

Instructions on Suppressing Counter-Revolutionary Activities Issued

on March 18, 1950: Central Committee of the Communist Party of China

Central South Bureau, East China Bureau, Southwest Bureau, Northwest Bureau, South China Bureau, Chen Song [1], He Li [2], Xinjiang Bureau, Shandong Bureau, and the North China Bureau, Northeast Bureau, and Inner Mongolia Bureau, and transferred to the provincial committees, District Party Committee, Municipal Party Committee, Prefectural Party Committee:

Recently, many areas of the newly liberated areas have been eliminated, and many other areas are in the process of being eliminated. However, in the areas where the gangsters have been purged, there have been many counter-revolutionary armed riots, killing many of our cadres, looting a lot of public grain and materials, and destroying many factories, warehouses, railways and ships in various places. This proves that the activities of counter-revolutionaries in these areas are still very rampant; and the shortcomings in our work also give counter-revolutionaries an opportunity to spread rumors and agitate the masses. For these counter-revolutionary activities, all localities must give strict and timely suppression, and must not be too tolerant and let them run rampant. To this end, the central government has issued the following instructions:

(1) We must resolutely suppress and exterminate all bandits who are armed with weapons, gather crowds to riot, attack our public organs and cadres, and loot warehouses and supplies, without any hesitation. After capturing these gangsters, they must be severely questioned in order to capture their chief and organizers and put them to death. If our troops are too late to suppress the bandits and the bandits have long since dispersed, we must send troops and capable cadres to the area where the incident occurred to conduct a rigorous investigation, and strive to identify the bandit leaders and organizers, and punish them.

(2) Those who carry out counter-revolutionary activities and organizations in areas under our control, if there is conclusive evidence, shall be sentenced to capital punishment or long-term imprisonment. Those who kill our cadres and destroy factories, warehouses, railways, ships and other public properties for counter-revolutionary purposes should generally be sentenced to death. Not for counter-revolutionary purposes, but for other purposes, such as private vendettas and theft of public goods, etc., should also be punished, but should be distinguished from counter-revolutionary acts.

(3) In areas where bandits are suppressed, as long as the bandits surrender their crimes and return to righteousness, they can generally be forgiven for their past crimes. However, bandit leaders who continue to resist our army, bandit elements with political background, tyrants and landlords who harbor and collude with the bandits, and habitual bandits who continue to resist and are unwilling to reform their wrongs should be severely punished and sentenced to long-term imprisonment or death. For ordinary people who participated in the bandit army, they were ordered to change their production.

(4) In carrying out the above-mentioned actions to suppress counter-revolutionary activities and bandits, there should never be any phenomenon of random smashing, random killing and wrong killing. This matter should be handled by the responsible comrades of the provincial party committees and provincial governments. The death penalty and long-term imprisonment shall be tried and sentenced by the court. After the judgment, the execution shall be approved by the chairman of the provincial government or a commissioner or other person in charge entrusted by the provincial government. However, the procedures for such trials and approvals should be simple and quick, so that they can be repressed in a timely manner in times of urgency. If there is a phenomenon of random killings and wrong killings in a certain place, it must be stopped immediately and resolutely, and then reviewed.

(5) In order to effectively suppress counter-revolutionary activities, where there are shortcomings in our work, we must promptly and seriously correct the shortcomings in order to stabilize the minds of the people and isolate counter-revolutionary elements. In some places, there is a famine or some poor people lack food. We must seriously organize the masses to produce disaster relief, and sell part of the public grain. When it is really difficult, we must also give some people who cannot survive the famine. Relief, or loaning a portion of the grain to be returned after the harvest. On the one hand, we should conscientiously appease the people and correct our shortcomings in our work and style; Only by being lenient and making it rehabilitate can it consolidate the establishment of the people's revolutionary order.

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