

## Directive of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on the Suppression of Counterrevolutionary Activities (October 10, 1950)

In order to combat the conspiracy and sabotage of imperialism, thoroughly eliminate the remnants of Chiang Kai-shek's bandits, ensure the smooth progress of land reform and economic construction, and consolidate and develop the victories of the Chinese people, "all counterrevolutionary activities must be suppressed, and severe punishment must be meted out to all Nationalist counterrevolutionary war criminals and other major figures who collude with imperialism, betray the motherland, and oppose the cause of people's democracy." "Strict measures must be taken to eradicate all bandits, spies, bullies, and other counterrevolutionary elements that harm the people." "The entire Party and the people of the whole country must be vigilant against the conspiracy activities of counterrevolutionary elements." This is the common guideline of the Party Central Committee, Chairman Mao, and the People's Political Consultative Conference on the suppression of counterrevolutionary activities and the elimination of the remnants of counterrevolutionaries, which provides clear instructions to the entire Party and the people of the whole country, and is also the urgent demand of the people of the whole country at present.

However, many cadres and party committees, either due to the emergence of a sense of arrogance and underestimation after the victory, or due to the influence of decadent liberalism in the new environment, have confused the issue of opposing closed-doorism in the united front with resolutely suppressing counterrevolutionary activities in the struggle against the enemy, and have confused the correct and strict suppression of counterrevolutionary activities with indiscriminate violence, and have misunderstood the policy of "combining suppression with leniency" as one-sided leniency. Therefore, there has been a serious rightist deviation in the suppression of counterrevolutionary activities, resulting in a large number of key, unrepentant, and still evil counterrevolutionary elements who continued to commit evil even after being treated leniently after liberation, not receiving the appropriate sanctions. This not only encourages the arrogance of counterrevolutionaries, but also arouses complaints from the masses, saying that we are "excessively lenient" and "unable to control."

This rightist tendency must be addressed and overcome.

To this end, the following provisions are specially made:

(1) Party committees at all levels, for arrested and yet-to-be-arrested counterrevolutionaries, should immediately lead and supervise the competent departments to, based on existing materials, carefully study and handle them in accordance with the policy of "combining suppression with leniency," distinguishing them separately.

For major, unrepentant counterrevolutionaries who have continued to commit evil after liberation, especially those who have continued to commit evil even after being treated leniently, they should be dealt with in accordance with the counterrevolutionary punishment regulations promulgated by the Central People's Government. Those sentenced to death should be immediately sentenced to death. Those sentenced to imprisonment and reform should be immediately arrested, imprisoned, and reformed. The execution of these cases must be made public, with judgments announced and news published in newspapers (in prominent positions), and other methods should be used to conduct extensive propaganda and education among the masses.

For general special agents and lower-level party officials of reactionary parties who have committed relatively minor crimes and expressed a willingness to repent, they should be subjected to control and investigation. If these individuals continue to engage in counterrevolutionary activities, they should be severely punished. "For true accomplices, voluntary confessors, and contributors to the struggle against counterrevolution, they should be treated with leniency" or given appropriate rewards.

(2) Imperialist spy organizations and individual spies must be severely suppressed. Those who have been arrested should be punished according to the law. Those who have evidence or strong suspicions but have not been arrested should be arrested according to the instructions of the higher authorities.

(3) The inspection of counterrevolutionary cases should be undertaken by the procuratorial and public security departments. The trial should still be the responsibility of the People's Court or the military law department of the military control committee. At present, the courts should prioritize the handling of counterrevolutionary cases.

In order to prevent the occurrence of "leftist" deviations in the resolute suppression of counterrevolutionary activities, Party committees at all levels must adhere to the opposition to forced confessions and prohibit physical torture, and must pay attention to the weight of evidence rather than blindly trust confessions. When sentencing to death, the Party must obtain approval from the provincial party committee, municipal party committee, district party committee, and authorized district party committee. If there are particularly important individuals, approval must be obtained from the Central Committee. The handling of foreigners must be approved by the GAC.

Regarding the situation of suppressing counterrevolutionary activities, the public security and judicial departments should report to the higher authorities regularly.

(4) Courts, procuratorial organs, and public security agencies are important weapons of the people's democratic dictatorship. Party committees at all levels should strengthen their leadership over them and appropriately supplement their personnel. Prison management must be strict, with reliable cadres in charge.

(5) Regarding the implementation of the work of suppressing counterrevolutionary activities, each central bureau must, within one month of the issuance of this directive, by November 10, make the first report and formulate a plan for implementing the central policy in the future, telegraph it to the central for approval, and then implement it accordingly.

Subordinate bureaus, provincial committees, municipal committees, district party committees, regarding the implementation of the work of suppressing counterrevolutionary activities in their own areas and their own work plans, must, within forty days of the issuance of this directive, by November 20, make the first report to each central bureau, and simultaneously send a copy of this report to the central. After that, each central bureau and subordinate bureau, provincial committees, municipal committees, and district party committees must be responsible for making a special report on the issue of suppressing counterrevolutionary activities to the central and the relevant central bureaus every four months.