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Speeches/Documents

**Title: Report on Political and Legal Work GAC (extract).**

**Author: Peng Zhen**

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**Description:**

Text: NCNA, Peking, May 26, 1951. #####\* \* owing to the correct leadership and unity of the CPG and the various democratic parties and groups, great progress has been made in strengthening the people's democratic dictatorship mass movement. At present, such a movement is being developed continuously and penetratingly in various aspects throughout the country. Some important experiences have been obtained through the practical work of operational political and legal departments and agencies of different levels. Nevertheless, a number of our /political and legal/ workers at present are not keeping in line with the development of the mass movement. Innumerable defects in the work require urgent solution:

1. The phenomenon of neglecting the establishment of state power is still in existence; hence, attention should be given to strengthening the work of administrative and legal departments. The basic problem of the revolution lies in the problem of state power. For a revolution, the reactionary state power must first be smashed, and subsequently a new people's state power should be built on the ruins of the shattered former state power—thus leading the people in strengthening their revolutionary victory and the people's democratic dictatorship in order to insure the improvement and successful development of the nation's and people's economic enterprises. But until now some comrades fail to realize the tremendous significance of the people's democratic dictatorship, which has been emphasized repeatedly by Chairman Mao Tse-tung, and therefore neglect the work of suppressing counterrevolutionaries and of criticizing and eradicating the remaining working attitudes of the former state power and the old legal viewpoints. They have neglected the importance of the periodic convocation of people's representative's conferences and sessions of governmental committees. They have neglected the coordination between land reform and the people's work in the establishment of state power. They have neglected the great functions and close relations of current administrative and legal work concerned with the "lower strata"—i.e., economic construction work. They have looked down upon and have been unwilling to do the work of political and legal organs, even though this work is indispensable. Unless these attitudes are corrected, the strengthening and development of the people's democratic dictatorship will be jeopardized.

2. Administrative and legal work is not merely routine and documentary work to be performed in an office « It must be extensively combined with the mass movement, linked directly and closely with the masses--through, and relying upon whom, the work is extended. Only with a grasp of the central link, by which leadership is united with the masses, can the tasks be well accomplished and departmental routine properly determined. We should not merely sit inside government offices and entangle ourselves in governmental routine, seeing only our office desks and not the entire country.... Under present conditions we should not attach too much importance to the minute division of work between government organs. We should stress the interrelation- ships between the various organs and their internal organizations, directing all our efforts toward the central work and tasks. In administrative and legal organs, there should not be excessive emphasis on centralized leadership other than for policies and programs....

3. None of our work should start from the viewpoint of the reactionary Liu-fa ch'uan-shu (Six Law Codes of the KMT) which stem from abstract and dogmatic theories. It should start from actual prevailing conditions.... Since the principal task of administrative and legal organs is concerned with the concrete enforcement of the people's democratic dictatorship in order to direct the masses in undertaking political struggles, there should be a successive combination with other operations and a strengthening of political and policy education for the cadres.

**Introductory Note.** For the CCP, the apparatus of "people's state power" exists for the purpose of "leading" the masses toward Socialism and Communism, and not to oblige the regime to respond to

pressures brought upon it by the masses. Yet the Party does not openly place itself too far ahead of the receptivity of the masses for the policies it proposes. Hence the "mass line" entails the establishment of certain balances between the leadership pressures the Party can always bring to bear through its monopoly of control of all organizational activities and media of mass communication, on the one hand, and the employment of a Party-controlled network of antennae to enable it to sense the current of mass reaction to its programs, on the other. Some of the problems in keeping "state power" and "mass line" in harness are here explored by P'eng Chen—a member of the CCP Politburo, Vice-chairman of the GAC Committee on Political and Legal Affairs and, as Mayor of Peking, a practitioner of the "mass line." His report was adopted by the GAC as a policy declaration. In its comment on May 29, 1951, JMJP traced the "origin of the ideological deviation of neglecting work on state power to the infiltration and permeation of the vulgar ideology of liberalism," and warned that liberalism might lead to "the corrosion and enervation of the people's democratic dictatorship." See, also, Chapter I, ante.