

## Instructions on Flood Control in 1953

Central Flood Control Headquarters May 6, 1953

Now the rivers south of the Yangtze River have entered the flood season, and the flood season for rivers in other areas is coming soon. In order to ensure the increase of agricultural production this year and the safety of people's lives, industries, mines, and transportation, this year's flood control work will continue to implement the spirit of the 1951 Central People's Government Administration Council's "Instructions on Strengthening Flood Control Work" and previous flood control instructions. This puts forward the following points, and hopes that all localities will study and implement them according to specific conditions.

1. Be vigilant and guard against paralysis. In the past three years, we have carried out preliminary treatment of rivers across the country, and we have continued to carry out a lot of work this year. All these will provide favorable conditions for this year's flood control work; however, it must be pointed out that the struggle to eliminate floods in our country is a long-term, complex and arduous task, and the disaster of internal flooding cannot be completely resolved in the short term.

Therefore, we should not overestimate past achievements, and we should not have any blindly optimistic and negligent thoughts about this year's flood control work. It must be recognized that water conservancy projects have certainly played a role in the gradual reduction of floods across the country in the past three years, but the fact that most areas have not experienced heavy rainfall or abnormal floods in the past three years is still an important aspect. We must face up to this reality and make various preparations in terms of ideology and work. This is an important key to determining whether we can overcome the flood this year. Otherwise, we will panic and be helpless in serious situations, causing undue losses. Leading organs at all levels must educate cadres and the masses, correctly estimate the actual situation, and earnestly prepare for flood control.

2. On the basis of the anti-bureaucratic struggle, according to the problems exposed in design and construction and the opinions put forward by the masses, the water conservancy departments at all levels should immediately organize sufficient forces in conjunction with relevant departments to control important dikes and seawalls. Engineering to do a systematic in-depth inspection. When inspecting dikes and seawalls, we should not only pay attention to the phenomena that are easy to be found on the surface and local defects, such as whether the height and slope of the embankment meet the standards, whether the various gaps are well blocked, whether the cracks, wave nests, and rain ditch have been repaired, whether there is subsidence or decay in the dangerous work and bank revetment sweeping dam, whether there is someone responsible for defending the new embankment and new danger, whether the water barrier in the river bed has been removed, etc.; and it is necessary to pay attention to checking the internal hidden dangers of the embankment, understanding the changes of the river beach and the movement of the river, Based on the overall consideration of whether the existing rivers, embankments, and seawalls can resist possible floods and high tides. When inspecting the flood storage project and various sluices and culverts, it is first necessary to check whether there is a special person in charge of management, or whether the existing management personnel are familiar with the function and operation method of the project. Leakage or washing brush and so on. The gate and switch mechanism should pay attention to whether the opening and closing are tight, and try to open and close during the inspection. During the in-depth inspection of the system, the shortcomings and problems found should be solved in time, and a certain unit should be responsible for improvement.

3. In the inspection of dikes, in addition to the above-mentioned general inspections, the drilling method of the Yellow River embankment should be vigorously promoted. In the past three years, great achievements have been made in drilling the Yellow River embankment. According to statistics, a total of 36 million caves were discovered, and 60,650 caves were discovered, all of which were repaired in time, which played a huge role in consolidating the Yellow River embankment. In 1952, Guangdong, Jiangxi and other provinces hired Yellow River drilling workers to carry out experiments locally, all of which were effective, showing that this advanced experience is generally applicable in both southern and northern my country; however, there are still some areas where not enough attention has been paid to it, and this method has not been well organized and promoted. In order to do a good job in this year's flood control work, leading agencies at all levels should pay attention to this advanced experience, and promote it in a focused manner in accordance with the practices of Guangdong and Jiangxi. Before the flood season, the important dikes of important rivers should be inspected and repaired by drilling methods, which will have a great effect on consolidating the dikes and enhancing the effectiveness of flood control.

4. We must pay attention to the use of flood storage, flood diversion and other projects. In the past three years, we have carried out many floods control projects. Special attention should be paid to the management and use of these projects during the flood season. This has a lot to do with the success or failure of flood control work. Therefore, for all critical and large flood control projects, the management personnel must conduct sufficient training and make all preparations in advance. For rivers that have been radically cured, how to coordinate and apply various interrelated projects can have the greatest effect on reducing flood peaks and removing stagnant water. The management of general culvert gates should be assigned special personnel to be responsible. During the inspection, if water leakage or damage is found, it must be repaired in time; during the flood season, it should be closely guarded day and night to make it fully functional. In areas where flood storage is planned, it must be explained to the masses in advance, and it cannot be concealed. At the same time, in-depth publicity must be carried out to explain the principle of subordinating small profits to big profits; for the people who suffer losses due to flood storage, compensation measures should also be stipulated in advance, and announced to the masses to relieve concerns and stabilize production emotions.

5. In the number of floods in 1952, flash floods accounted for a large proportion. Because the flash floods were violent and caught off guard, in addition to submerging the land, some areas also caused heavy losses of population, houses and livestock. This serious disaster is difficult to completely avoid until the water and soil conservation work and the measures to prevent flash floods have not received widespread results. However, it is entirely possible to be vigilant and make possible preparations to reduce losses. Local governments at all levels should carry out necessary publicity and education work in advance in all areas prone to flash floods, and water conservancy agencies at all levels should provide timely weather forecasts to make the masses vigilant and avoid possible losses. In addition, typhoons and storms have occurred over the years. Therefore, in this year's risk prevention work, in addition to the Central Flood Control Headquarters and the Central Meteorological Observatory contacting and issuing warnings in a timely manner, all coastal and lakeside areas should maintain close contact with the relevant Meteorological Observatory to strengthen Prevention; however, special attention should be paid to the unified forecast, and accurate time and location, so as to effectively prevent it.

6. With regard to the guarantee of flood control, all localities should proceed from reality, and according to the achievements of various river radical treatment projects or annual repair projects, propose the water level and corresponding flow rate that can guarantee that no floods will occur in each river this year, as the minimum goal of struggle. For possible floods that exceed the guaranteed

water level, temporary measures must also be prepared in order to reduce disasters. For areas where seawater drainage projects have been implemented this year, it should be stipulated how much rainfall the situation will be, and the task of guaranteeing that no waterlogging will occur should be stipulated.

7. With regard to the use of flood control funds, according to our understanding, in the past, some places spent inappropriately, and a lot of expenditure was spent on non-flood control. This is wrong. We must follow the principle of special use and use it sparingly. After the flood, we must make a report final account. As for the flood control equipment that has been borrowed, it should be taken back or replenished as soon as possible, kept properly at all times, and properly disposed of after the flood season to avoid unnecessary waste and loss.

8. Other pre-flood preparations, such as strengthening flood reporting and strengthening organization and publicity, should be vigorously carried out based on past experience. In all kinds of specific work, it is especially necessary to earnestly implement the spirit of anti-bureaucratic struggle, and strictly prevent the occurrence of coercive orders, violation of laws and disciplines, and neglect of the lives of the masses in the work of mobilizing the masses.

It is hoped that the flood control agencies in various regions and river basins will conduct practical research and implementation.