

Central's Telegram on the Treatment of Former Personnel

(November 2, 1949)

To the Central China Bureau, Hunan Provincial Party Committee, and all Central Bureaus and Branches:

According to a letter received from the Xinhua News Agency in Tianjin, it states: "The editorial titled 'Six Criticisms of the White Paper' published in *Tianjin Daily* on September 16 this year mentions that 'The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China has ordered all Communist organizations and the People's Liberation Army nationwide to retain any personnel from the Kuomintang as long as they have a skill, are not reactionary, and have no notorious background. In times of difficulty, provide food and housing even if it is cramped. Those who have been dismissed and are without means of livelihood should have their orders rescinded and be provided with food. Those who have defected or been captured from the Kuomintang army should be accepted according to this principle. Any non-major reactionary figures who repent should also be given a way of life.' After reading this, I greatly admire the Central Committee's issuance of such a compassionate directive.

Recently, I received many letters from colleagues at the Hunan Salt Administration Office in Changsha. They report that after the liberation of Changsha, the local authorities delayed for a long time before sending personnel to take over, and for more than two months, no living expenses were provided. Only recently have they published a personnel handling plan. Originally, there were 300 employees, but only 40 were retained, with the rest being dismissed, resulting in the unemployment of a large number of people. Currently, it is much harder to find work than during the time of Kuomintang rule, and many are deeply concerned about their future livelihoods.

I often think that since Changsha was liberated peacefully and the Central People's Government has already been established, with many new agencies, the former employees should have been given the opportunity to stay. Even if there was a reorganization or excess personnel, they could have been reassigned. However, under the current handling methods in Hunan, not only have my ideals been disappointed, but this treatment of personnel contradicts the principles of the Central Committee, which inevitably causes disappointment. I believe that when Communists speak, they should fulfill their promises, and where there are discrepancies between words and actions, they should be corrected. Therefore, I am writing to you and requesting that you forward this to Chairman Mao. If this issue is due to a deviation in implementation, I hope you will quickly instruct the Hunan Military and Political Committee and the Changsha Military Control Commission to revoke the orders, inquire about the intentions of the dismissed personnel, provide them with work opportunities, and offer living expenses, thereby maintaining credibility and stabilizing people's hearts. I hope the results will be published in the press for public knowledge!

This is from the Beijing Xinhua News Agency. I am currently returning to my hometown in Hunan, so I do not include a specific address and ask for your understanding. (October 10 in Tianjin)

Regarding this matter, the following steps should be taken:

1. Regarding the case mentioned in the letter about the Hunan Salt Administration dismissing the majority of former employees, the Hunan Provincial Party Committee should send someone to investigate and provide a report with suggested solutions.
2. Regarding the principle and method for handling former personnel mentioned in the *Six Criticisms of the White Paper* editorial published on September 16 by Xinhua News Agency, the

Central Committee has already issued instructions to all central bureaus and branches. Party organizations nationwide, the People's Liberation Army, and the People's Government must strictly follow these instructions and avoid repeating the mistakes made in Beijing, Shanghai, and Nanjing where large numbers of former personnel were recklessly and irresponsibly dismissed (more than 10,000 in Beijing and over 20,000 in Shanghai and Nanjing). The recent instruction from the Northwest Bureau on handling former personnel issues has already been forwarded for your reference. Please pay attention to this and ensure it is communicated to your subordinates.

Central Committee

November 2, 1949

[1] Refers to the instruction issued by the Central Committee's Northwest Bureau on October 14, 1949, regarding the handling of former personnel.