

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China issued instructions on the issue of urban-rural relations during the period of land reform.

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The Central Committee issued instructions to the East China Bureau, Southwest Bureau, and Northwest Bureau stating that after liberation, many rural landlords had illegally transferred considerable property to cities and into industry and commerce. Some industrial and commercial figures had even harbored criminal and despotic landlords. It is entirely legitimate for peasants, in the course of land reform, to recover these properties and arrest those despotic landlords. However, these actions must be carried out in an orderly manner; otherwise, they could cause urban chaos and disrupt industry and commerce.

All provincial, municipal, and county-level people's governments should immediately work with local farmers' associations, trade unions, and federations of industry and commerce to establish urban-rural liaison committees and liaison offices to appropriately and orderly handle these issues.

Any property that peasants are entitled to recover by law, and any despotic landlords who should be arrested and sent back to the countryside for punishment, must be firmly supported. They must be ordered to comply. Even if this results in the collapse or downsizing of some industrial or commercial operations, it must be accepted. If not handled in this way, peasants will be dissatisfied and may oppose the liaison offices. However, excessive or expanded demands by the peasants should not be supported.

The legal property of industrial and commercial figures must be protected, and their personal freedom should be safeguarded as much as possible. Only by considering both sides can the issue be resolved reasonably.

Previously, on February 4, the Wuhan Municipal Committee reported a briefing on urban-rural relations during the land reform period to the Central-South Bureau and the Central Committee. According to the briefing, incomplete statistics indicated that in Wuhan, about 90% of industrial and commercial figures also owned land, and many workers and shop assistants did as well. After the start of the land reform, conflicts between the farmers' associations and industrial/commercial figures intensified, creating disorder.

Following the issuance of the Central-South Military and Political Committee's decision on handling urban-rural relations and the establishment of urban-rural liaison committees and liaison offices, the situation greatly improved. The briefing summarized five key takeaways:

1. **Ideological unity within the Party is essential**—support for land reform and protection of industry and commerce must be equally emphasized. A slightly more lenient policy toward industrial/commercial figures who are also landlords is beneficial; otherwise, it would harm both peasants and commerce.
2. **Establishing liaison committees and offices** to handle urban-rural relations and using legal methods and negotiated struggle in cities benefits both land reform and public order.
3. **Peasants entering cities to confront a few die-hard individuals** must report to the liaison office via their farmers' association and must not act independently.
4. **Leniency should be applied** to public employees, workers, and shop assistants who own small amounts of land. Peasants can be referred by liaison offices to speak directly with

union leaders for negotiation, allowing the liaison office to focus on resolving issues within the business community and among political parties.

5. **It is recommended** that all levels of government under the Central-South Military and Political Committee and the municipal government conduct broad education and mobilization on land reform among staff. This will help clarify policies, unify thinking, and facilitate the work.