

1949

Speeches/Documents

Title: Directive Issued at the Fourth Meeting of the CPGC (Excerpts)

Author:

Date: December 2, 1949

Source:. RMRB (Dec 4, 1949), 1. Other Chinese Texts: GMRB (Dec 4, 1949), 1; Mao Zedong lun caizheng, pp. 11-12 (excerpt). Available English Translations: NCNA, Weekly Bulletin, 131 (Dec 6, 1949), 2 (excerpt); PC, 1:3 (Feb 1, 1950), 5 (excerpt)

Description:. Although the "Mao Zedong lun caizheng" source reprints these excerpts as a single paragraph, they are in fact three excerpts from the speech Mao made at this meeting. The entire speech is not reprinted in any of the sources. In the RMRB source, these three excerpts appeared in a news article and were preceded by colons--indicating that they were direct or verbatim quotations--but not by the Chinese equivalent of quotation marks. In our translation these three excerpts are separated by ellipses.

[The national budget is a very important issue. The policy of the entire nation is reflected in it because it delineates the scope and orientation of the government's activities. Take, for example, the problem of providing support for all the former troops and former government and educational personnel which was raised in the draft of the rough estimate.]

1 This is precisely a problem of policy. The People's Government ought to adopt a responsible attitude toward this problem. Only in this way can it be beneficial to the people. [Our situation can be summarized as follows:] There are difficulties, but there are also measures that can be taken, and there is hope. There are difficulties in our fiscal situation. We must explain to the people where our difficulties lie; we must not hide these difficulties. At the same time, however, we must also explain to the people that we do indeed have the means to overcome the difficulties. Since we have the means to overcome the difficulties, our cause is a hopeful one and our prospects are bright. Our situation will improve year by year, and we project that next year will be better than this year. Within a three-to-five-year period, our economy can be completely rehabilitated, and within eight to ten years our economy will be able to achieve a great development.... It is of great importance that these organizational regulations be promulgated.

2 These organizational regulations are precisely the general laws appropriate to the current period. The various local people's governments, although they may add [to these regulations] in accordance with concrete conditions [in their various localities], must implement them without exception... China is a big country; only if we establish powerful local organs at such a level can things be done well. What ought to be united, must be united; and there should by no means be any separate governance, each doing what he thinks is best. However, there must be integration between [the notion of] unification and [the notion of] discretionary arrangements according to local conditions. Under the regime of the people, the historical conditions of the past, in which regional occupation by the feudalist forces has been generated, have been eliminated. The division of labor between the Center and the localities will be to our advantage and will in no way harm us. 3

Notes

1. This section in brackets does not appear as a direct, verbatim quotation in the original RMRB version, but as a synopsis of what Mao said at the beginning of his speech. It has been included to provide context for the other parts which are direct quotations. The same applies to other bracketed parts in this translation.

2. These refer to the regulations governing the organization of people's representative councils for every municipality, xian, and province.

3. The last paragraph is in response to the suggestion of establishing military administrative councils in the various greater administrative regions.