

1951

Speeches/Documents

Title: Comment on Suppressing and Liquidating Counterrevolutionaries

Author: Mao Zedong

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Source: *Xuanji*, V, p. 45. Other Chinese Texts: "Wansui" (1969), p. 9; *Wansui* (1967a), p. 154. Available English Translations: *SW*, V, p. 56; *JPRS, Miscellany*, 1, p. 8

Description:

In no way should the policy of "giving two years of reprieve" be taken to mean that criminals who have committed crimes involving the shedding of people's blood or other serious crimes for which the people have demanded that they be executed are not to be executed. To do so would be a mistake. We must make it clear to the cadres and the popular masses in the districts and villages that in order to assuage the hatred of the people, those whose crimes and evil deeds are so great and who have incurred such bitter hatred of the people that unless they were executed the hatred of the people could not be assuaged must be executed. It is only with regard to those who have committed capital offense but against whom the people's anger is not deep and whose execution is not demanded by the people that we can apply [the policy of] passing the death sentence and giving them a two year reprieve, forcing them to take part in labor and [making final judgment] on the basis of how they behave