

BUILDING A NEW PEOPLE'S CUSTOMS SYSTEM

September 1949

1. It is a major reform to transform a customs system that for a century has been under imperialist control into a system completely under our own control, one appropriate to New Democracy—that is, one that serves the people, increases their wellbeing and benefits the national economy. We should go about this transformation carefully, carrying over from the old customs system whatever is useful to New Democracy. For example, we should retain the old methods of inspection and ways of combatting smuggling and draw on the administrative experience of the old customs officers.

2. The customs service is closely related to foreign trade. The People's Government is ready to restore and develop trade relations with the governments and peoples of other countries according to the principles of equality and mutual benefit.

3. The present lack of uniform administration of customs in the country is only temporary. This situation will change gradually.

4. Cadres, both old and new, who are working in the customs service must unite in a concerted effort to build a new system that truly belongs to the people.

Summary of a speech made at a national forum of representatives of customs personnel. It first appeared in *People's Daily* on October 26, 1949.