

1951

Speeches/Documents

Title: Commentary on the Directions to the Party Committee of Northern Sichuan Province, Transferred to the South western Bureau, Regarding the Suppression of the Counterrevolutionaries

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Description:

The Central Bureau, submitted directly to the Subdivision, Province Committee, Large and Middle City Committee:

The killing should not be excessive. If there is too much, we will lose social compassion and the labor force. In the countryside, the number of counterrevolutionaries killed should not exceed 0.1% of the population. Under special circumstances, this percentage can be overridden, but this requires the permission of the Central Bureau, and it should be reported to the central government. For example, Peking has a population of two million. Ten thousand people have been or will be arrested. Seven hundred have been killed, and another 700 should still be killed, altogether around 1,400, and that is enough. Our principle is to kill resolutely those who owed blood debts or who have committed outrageous crimes that elicited the outrage of the people. In this way, we ease the rage and promote production. Those who did not owe blood debts or did not commit major crimes that could arouse public indignation, yet who deserved to be killed, for example some agents or spies, and some counterrevolutionaries in the educational or economic fields, may be sentenced to death, but with a postponement of one or two years. These people should be forced to labor under surveillance. If it is possible to reform them through labor, the next step will be to commute their sentence to a life sentence. The third step could be imprisonment for a certain period (those with a sentence of longer than one year must all be organized to work- they should not be fed for free). Thus, the decision-making power is in our hands, and we can do whatever we want later. This issue will be submitted for discussion and decision at the conference on public security to be held on May 10th in Peking. If you have some thoughts on this, let the security officers from your location bring them to the conference. Or send a telegram. The following are directions of the South western Bureau for Comrade Hu Yaobang of the Northern Sichuan Party Committee. The directions fit the above principles, so that I also submit it to you for your reference.