

Central Committee Directive on the Prudent Handling of Issues Concerning Ethnic Minorities

Date: June 13, 1950

To all Central Bureaus, Sub-bureaus, Military Region Party Committees, and to be forwarded to Provincial, Prefectural, and County Party Committees, as well as to Army Group, Army, Division, and Regiment Party Committees:

Recently, due to the imprudent handling of ethnic minority issues by some lower-level Party committees and cadres—who failed to report and request instructions from higher authorities—numerous incidents have occurred, some even leading to uprisings and retaliatory killings among ethnic minorities, thereby obstructing the correct implementation of the Party's ethnic policies. In order to handle issues concerning ethnic minorities with greater caution in the future, the Central Committee stipulates that all matters related to ethnic minorities must be reported to and instructions requested from higher authorities, including the Central Bureaus, Sub-bureaus, and the Central Committee. Lower-level authorities are not permitted to handle such matters independently without reporting or requesting instructions. From now on, if any Party committee at any level handles issues concerning ethnic minorities without reporting or requesting instructions, thereby causing incidents, it shall be considered a serious violation of discipline and subject to appropriate punishment.

In the future, all issues concerning ethnic minorities should be centrally handled by the Central Bureaus, with important matters reported to the Central Committee for resolution. In the event of an emergency, local authorities, in addition to immediately reporting to and requesting instructions from higher authorities, should only take defensive and retreat measures and must not take offensive actions.

Furthermore, regarding social reforms within ethnic minority communities—especially reforms related to religious beliefs, customs, land systems, rent and interest systems, and marriage systems—these must not be proposed hastily. Without the approval of the Central Bureaus and the Central Committee, local Party committees must not propose such reforms among ethnic minority peoples, nor issue resolutions or slogans related to these reforms, nor conduct propaganda or agitation in newspapers. Additionally, in Islamic schools for the Hui ethnic group and in Lamaist schools for the Tibetan ethnic group, the teaching of the theory of human evolution from apes in social development history should be temporarily avoided to prevent offending their religious sentiments. Only in advanced cadre schools for ethnic minorities, based on the students' level of awareness and acceptance, may social development history be taught.

When working among ethnic minorities, it is essential to first understand the specific conditions of each minority and to determine local work policies and specific steps based on these conditions. It is strictly forbidden to mechanically apply the work experience and slogans from Han Chinese regions, and it is strictly prohibited to impose policies implemented in Han Chinese regions on ethnic minorities in a commandist manner. Newspapers in ethnic minority regions, especially those published in minority languages, should not uncritically publish work experiences from Han Chinese regions as broadcast by Xinhua News Agency. Instead, they must select, reedit, or annotate such content to ensure it is suitable for the specific conditions and work steps of the local ethnic minorities before publication. Local newspapers should pay more attention to publishing news from within the local ethnic minority communities.

All Central Bureaus are to ensure that the above instructions are strictly followed by Party committees at all levels, and no violations are permitted.

Central Committee

June 13

Printed according to Liu Shaoqi's manuscript.

Note:

[1] After drafting this directive, Liu Shaoqi sent it for review to Mao Zedong, Zhu De, Zhou Enlai, Chen Yun (Alternate Secretary of the Central Committee Secretariat and Vice Premier of the Government Administration Council), Li Weihai (Director of the Central United Front Work Department), and Ulanhu (Vice Chairman of the Central People's Government Committee on Ethnic Affairs and Secretary of the Inner Mongolia Sub-bureau of the Central Committee).