to China as soon as possible. To do this work, we intend to send Professor Filippov, now in Beijing, to Moscow to assist in this matter.<sup>63</sup>

Please provide your opinion on the possibility of satisfying the request<sup>64</sup>.

Mao Zedong

From the "Report on the work on the organization of the People's University of China in Beijing"

V. Filippova (May 2, 1950): "According to the decision of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU (b), On August 28, 1949, Comrade Fesenko and I left for Beijing to assist the Chinese comrades in organizing the People's University. After arriving in Beijing on September 13, Comrade Liu Shaoqi set before us the task of organizing a people's university, which would prepare personnel for various sectors of the national economy of new China. Comrade Liu Shaoqi named faculties, duration of study, and the number of students, indicating that the main will be taught by Soviet professors and teachers in the amount of 300-400 people, teaching should be carried out according to Soviet textbooks and that in the preparation new personnel should use the richest experience of the Soviet Union.

At the same time, a commission for the organization of the university was created under the chairmanship of a member of the Central Committee Lu Dingyi. We entered the commission as its members. Having received instructions from Comrade Liu Shaoqi, the Commission started work. First of all, I got acquainted with the state of the universities in Beijing and Tianjin, with the material base for organizing the university. ....

The number of students in the courses was determined to 3000 people,... In December 1949, the CPC Central Committee approved the proposed plan for the organization of the university, however, given the financial difficulties, lack of a sufficient number of premises, the required number of translators, lack of teaching aids, it was decided to reduce the number of students in the 1st year of the university with 1400 people, and to reduce the number of Soviet professors and teachers up to 50 people. Soviet teachers must organize and to lead the work of the departments of Marxism-Leninism, political economy, Russian language, legal subjects, financial disciplines, and economics.

The university was scheduled to open on February 1, then February 10, but these and later due to the absence of Soviet teachers, the target dates were not met....

By the end of January, 2,687 students had been recruited, but since the arrival of Soviet teachers was delayed, the official opening of the university was postponed. On February 13, classes began at the

university in order to keep the students busy until the arrival of Soviet teachers. Subjects taught: Russian language, new people's democracy, history of the Chinese revolution, mathematics and physical education.

The timely arrival of Soviet teachers is extremely necessary, since they must draw up programs in advance, each in their own subject, get acquainted with the situation in university, and prepare a lot of educational material for translation into Chinese so that listeners can read it in their native language, establish contact with oral translators in their subject and with Chinese teachers of parallel courses.

Clearly, this school year will turn out to be incomplete. Nevertheless, the arrival of the Soviet teachers, this is crucial in order not to disrupt the academic year at the university completely, and most importantly - to prepare for the new academic year.

My work at the university is varied: consultations on various issues related to the work of the university, the organization of trade unions and party, youth work, participation in all kinds of meetings, meetings and reading reports "(RGASPI. F. 17. Op. 137. D. 405. L. 62–64

On April 8, 1950, JV Stalin replied: "To Comrade Mao Zedong. Your telegram about sending professors and lecturers to Peking People's University and Nanjing University was received. This year we will be able to send 42 professors and teachers to China, about the selection of which instructions have been given. Hopefully most of these teachers will be able to leave for China in the near future. I consider Filippov appropriate. Filippov "(RGASPI. F. 558. Op. 11. file 334. L. 53)