

Instructions from the CC on Dealing with Democratic Figures

(January 22, 1949)

To: Northeast Bureau and All Regional Offices, Transmitted to All Provincial Committees, Field Army Front Committees, and the Municipal Committees of Beijing and Tianjin:

1. The Party's approach toward democratic figures should be one of complete openness and sincerity. We must explain all political matters and Party policies to them honestly, and actively educate and win their support. Questions regarding policy must be answered directly, without evasion. Except for Party secrets and specific strategies that cannot be disclosed, all other topics that can be discussed openly should be discussed. The status of policy implementation should also be reported truthfully. While emphasizing major achievements, we should also point out challenges and shortcomings, and explain how we overcome these difficulties through mass support and a willingness to learn humbly. At the same time, we should invite them to fully express themselves and provide critiques and suggestions, fostering a spirit of collective effort.

2. Based on the above principles, we have already engaged with democratic figures in the following ways:

- (1) At their suggestion, responsible Party officials have given reports on various subjects such as the war, military policies, governance, land reform, foreign affairs, economics, cultural education, and women's movements.

- (2) Discussion sessions have been held, not only on these reports but also on the Party's New Year messages, Chairman Mao's statements (including two telegrams sent by democratic figures in Northeast China, which were a result of these discussions), and issues related to the New Political Consultative Conference. Responsible Party officials have also attended these discussions.

- (3) Democratic figures have been allowed to converse and exchange views freely with any of our responsible officials.

- (4) A number of comrades have been organized to engage in daily contact and conversations with them.

- (5) Visits and tours have been arranged.

- (6) We have provided them with Marxist-Leninist literature, copies of the Selected Works of Mao Zedong (given individually), public Party documents, materials on liberated area construction, newspapers, and reference bulletins (excluding internal Party news).

- (7) They have been granted the freedom to interact with the public.

- (8) Within their groups, they have appointed leaders and organized subgroup discussions, with many activities conducted through discussions between their leaders and our responsible comrades. Since implementing these measures, democratic figures have expressed significant gains and satisfaction.

- (9) Care has been taken to address their living conditions and health needs. These experiences are offered for your reference and should be adapted to your specific local contexts.

3. [Footnote: This directive was drafted by Mao Zedong for the Central Committee and addressed to the Northeast Bureau and other regional offices.]

4. The above guidelines should be communicated clearly in cadre meetings, so everyone can understand their spirit and engage in educational outreach with democratic figures while patiently listening to their opinions. On the one hand, we must remain proactive; on the other hand, we must oppose any undisciplined or disorganized conduct within our ranks.

Central Committee

Note: additions made by Liu Shaoqi during the revision of this directive.