

Instructions from the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party on the Issue of Landlords Participating in Labor and Employment in Areas Where Land Reform Has Been Completed"

May 10, 1951

To: East China Bureau, Northwest Bureau, Southwest Bureau; with a copy to the Central South Bureau

We are forwarding to you the telegram from the Central South Bureau dated April 23 regarding the issue of landlords participating in labor. Please pay attention to how this matter is handled.

In areas where land reform has already been completed and the struggle against landlords has been relatively thorough, local leadership should persuade the peasants to ease up on those landlords who have expressed submission. This is to encourage the majority of landlords to participate in labor, cultivate the land allocated to them, and sustain their own livelihoods.

For intellectuals among the landlord class or those with other skills who can teach or engage in other professions, they should be allowed to take up such occupations, and teaching jobs may be assigned to them. Those who truly lack agricultural labor capacity but are capable of doing business may be permitted to engage in commerce.

However, landlords who are physically capable of agricultural labor and have no other profession must be compelled to work; they should not be allowed to idle about or live by begging. If they face actual difficulties when engaging in agricultural work, they should be assisted in resolving them.

They may be allowed to dig up and invest their hidden wealth in production, and it should no longer be subject to confiscation. Their future production earnings, regardless of the amount, should also no longer be confiscated.

However, regardless of their occupation or location, they should be monitored to ensure their whereabouts and identity are clear. They must not change their names, alter their class status or place of origin, or wander around aimlessly.

As for those cunning landlords who still refuse to submit and persist in resisting, the struggle against them should continue until they comply. When possible, they may also be organized into labor teams and forced to work.

Proper handling of the landlord class after land reform is an important social issue. We hope all regions pay close attention to this matter and report their experiences to the Central Committee.

Central Committee

May 10