

Central Committee of the Communist Party of China Instructions to the Second Field Army's Front Committee on the Issue of "Self-Determination" for Ethnic Minorities

October 5, 1949

To the Second Field Army's Front Committee, with copies to all Central Bureaus, Regional Bureaus, and other Front Committees:

We have received and reviewed your telegram. We generally agree with your draft "Instructions on the Work Regarding Ethnic Minorities." However, the section on the Party's ethnic policy should be based on the provisions of the People's Political Consultative Conference's Common Program regarding ethnic policy. Additionally, the issue of "self-determination" for various ethnic minorities should not be emphasized today. In the past, during the civil war, our Party stressed this slogan to win over ethnic minorities in opposition to the Nationalist Party's reactionary rule, which was especially characterized by great Han chauvinism towards ethnic minorities. At that time, this approach was entirely correct.

However, today's situation has fundamentally changed. The reactionary rule of the Nationalist Party has been largely overthrown, and the new China under our Party's leadership has been established. To achieve national unity and oppose the imperialist and domestic reactionary elements' attempts to divide the unity of the Chinese nation, we should no longer emphasize this slogan, as it could be exploited by imperialists and reactionary elements within ethnic minorities, putting us in a passive position.

Today, we should emphasize the friendship, cooperation, mutual assistance, and solidarity among all the Chinese peoples. Please take note of this point.

The Central Committee