

Title: Order of the state administrative council concerning the Strict prohibition of opium and other narcotics

Author: Adopted at the 21st session of the State Administrative Council

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Description:

Imperialist aggression against our country and the forcible importation of opium for the purpose of undermining our nation have a history reaching back more than a century. Owing to the reactionary regime of the feudalists, compradors, bureaucrats, and militarists and their dissolute and filthy way of life, opium smoking was not only not prohibited but, on the contrary, opium was cultivated under compulsion, in particular during the Japanese imperialist aggression when the poisoning of the Chinese population by opium was being realized according to plan. All this had a ruinous effect on the life of the people and inflicted incalculable injury on the national economy. Now that the entire country has been liberated,

the following measures prohibiting opium and other narcotics have been adopted for the purpose of guarding the people's health and industrial recovery and development:

1. People's governments at all levels together with people's organizations must carry on broad propaganda aimed at suppressing opium by mobilizing the people for single minded action; in regions where opium smoking is comparatively widespread, conferences of representatives of the population or meetings of people's representatives must specifically discuss the situation with regard to prohibiting opium and work out appropriate measures together with time limits for their execution.
2. People's governments at all levels must set up committees on prohibiting opium in order to ensure the successful completion of the task. These committees shall be composed of representatives of civil administrative and public security agencies and people's organizations. Responsibility for constituting the committees shall rest with the civil administrative agencies.
4. In regions where military operations have come to an end, the cultivation and smoking of opium must be prohibited as of spring 1950; in regions where military operations are still continuing, the cultivation and smoking of opium must be prohibited immediately upon termination of military operations. Special attention must be directed to effecting the prohibition prior to spring planting. In regions inhabited by natural minorities and where opium is cultivated and smoked, measures aimed at the gradual prohibition of opium cultivation must be carefully drawn up in conformity with actual local conditions.
5. The importation, processing, and sale of opium and other narcotics shall be prohibited throughout the country from the date this order is published. Violators of this decree regardless of who they may be, shall suffer confiscation of their opium and other narcotics in addition to severe punishment.
6. The opium and other narcotics in the possession of various persons are subject to surrender at a certain time. The government must look after the material position of these persons and pay adequate compensation in each individual case. Persons who fail to surrender their opium and other narcotics by the date fixed shall suffer confiscation of the opium and other narcotics in addition to punishment according to the degree of guilt.
7. Opium smokers must register at the established time (in cities with the bureau of public security, in villages with the people's government) and during the course of a fixed period of time stop smoking opium. Persons who evade registration and by the date fixed have failed to stop smoking are subject to punishment.
8. Public health organs of people's governments at all levels must prepare medicines for treating opium smokers and propagandize the means of manufacturing these medicines. The treatment of opium smokers -- poor peasants -- must be offered gratis or at a low price. Centres for the treatment of opium smokers must be set up in cities where opium smoking is fairly widespread. The supplying of medical preparation used in treating opium smokers shall be under the complete supervision of public health agencies. Public health agencies must not sanction the preparation of opium substitutes.
9. The people's governments (or military-administrative committees) of the major administrative regions and people's governments of the provinces and cities and affiliated agencies must -- in conformity with local conditions and on the basis of this order -- devise measures to enforce this order and set a time limit after which the cultivation and smoking of opium are prohibited.

These measures shall be submitted for confirmation to the State Administrative Council of the Central People's Government and published after confirmation. A widespread propaganda and educational program shall be conducted to secure their implementation. This order must be carried out and transmitted to all dependent institutions for enforcement.