

1953

Speeches/Documents

Title: Criticism of Documents Issued in the Name of the Center by Liu Shaoqi and Yang Shangkun

Author: Mao Zedong

Date: May 19, 1953

Source: The writings of mao zedong pg.346

Description:

I. From now on, all documents and telegrams issued in the name of the [Party] Center must be inspected by me before they can be dispatched; *otherwise they will be invalid*.¹ Please pay attention to this.

II. (1) Please assume responsibility for inspecting all telegrams and documents issued in the name of the [Party] Center or the Military Commission between August 1 of last year and May 5 of this year (inspection has already been made of those [issued] prior to August 1) to see if there are any--and if so, how many--that were not inspected by myself (excluding those [issued] while I was on an inspection tour or on sick leave). Then let me know the results.

(2) It is an error, a breach of discipline, for the resolutions of the past several meetings at the Center to have been issued on [someone else's] authority without having passed my inspection.

This document provides us with a clue as to the early dating of the rift between Mao and Liu Shaoqi. Although the issue here appears to be of a more technical and operational nature, it serves as evidence of Mao's uneasiness with Liu. The rift between Mao's line and that of Liu would deepen enormously in the mid-1950s over the issue of the speed and methods of cooperativization. Furthermore, this is itself an indication of the difference of opinion between the two lines over the issue of the transition from "new democracy" to socialism and of the resolving of the social and political contradictions between these two stages of development. (For more on this, see text June 15, 1953, note 2.) The inclusion of this document and the document of June 15, 1953, in successive order in

Xuanji, V, also provides us with a hint regarding the ideological line pursued by the PRC leadership at the time that volume of Xuanji was published, and which, however, was soon to be criticized by the PRC leadership that succeeded the fall of Hua Guofeng.

Note

¹ The emphasis is Mao's, or at least appeared in the original text