

Mao Zedong's Comments on Tan Zhenlin's Report on the Suppression of Counterrevolutionaries in Hangzhou

(May 7, 1951)

To all Central Bureaus, Sub-Bureaus, and Provincial, Regional, and Major Municipal Party Committees:

Tan Zhenlin's report is very good. The experience of Hangzhou can be applied to all cities that have not yet implemented similar measures. In particular, the practice of involving non-Party members in the review of counterrevolutionary case files must be taken seriously in all regions. We must resolutely break away from the sectarianism and mysticism that exist within our Party.

Mao Zedong Notes:

[1] This refers to Tan Zhenlin's report, dated May 1, 1951, to the East China Bureau on the situation regarding the arrest of counterrevolutionaries in Hangzhou, which was forwarded to Mao Zedong. In addition to issuing the above directive, Mao Zedong made six marginal notes within the report:

1. In the section summarizing the arrests of various categories of counterrevolutionaries in Hangzhou, Mao commented after the mention of "75 traitors":
 - *"Traitors with blood debts and those who have aroused the deep hatred of the masses should be dealt with during this suppression campaign."*
2. Regarding the report's statement that thorough preparations, strict approval procedures, and well-organized forces ensured that the arrests were carried out in an orderly manner without errors, Mao remarked:
 - *"It must be done with such caution; acting recklessly in some places is a mistake."*
3. At the end of the section discussing propaganda and mobilization efforts before and after the arrests, Mao wrote:
 - *"If propaganda work is not well done, do not carry out executions."*
4. When the report mentioned that, despite the arrests and executions, determined counterrevolutionaries were still resisting—by shooting at public security offices, writing reactionary slogans, spreading rumors to divert attention from the anti-counterrevolutionary campaign, and that some underground reactionary organizations had only just begun to be uncovered—Mao commented:
 - *"Our public security agencies in many cities are weak in detecting hidden counterrevolutionaries. This work must be seriously established during this suppression campaign."*
5. After the section about involving non-Party members in the suppression campaign, including reviewing case files, verifying evidence, and discussing sentencing, Mao added:
 - *"All cities should adopt this approach; do not be afraid of the trouble."*
6. The report also stated that Hangzhou had set the suppression of counterrevolutionaries as its central task for May, focusing on mobilizing factory workers, students, residents, and farmers through small-scale denunciation meetings and public trials. It also mentioned that work among cultural and educational circles, religious groups,

democratic parties, and the business sector was being postponed deliberately, allowing them to handle matters on their own to a certain extent. Mao responded:

- *“This approach is very good.”*