

1952

Speeches/Documents

Title: Decision on the Change in Structure and Tasks of People's Governments (or Military and Administrative Commissions) in Administrative Regions

Author: CPGC

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Source:. Text: NCNA, Peking, November 16, 1952

Description:.

To meet the new situation and tasks of planned large-scale national economic and cultural construction, shortly to be started in 1953, the CPG should further unify and centralize its leadership over the different phases of work, and the organs of the CPG should be further strengthened. At the same time, the organizations of provincial and municipal people's governments should also be • strengthened in order to increase the responsibility of leadership at the provincial and municipal levels. Consequently, the structure and tasks of people's governments (or MAC's) in administrative regions should also be changed accordingly. To this end, the following decisions have been taken:

1. People's governments (or MAC's) of administrative regions shall be changed, without exception, into administrative committees /AC's/. The AC's of regions shall be organs exercising leadership and supervision over local governments in such regions on behalf of the CPG. The chairmen, vice chairmen and principal administrative personnel of the regional AC's shall be appointed or dismissed by the CPGC on recommendation of the GAC.
2. The four committees—Political and Legal, Financial and Economic, Cultural and Educational, and People's Supervision—and the General Office under the people's government or MAC of administrative regions shall be retained and changed into the Political and Legal Committee, Financial and Economic Committee, Cultural and Educational Committee, and the Committee of People's Supervision, and General Office, of the respective AC's.
3. Upon the establishment of the AC's, all departments under /existing/ people's governments (or MAC's) of administrative regions shall be changed, without exception, into bureaus (or offices), some of which shall be taken over directly by competent departments of the CPG. Hereafter, the bureaus (or offices) established in the regions shall be divided into two categories according to technical leadership: one category is subject to leadership of the regional AC or concurrently subject to direction of the appropriate committee (Political-Legal, Financial-Economic, Cultural-Educational, etc.); the other category is subject to the direct leadership of the competent departments of the CPG, turning themselves into certain special control bureaus (or offices) of CPG departments in regions — belonging organizationally to the competent departments of the CPG, and subjecting themselves to the guidance and supervision of the regional AC's and their relevant sub-committees.
4. The organization of branches of the SPC and PPGO in administrative regions shall remain unchanged, and their relations with regional AC's and subordinate Political and Legal Committees shall be the same as their former relations with the regional people's governments (or MAC's) and their subordinate Political and Legal Committees. The people's governments (or MAC's) of administrative regions should work out measures for the implementation of this decision in accordance with actual conditions. However, with respect to the bureaus (or offices) to be established and added by the regional AC's and the bureaus (or offices) to be taken over by departments of the CPG, the people's governments (or MAC's) of regions should, through consultation with departments of the CPG, submit specific plans together with the proposed personnel reorganization to the GAC for approval before enforcing them. This reorganization should be completed by the end of 1952 at the latest. /Note. The personnel of the new Administrative Committees was approved by the CPGC on January 14, 1953, and publicly released through NCNA on January 18, 1953.

The directive to that effect expressly confirmed that " the organisation of branches of the Supreme People's Court and of the Procurator-General's Office in administrative regions shall remain

unchanged, and their relations with the administrative committees of regions and their subordinate political and legal committees shall be the same as their former relations with the people's governments of administrative regions (MAC) and their subordinate political and legal committees."

Note. On the eve of the First 5-Year Plan and the call for the First ACPC, the CPGC decreed a sweeping series of changes in the structure and functions of the "administrative regions" — jurisdictions created in 1949 for greater integration and control of the provinces. Under the regulations of 1949, each of the six administrative regions—the Northeast, Northwest, North China, East China, Central-South China and the Southwest— was to have its own "people's government" or substitute "military and administrative commission" (MAC) exercising certain autonomous functions and responsibilities, as well as representing the authority of the CPG. The CPGC decision of November 15, 1952, substantially revises the concepts of 1949: (1) the concept of "people's government" at the administrative region level is abandoned (including the Northeast, the only region in which a "people's government" actually operated), and consequently the administrative region is bypassed as an electoral jurisdiction having some measure of autonomy; (2) "Administrative committees," replacing people's governments or MAC's, are now responsible solely to the CPG, by which they are appointed, for CPG work undertaken at the regional level and for coordinating the work of the provinces beneath them; (3) the important "departments" of the existing administrative regions are reduced to the status of bureaus or offices, and may be absorbed (as mere regional branch offices) into existing ministries or other organs of the CPG, thus accentuating the trend toward a higher degree of effective centralized control; and (4) government at the administrative region level is rendered more uniform by precluding alternative forms of organization.

CPGC, Decision on Readjustment of Provincial Areas, November 15, 1952.

Text: NCNA, Peking, Nov. 16, 1952. To readjust provincial areas so as to facilitate administration, the following decisions have been taken:

1. To abolish Pingyuan Province.... /This province was created by the new regime in August, 1949, from parts of Hopei, Honan and Shantung provinces. Now, 29 of its hsien, formerly part of Shantung, are restored to Shantung; 22 hsien, formerly part of Honan, are restored to Honan; and 5 hsien, formerly part of Hopei, are given to Honan..
2. To abolish Chahar Province.... 13 hsien, once part of Shansi Province, are restored (along with Tatung municipality) to Shansi; 18 hsien are handed over to Hopei Province
3. To form the Kiangsu provincial people's government and, upon its establishment, to abolish the North Kiangsu people's administrative bureau and the South Kiangsu people's administrative bureau. Former Kiangsu areas now under Shantung and Anhwei are to be restored to Kiangsu Province. The capital of the Kiangsu provincial people's government will be located in Nanking,...
4. Minor adjustments of hsien are effected between Hopei and Shantung provinces.

Note. Before they came into power, the Chinese Communists preached the virtues of regional and provincial autonomy as a defense against KMT centralized action, but since 1949 they have adhered to a most rigorous policy of centralization. The provinces and local government units of China have no rights to autonomous or identifiable personality (as have the states of the United States), but—as the following indicates— are treated solely as administrative areas serving the convenience of central authority.

Resolution of the Central People's Government Council regarding the creation of new organs for the Central People's Government. Passed Nov. 15, 1952; promulgated Nov. 16, 1952.

Decision of the Central People's Government Council regarding a modification of the organization and functions of the people's governments (or military and administrative councils) of the greater administrative areas. Passed Nov. 15, 1952; promulgated Nov. 16, 1952.

Resolution of the Central People's Government Council regarding a modification of the provincial and regional administrative units. Passed Nov. 15, 1952; promulgated Nov. 16, 1952.