

Instructions on Holding Representative meetings from all walks of life in Various Regions

(September 4, 1949)

To: All Central Bureaus, Regional Bureaus, and Front Committee Commissions:

1. The North China Bureau has forwarded a report from the Chahar Provincial Party Committee regarding experiences from holding representative meetings, which are worth careful attention and further study.
2. Experience has shown that regions failing to prioritize representative meetings, instead remaining confined within narrow Party circles, have faced setbacks.
3. Formalism must be opposed. Each meeting should be thoroughly prepared, with focused content that addresses issues concerning the people, and must genuinely discuss existing work problems. Criticism and self-criticism should be encouraged, and the meetings must be treated as significant events. Otherwise, the Party's political credibility will suffer.
4. [Footnote: This refers to a report from the Chahar Provincial Party Committee dated August 31, 1949, about holding representative meetings from all walks of life in various regions of the province. The report noted that after the liberation of Zhangjiakou, there was an initial neglect of such meetings, leading to setbacks in work. However, from April to August this year, four representative meetings from all walks of life were held. After Datong's liberation in early May, three such meetings have been held to date. Xuanhua, however, has yet to hold any representative meetings from all walks of life and continues to use expanded internal Party meetings for communicating and organizing work. The already convened representative meetings from all walks of life have played a role in connecting with all sectors of urban society, promoting and implementing Party policies, and encouraging active participation in city-building. Nonetheless, issues such as formalism, inadequate preparation, insufficient focused content, and limited democratic discussion remain. Moving forward, improvements must be made in Zhangjiakou and Datong by raising standards and primarily generating representatives through democratic elections from all groups and sectors, with appointments and recommendations serving as secondary methods. Immediate steps should be taken to establish representative meetings from all walks of life in Xuanhua. Towns with populations around 20,000 are also advised to establish representative meetings. Counties should establish People's Representative Assemblies or representative meetings from all walks of life based on their specific grassroots needs, with district and village levels forming People's or Farmer's Representative Assemblies.]
5. In newly liberated areas, the first few sessions of representative meetings from all walks of life may primarily appoint or select representatives, with democratic elections by reliable mass organizations as a supplementary method. Later, the focus can shift to democratic elections by all groups and sectors, with appointments and selections becoming supplementary. The guiding principle is to ensure Party leadership while fostering democratic spirit.
6. Towns with populations of more than 20,000 but less than 30,000 can also hold representative meetings.
7. Provinces, counties, and districts that have not fully completed land reform should hold representative meetings from all walks of life at all levels, with villages organizing Farmer's

Representative meetings from all walks of life and county-level representative meetings from all walks of life serving as the focal point.

8. Provinces, counties, districts, and villages that have completed land reform should convene People's Representative Assemblies at all levels. However, during the initial sessions, representative meetings from all walks of life may be held as a transitional measure.

9. Whether it is representative meetings from all walks of life or People's Representative Assemblies, the proportion of Party members should not be excessive, but should be sufficient to ensure the passage of resolutions. Generally, Party members and reliable leftist elements should constitute slightly more than half of the representatives, allowing the inclusion of large numbers of centrists and a few non-oppositional rightist elements to bring them closer to us.

10. Prior to the meetings, the Party Committee (including Municipal and County Committees) should hold a preparatory meeting with Party members among the representatives to determine the guidelines. If possible, convening a Party representative conference or meeting is preferable, but it should not be mandatory for every meeting.

Please forward this directive to all cities, counties, military units, and divisions.

Central Committee

September 4, 1949