

Central Committee's Instructions on the Eight Objectives to be Achieved in the Anti-Corruption Campaign and Beyond (March 23, 1952)

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

1. The Central-South Bureau's directive on strengthening the work of workers and employees in private factories and shops is being sent to you for reference.

2. During this anti-corruption campaign and beyond, we must achieve the following objectives:

(a) Thoroughly investigate the situation of private industry and commerce to facilitate the unity and control of the bourgeoisie and carry out national planned economy. Without a clear understanding of the situation, planned economy is impossible.

(b) Clearly define the boundaries between the working class and the bourgeoisie, eliminate corruption and bureaucratic phenomena within trade unions, and remove bourgeois lackeys from trade unions. In various places, bourgeois lackeys and middlemen wavering between labor and capital have emerged in trade unions. We must educate and win over middlemen during the struggle. Capitalist lackeys guilty of serious crimes must be expelled.

(c) Reorganize guilds and chambers of commerce, expel those who possess all five evils [bribery, tax evasion, theft of state assets, shoddy goods, and stealing state economic information] and others who have completely lost credibility from leadership positions in these organizations, and attract those who have performed well in the anti-corruption campaign to join. Except for those who are completely illegal, all types of industrial and commercial operators should have representation.

(d) Assist the leaders of the Democratic Construction Association in rectifying the association, expelling those with all five evils and those who have lost significant credibility, and adding a group of better individuals to make it a political organization representing the legitimate interests of the bourgeoisie, mainly the industrial bourgeoisie, and educating them with common principles and the principles of the anti-corruption campaign. Secret societies of capitalists, such as the "Star Four Gathering," should be dissolved.

(e) Eliminate the five evils, eradicate speculative commerce, make the entire bourgeoisie obey state laws, and operate industries and commerce beneficial to the national economy and people's livelihoods. Within the scope designated by the state, develop private industry as much as possible (as long as capitalists are willing and comply with common principles), gradually reduce private commerce, increase the annual purchase and order plan for private products by the state, and increase the planning of private industry and commerce year by year. Recalculate private capital profits, ensuring that private capital feels profitable but cannot reap excessive profits.

(f) Abolish backdoor deals, ensure economic transparency, and gradually establish a system where workers and employees supervise production and operations.

(g) Recover most of the economic losses incurred by the state and the people through compensation, refunds, fines, and confiscation.

(h) Establish party branches in all large and medium-sized private enterprises and strengthen party work.

We would like to hear your opinions on these eight points. Regarding the item concerning workers' supervision of production, it should be postponed until several large cities select a few large and medium-sized factories and shops to trial this system with the consent of the capitalists, gain experience, and then the Central Committee will make a final decision. Please pay attention to studying this issue during the anti-corruption campaign and inform us of your opinions at any time.

Central Committee

Notes:

1. Refers to the directive issued by the Central Committee's Central-South Bureau on March 11, 1952, regarding the strengthening of work among workers and employees in private factories and shops. The directive stated that the anti-corruption campaign is an intense class struggle and also a good opportunity to mobilize and train workers and employees in private factories and shops. The leadership organs of city Party committees and trade unions must, based on fully mobilizing the workers and employees, gradually rectify trade union organizations, purify and elevate the class ranks.
2. The "five evils" refer to five illegal acts of some capitalists: bribery, tax evasion, theft of state assets, shoddy goods, and theft of state economic information.
3. The "Star Four Gathering" was a secret society of some capitalists in Chongqing that engaged in a series of serious underground activities, which were exposed and banned during the anti-corruption campaign.