

## 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.

The decision stated: "Due to the liberation of Tianjin and other important seaports, many foreign commercial agencies and commercial agencies in the Kuomintang areas have requested to trade with us. In order to quickly restore and develop the national economy of New China, we also need to conduct such trade.

Therefore, we should immediately start the foreign trade of New China." The central government made the following decisions: (1) Proposal to the North China People's Government: Immediately establish a Foreign Trade Bureau in Tianjin to uniformly manage all foreign trade matters in North China.

(2) Foreign trade should be operated and controlled by the state. Certain trades that the state cannot currently operate, as well as certain trades that are harmless or of little harm if conducted by private individuals, should be allowed to be operated by private individuals under state control.

(3) Foreign commercial agencies that are willing to trade with New China and are willing to abide by the laws of the People's Government should be allowed to send representatives or designate their agents to contact us, and these representatives should be allowed to set up offices in designated locations.

(4) Under possible and necessary conditions, the Bureau of Foreign Trade may dispatch commercial representatives to foreign countries and establish commercial offices in foreign countries.

(5) After understanding all aspects of foreign trade, the Foreign Trade Bureau must formulate appropriate foreign trade policies and plans and submit them to the central government for review and approval.

(6) In order to carry out foreign trade, it is necessary to announce the methods for the import of Chinese and foreign ships, the berthing of Chinese and foreign ships along the coast and rivers, and the unloading and loading methods, the methods for leasing and using terminals, the methods for customs declaration and tax payment and inspection, the methods for managing foreign exchange and settlement of foreign exchange, and violations of These measures and penalties for smuggling and tax evasion, etc.

(7) In order to conduct foreign trade, postal and telecommunications relations should be established with certain foreign ports for trade.

(8) In order to carry out foreign trade, the foreign exchange required for foreign trade shall be stipulated in the exchange rate and the business of settlement, billing and buying and selling of foreign exchange shall be managed by the National Bank. Other banks shall not operate foreign exchange or buy and sell foreign exchange.

Drafted a message to the North China Bureau, Peng Zhen, Ye Jianying, Huang Kecheng, Huang Jing, Lin Biao, and Luo Ronghuan for the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and informed the Northeast Bureau:

"The Central Foreign Trade Instructions will be sent to you immediately. Under this general instruction, our foreign trade The basic policy should be that we should try our best to export to the Soviet Union and the new democratic countries any goods that the Soviet Union and the new democratic countries in Eastern Europe need, and that we should try our best to source from the Soviet Union and the new democratic countries any goods that the Soviet Union and the new democratic countries can supply to us. Regarding imports, we will only export or import goods to various capitalist countries that are not needed and cannot be supplied by the Soviet Union and the new democratic countries. According to this policy, we hope that the North China Bureau and Peng, Ye, Huang, and Huang will immediately send reliable personnel to the Soviet commercial agencies Contact them, discuss with them various issues related to our trade with them, and inform them of our foreign trade policies, so as to first understand the possibility of our trade with the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, and then decide on our attitude towards various capitalist countries. The scope of the country's trade." "For our economic needs, certain temporary trade with Japanese commercial agencies is allowed. If someone approaches you about Sino-Japanese trade issues, you can try to negotiate."

Chronology of the life of Comrade Liu Shaoqi in 1949)