

Central Committee's Directive on Thoroughly Investigating Large-Scale Smuggling Cases (March 28, 1952)

To all central bureaus, sub-bureaus, and forwarding to provincial, municipal, and district party committees:

In Beijing, underground tram companies have been discovered selling tickets privately for over one million one hundred thousand in the past three years. In Beijing, Jinzhou, Shenyang, Tianjin, and Shanghai, numerous cases of collusion between private merchants and officials resulting in large-scale smuggling or drug trafficking have been uncovered. In Taiyuan and Xi'an, large quantities of drug traffickers and producers have been apprehended. However, none of these cases compare to the enormity of the smuggling case uncovered by the Hengyang Railway Bureau. The smuggling case in Hengyang involves over one thousand eight hundred individuals and goods worth a staggering seventy billion yuan, including many prohibited items. The central and southern regions have already issued orders for all provinces and cities to thoroughly investigate such large-scale smuggling cases. We hope that all central bureaus, sub-bureaus, provincial, municipal, and district party committees will study the experience of Hengyang, especially the major railway bureaus and large cities such as Shanghai, Tianjin, Shenyang, and Guangzhou, must pay special attention to thoroughly investigating such cases. The reports of Comrades Guo Weicheng and Liu Shenzhi from the Hengyang Railway Bureau are valuable and should be studied further.

Central Committee

Notes:

1. Refers to the report submitted by Guo Weicheng, Director of the Hengyang Railway Administration, and Liu Shenzhi, Director of the Political Department of the Administration, to the Central-Southern Bureau and the Ministry of Railways on March 20, 1952. The report detailed the investigation conducted by the Hengyang Railway Administration during the anti-corruption campaign into smuggling activities involving weapons, gold, silver, drugs, etc. The report pointed out that the Hengyang Railway Administration is adjacent to the major ports of Hong Kong, Macau, and Haifeng, connected to the tobacco-producing areas of Yunnan and Guizhou in the south, and linked to the Yangtze River and various major railway trunk lines in the north, connecting to major ports such as Chongqing, Hankou, Shanghai, Beijing, and Tianjin. Smuggling was rampant before the liberation and did not significantly decrease afterward. The damage caused by smuggling is not only economic but also political and military, and most significantly, it poses a serious threat to people's lives. The report suggested that the central government should make a firm decision early on, take advantage of the momentum of the anti-corruption and anti-corruption campaigns, and thoroughly eradicate both internal and external smuggling, establish specific handling methods for smugglers, and implement them accordingly.