

Comments on the Issue of Dealing with the National Bourgeoisie and Private Industrial and Commercial Policies

(April 1950)

In the transcript, when discussing 'Today, the main struggle is against the bourgeoisie,' Mao Zedong comments: The main targets of today's struggle are imperialist, feudal, and their lackeys, the remnants of the reactionary Kuomintang, not the national bourgeoisie. Although there is a struggle against the national bourgeoisie, we must unite with them, adopting a policy of both unity and struggle to achieve the goal of uniting and developing the national economy.

Regarding the restrictions and exclusion of private industrial and commercial enterprises mentioned in the transcript, Mao Zedong comments: Restrictions and exclusion should apply to those industries and businesses that are detrimental to the national economy and people's livelihood, such as speculative and luxury businesses, rather than to legitimate businesses beneficial to the country. When these businesses encounter difficulties, assistance should be provided to help them develop.

Regarding the statement in the transcript about 'private industrial and commercial enterprises demanding separate spheres, not allowing interference,' Mao Zedong comments: Separate spheres should be defined, meaning to delineate the scope of operations. This is expressed very naively.

Four. In the transcript, when discussing 'state-owned economy is to be developed without restrictions,' Mao Zedong comments: This is a long-term goal, and it is not possible to develop without restrictions at the current stage. We must simultaneously utilize private capital.

Five. Regarding the statement in the transcript about 'our policy is to "compete with the people for profits," but what they call "the people" refers to the bourgeoisie. We compete for what is beneficial to the people. We say, "We only allow the state officials to set fires, not the common people to light lamps."' Mao Zedong comments: Completely erroneous statement.

Six. In the transcript, when discussing 'competing for profits with the people, manifested in the control of grain, cotton cloth, matches, general merchandise, and salt,' Mao Zedong comments: Except for salt, a certain scope should be defined, and not everything should be monopolized. Only a few major commodities (grain, cloth, oil, and coal) should be controlled in a specific quantity, for example, one-third of the grain.

Seven. Regarding the statement in the transcript about 'department stores must be established; otherwise, it cannot stabilize prices,' Mao Zedong comments: Establishing department stores does not mean replacing all commerce.

Eight. In the transcript, when discussing 'if big capitalists want to shut down, we let them shut down. We have money, so we take over,' Mao Zedong comments: This is incorrect.

Published based on Mao Zedong's manuscript; the editor added an introduction.

*These are Mao Zedong's comments on a transcript of the discussion session of the Industrial and Commercial Group during the National United Front Work Conference."