

## **The Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government's Directive on Handling Agricultural Land Issues in the Suburbs of Old Liberated Areas**

(Adopted at the 15th Government Administration Meeting of the Government Administration Council on January 13, 1950)

Land reform, which aims to abolish the feudal and semi-feudal system of exploitation, has been entirely completed in the Northeast and in the old liberated areas of Hebei, Shanxi, Chahar, Suiyuan, Pingyuan, and Shandong provinces. It is also nearing completion or currently being implemented in several small, newly liberated areas. The conditions for carrying out land reform have now matured in the urban suburbs, which have been influenced by these long-standing rural campaigns. This process has already begun in the suburbs of Beijing and Tianjin.

Therefore, it has been decided that land reform in the suburbs of Beijing, Tianjin, and all cities within the aforementioned six provinces should be completed before the spring plowing or after the autumn harvest this year. However, due to the close economic ties and more developed commodity economy in urban suburbs, and the need to consider urban and industrial development, land reform in these areas must differ slightly from that in rural areas.

Based on experiences from Beijing and Tianjin, the following measures for urban suburban land reform are stipulated:

1. **Confiscation of Land:** Landlords' land and the land rented out by old-style rich peasants will be confiscated. To support urban construction and industrial development, this land will become state property, managed by the municipal people's government, and allocated to landless or land-poor peasants. Landlords who wish to farm to support themselves after the reform will receive the same amount of land as the peasants who receive it. However, landlords with other sources of income will receive less or no land at all.
2. **Confiscation of Assets:** Landlords' livestock, farm tools, and surplus grain will be confiscated and distributed to peasants to address their lack of production funds. Their surplus houses in rural areas may also be confiscated. With the exception of large buildings and scenic villas which will be kept for public use based on urban development needs, confiscated houses will be distributed to peasants to address their housing shortages. Any land or houses connected to industry and commerce, along with the landlord's other property, will not be confiscated. Digging up hidden wealth is strictly forbidden, and landlords are permitted to invest their hidden wealth in industry and commerce.
3. **Protection of Industry and Commerce:** The industry and commerce operated by landlords and old-style rich peasants—including transportation businesses—will not be confiscated or distributed. There must be a strict distinction between their industry and commerce and their feudal land assets. Confiscating or requisitioning feudal land assets must not infringe upon their businesses.
4. **Protection of Private Land:** The land ownership and usage rights of self-cultivating peasants, including land farmed with hired labor by old-style rich peasants, will remain unchanged. Those who rent out a small amount of land due to a lack of labor or because they have other occupations will not be classified as landlords or old-style rich peasants. Their land will not be confiscated and they will be permitted to continue renting it out at a rent agreed upon by both parties.

5. **Protection of Specialized Farms:** Land with mechanical farming or other advanced equipment, such as vegetable gardens, orchards, and agricultural experimental fields, will remain under the management of their original operators, regardless of any changes in ownership.
6. **Confiscation of Public and Religious Land:** Land owned by schools, clans, ancestral halls, temples, churches, and public organizations will be nationalized and appropriately distributed. However, appropriate solutions must be found to support schools, orphanages, and hospitals that rely on income from rented land. Monks and nuns who are willing to farm may also be allocated a portion of land. When handling land owned by mosques, lamaseries, and churches, it is important to distinguish this from issues of religious belief and to provide a full explanation to the believers.
7. **Protection of Graves:** When confiscating or requisitioning land from landlords and rich peasants, graves and the trees on them must be protected and left undisturbed.
8. **Distribution of Land:** Confiscated and requisitioned land, along with existing public land, will be distributed uniformly at the administrative village level. Priority will be given to the landless and land-poor peasants in the village, but a certain amount of land may also be allocated to unemployed workers and poor people who are willing to farm.
9. **Agricultural Tax:** Those who farm state-owned land in urban suburbs will no longer pay rent but will instead pay an agricultural tax according to regulations.
10. **Punishment of Local Bullies:** For heinous local bullies who are widely detested by the masses and whom the people demand be punished, specific crimes and evidence should be collected and presented to the People's Court for sentencing in accordance with the law. Arbitrary beatings and verbal abuse are prohibited.
11. **Implementation:** Land reform will be carried out by peasant representative conferences or general peasant assemblies and their elected committees under the leadership of the municipal and district people's governments. The classification of landlords and rich peasants will be assessed at the village peasant assembly with the individual present and then submitted to the district people's government for approval.
12. **Reclamation of Wasteland:** All arable wasteland, provided it does not interfere with urban construction, historical sites, or scenic areas, will be uniformly distributed by the people's government to landless or land-poor peasants. Those who reclaim this wasteland will be exempt from agricultural tax for one to three years.
13. **Scope:** These measures apply only to agricultural land in urban suburbs. Agricultural land in market towns and county seats will be handled according to the existing regulations for land reform in new areas.

Premier of the Government Administration Council, Zhou Enlai

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