

Decision on Strengthening the Film Industry

(August 14, 1949)

To all general and branch studios, and all field army general and branch studios, forwarded to all central bureaus and field army political departments:

Film art possesses the most extensive mass appeal and universal propaganda impact. It is imperative to strengthen this industry to facilitate more effective propaganda for the work of our party and the new democratic revolution and construction endeavours both nationally and internationally.

According to statistics, there is an annual demand for over four hundred new films nationwide, with over three hundred of them being American films. In the future, it is necessary to enhance the production of Chinese films, primarily by improving the production efficiency of state-owned film studios to meet current demands.

Currently, under the leadership of the Central Film Administration, there are three state-owned film studios in Northeast China, Beijing, and Shanghai. Considering the existing material equipment and technical personnel, with solutions for scriptwriting, directing, and casting, these studios could produce thirty to forty films annually. Therefore, there is an urgent need for a sufficient number of creative personnel, including scriptwriters, directors, and actors, who have a good understanding of the party's policies and certain experiences in the lives of workers, peasants, and soldiers. To address this, the following decisions have been made:

(1) At the provincial party committee level and military level and above, theatre and cultural troupes must select two to four qualified personnel with sound ideology and physical fitness, as well as high professional competence among the aforementioned positions. This group should include at least one director, and the majority of actors should be male. With accompanying professional experience and evaluations, these personnel will be uniformly recommended by each central bureau and field army political department to be allocated by the Central Film Administration.

(2) The North China Bureau will select mass drama troupes to serve as the backbone for the Beijing Film Studio in producing artistic films. If there is a need for theatre work in Tianjin, it is proposed to transfer the Huada Cultural Troupe to Tianjin.

(3) The East China Bureau will select better drama troupes to serve as the backbone for the Shanghai state-owned film studio. The implementation of this decision will be communicated by mid-September.

Central Propaganda Department

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