

The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party Forwards the East China Bureau's "Draft Provisions on the Control and Reform of Landlords after Land Reform"

(June 24, 1951)

To: East China Bureau, and copied to the Central South, Southwest, and Northwest Bureaus:

Your telegram of June 18 has been received. We agree with the East China Bureau's "Draft Provisions on the Control and Reform of Landlords after Land Reform" and are forwarding it to other regions for reference.

We believe that legally stipulating all landlords must be subject to control, while in actual implementation avoiding exhausting the masses or falling into formalism, is a more strategic approach. For landlord elements who, after land reform, abide by the law and engage in labor, the people's government and peasant associations may decide to exempt them from control. However, those landlords who do not behave lawfully or refuse to engage in labor must be strictly controlled.

In light of this, the phrase in Article Four of the original draft, "and individual landlords who perform better than most," may be revised to "landlord elements who perform better." Additionally, the sentence "their control period may be appropriately shortened" may be amended by adding "or exempted from control" at the end. Please consider this and report back with implementation outcomes and experiences.

Central Committee

June 24, 1951

Instructions from the East China Bureau on Implementing the "Draft Provisions on the Control and Reform of Landlords after Land Reform"

(June 18, 1951)

To sub-bureaus, provincial and regional Party committees, and reported to the Central Committee:

After the completion of land reform, in order to **safeguard the gains of the land reform movement** and **consolidate revolutionary order in the countryside**, strict control and labor reform of landlords is essential.

Based on regional experience and discussions at the East China Rural Work Conference, we have drafted the "Provisions on the Control and Reform of Landlords after Land Reform (Draft)" and are submitting it to the Central Committee for review and dissemination for trial implementation. It will be officially promulgated by the East China Military and Administrative Committee at an appropriate time.

When trialing and later implementing these provisions, the following points should be observed:

1. **In areas where land distribution is complete**, we must stay alert against landlord attempts at counterrevolution and stealing the fruits of the peasants' struggle. Strict and lasting control measures should be enacted in a practical way, avoiding formalism or approaches that tire the masses or provoke dissatisfaction.
2. **During the control period**, landlords must be forced to engage in labor and receive regular political education. Township governments and peasant associations should regularly

summon landlords for instruction, inspect their labor performance, and assess their compliance.

3. **Articles 3, 4, and 5 of the draft** outline a differentiated approach toward landlords, offering them a path to survival and further dividing their ranks. This reduces resistance and aids reform. However, **vigilance and control must not be relaxed**. Those who violate regulations or attempt counterrevolutionary activity must be severely dealt with as per Article 2. In some villages, landlords are refusing labor reform, bribing cadres, spreading rumors, threatening peasants, or reclaiming land and other gains—these are serious issues requiring urgent attention.
4. We request a telegram report on your experiences and opinions regarding this draft, and await the Central Committee's review and feedback.

East China Bureau
June 18, 1951

Draft Provisions on the Control and Reform of Landlords after Land Reform **(June 1951)**

After the completion of land reform, in order to **safeguard its achievements, strengthen rural people's democratic dictatorship**, and in accordance with **Article 7 of the Common Program**, which states landlords must be "deprived of political rights during the necessary period" and "transformed through labor into new persons," the following provisions are made:

1. Landlords with labor capacity and no other profession must be compelled to engage in agricultural labor. Allocated land **must not be left fallow, sold, mortgaged, or rented out**. Their daily activities must comply with government regulations, and **guests must be reported**, and **trips outside the village must be approved**. Their occupation and location of activity must be reported and approved by the local government.
2. During the control and labor reform period, landlords who meet any of the following conditions shall be subject to stricter control (e.g., no visitors, restricted movement, forced labor teams) or punished according to the law:
 - (a) Fail to engage seriously in production.
 - (b) Violate the law or behave improperly.
 - (c) Sentenced to control or probation and returned home.
 - (d) Suspected of counterrevolutionary activity.
 - (e) Still resisting after land reform.
3. Landlords meeting the following conditions may be treated as follows:
 - (a) Those with other skills may teach or pursue other jobs.
 - (b) Those without labor capacity may be allowed to engage in business or study a trade.

- (c) Property not confiscated during land reform may be used for agriculture or invested in industry or commerce. Profits from labor belong to them.
 - (d) Those truly lacking labor may hire help or rent out land according to reduced-rent laws, upon approval. If their other income suffices or no one in the household farms, their land may be partially or fully repossessed and redistributed.
4. Individual landlords who are **consistently law-abiding and hardworking** may, upon approval, have their **control period shortened or lifted**.
 5. Specific provisions regarding landlord families and children:
 - (a) Children under 18 and students are not subject to control unless they acted as heads of household or joined in illegal activities.
 - (b) Families have freedom of marriage. However, landlords **must not use women to corrupt or seduce government personnel**.
 - (c) Children and orphans of landlords may be adopted voluntarily by others.
 6. Control and reform are to be executed by township governments and peasant associations, under the supervision of security committees and militia units.
 7. Township governments, through peasant representative meetings, shall draft proposals for landlord control and reform and submit them for approval by higher-level governments.