

1952

Speeches/Documents

**Title: Program for the Enforcement of Nationality Regional Autonomy (extracts)**

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**Description:.** Chinese Communist nationality policy closely parallels in organization and concept the nationality policy of the Soviet Union, and is derived from the same Marxian-Leninist dialectic. The national minorities of China are nearly as varied as those of the USSR, although their total population in proportion to the total national population is relatively smaller. On the basis of the Common Program of 1949, various national minority groups in China had been organized into "autonomous" districts, and a substantial body of experience had been acquired, before the following basic regulations on the subject, as adopted by the GAC, were approved by the CPGC on August 8, 1952 (and promulgated by Mao Tse-tung the following day). According to Liu Ko-ping, Vice chairman of the CPG Commission on Nationality Affairs, China had 130 national autonomous areas and over 200 joint autonomous governments in September, 1952.

#### Chapter I. General

Article 1. This program is enacted on the basis of Articles 9, 50, 51, 52 and" 53 of the Common Program of the CPPCC

Article 2. All national autonomous districts shall be an inseparable part of the territory of the CPR. All autonomous organs of the national autonomous districts shall be local organs of state power under the unified leadership of the CPG and subject to guidance by people's governments of higher levels.

Article 3. The Common Program of the CPPCC shall be the general center for the united struggle of the nationalities of the CPR in the present stage, and the people of all national autonomous districts shall proceed along this general line in administering the internal affairs of their own nationalities.

#### Chapter II, Autonomous Districts

Article 4. Autonomous districts of the following types may be established, respectively, in all areas where national minorities are concentrated, in accordance with nationality relationships and the conditions of economic development in the different districts, and as affected by historical conditions: (1) Autonomous districts in an area where the people of a single minority nationality live together; (2) Autonomous districts in an area where one large minority nationality lives together, but where there is a small population of other minority nationalities. Localities within such autonomous districts where other minority nationalities with smaller populations exist, shall have their own regional autonomy; and, (3) Autonomous districts in an area where two or more minority nationalities are concentrated. Whether minority localities within such autonomous districts should be under Independent autonomous districts shall be determined by the actual situation and the will of the national minorities concerned.

Article 5. National autonomous districts may, according to economic and political requirements and as affected by historical conditions, include parts of Han Chinese localities and towns. The organs of state power in the Han Chinese localities and towns shall observe the system generally adopted throughout the country, and need not carry out regional autonomy, but in Han localities within autonomous districts where Han Chinese form a majority, a democratic nationality coalition government shall be established....

Article 7. The administrative status of national autonomous districts shall be equivalent to the administrative status of the hsiang (ts'un), ch'u, hsien or administrative district, or higher, and shall be determined according to the size of population and area....

#### Chapter III. Autonomous Organs

Article 10. All autonomous organs of national autonomous districts shall be the organs of state power within national autonomous districts.

Article 11. The autonomous organs of national autonomous districts shall be established according to the basic principles of democratic centralism and the system of people's congresses.

Article 12. People's governments of national autonomous districts shall be formed principally of personnel of national minorities under regional autonomy, and shall include appropriate numbers of personnel of other national minorities and Han Chinese residing in the autonomous district.

Article 13. Except in special cases, the administrative relations of the autonomous organs of the national autonomous districts shall be determined by the administrative status of the autonomous district in question.

#### Chapter IV. Rights of Autonomy

##### Articles 14-24

Article 15. The autonomous organs of national autonomous districts may adopt the national language commonly used in the autonomous districts as the principal instrument to exercise their authority but, in exercising authority among national minorities not using such language, should adopt the language of the national minorities in question at the same time.

Article 16. The autonomous organs of national autonomous districts may adopt their own national language, both spoken and written, for the development of the cultural and educational work of national minorities . . .

Article 18. Internal reform of national autonomous districts shall be carried out according to the will of the majority of people of national minorities and the leaders having close ties with the people.

Article 19. Under the unified financial system of the state, the autonomous organs of national autonomous districts may, according to the power concerning financial matters of the national autonomous districts as defined by the Central People's Government and governments of superior levels, administer the finance of their own districts . . .

Article 23. Within the scope defined by the laws of the Central Peoples Government and of governments of superior levels and according to their prescribed rights, the autonomous organs of national autonomous districts may enact their own independent laws and regulations and report them step-by-step to the peoples governments of two levels above for approval . . .

#### Chapter V. Nationality Relations in Autonomous Districts

##### Articles 25-29

#### Chapter VI. Guiding Principles for People's Governments of Higher Levels

Article 30. People's governments of higher levels shall respect the autonomous rights of the national autonomous districts and assist in their implementation.

Article 31. People's governments of higher levels shall adequately estimate the characteristics and concrete circumstances of the current stage of development of the national autonomous districts so as to insure that their instructions and orders to such districts shall be in accordance with the general direction of the Common Program of the CPPCC and with these characteristics....

Article 33. The people's governments of superior levels shall introduce, by appropriate means, advanced experience and conditions of political, economic and cultural construction to the people of autonomous districts . . .

Article 34. People's governments of higher levels shall, by appropriate means, introduce to the people of the autonomous districts the advanced experience and means of political, economic and cultural construction.

Article 35. People's governments of higher levels shall educate and assist the people of all nationalities to establish the viewpoints of equality, fraternity, unity and mutual help among all nationalities, and shall combat all tendencies of pan-nationalism and narrow nationalism....