

Central Committee's Directive on Foreign Trade Policy

(February 16, 1949)

To North China Bureau, Peng and Ye, Huang Huang, and Lin Luo:

(1) The recent directive from the Central Committee regarding foreign trade has been sent to you. Under this directive, our basic policy for foreign trade should be to export as much as possible to the Soviet Union and the new democratic countries in Eastern Europe, all the goods they need. Similarly, we should import as much as possible from the Soviet Union and the new democratic countries any goods they can supply. We should only export or import goods to and from capitalist countries that are not needed or cannot be supplied by the Soviet Union and the new democratic countries. Based on this policy, it is expected that the North China Bureau, as well as Peng and Ye, Huang Huang, and Lin Luo, will immediately send reliable personnel to negotiate with Soviet commercial authorities. Discuss with them various issues related to our trade and inform them of our policies on foreign trade so that they can first understand the possibilities of our trade with the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries. Afterward, decide the scope of our trade with various capitalist countries. Please promptly report the details of your negotiations.

(2) Temporary trade with Japanese commercial authorities for our economic needs is permissible. If anyone approaches you to discuss the Sino-Japanese trade issue, you may explore the possibility.

Central Committee

Note: Peng and Ye refer to Peng Dehuai and Ye Jianying. Huang Huang refers to Huang Kecheng and Huang Jing. Lin Luo refers to Lin Biao and Luo Ronghuan.