

Decision of the CPC Central Committee on Strengthening the System of Reporting to the Central Government by All Departments of the Central People's Government System and Strengthening the Central Government's Leadership over Government Work

(March 10, 1953)

To prevent the danger of the government's work being separated from the leadership of the Party Central Committee, all major and important guidelines, policies, plans, and major issues in the government's work must be discussed, decided, or approved by the Party Central Committee. To this end, the following decision is hereby made to strengthen the system of reporting to the Party Central Committee by all departments under the Central People's Government system and to strengthen the Party Central Committee's direct leadership over the government's work.

1. From now on, all major and important guidelines, policies, plans, and major matters in government work must be submitted to the Central Committee for prior approval and may only be implemented after discussion, decision, or approval by the Central Committee. All government departments must regularly and promptly report to or seek instructions from the Central Committee on the implementation of Central Committee resolutions and instructions, as well as on major issues in their work, so as to obtain regular and direct leadership from the Central Committee.

First, all government departments should strictly distinguish between requests for instructions and reports to the central government, and should always pay attention to improving and enhancing the content of reports and the specific methods of improving reports.

For requests for instructions, the principle of limiting each request to a single topic must be strictly adhered to. The request for instruction and the person or agency for approval must be clearly stated in the report. Urgent matters should also be specifically noted.

For reports, never include the phrase "whether it is appropriate, requesting instructions." The Central Committee generally does not need to approve these reports, but if it identifies issues requiring instructions, it should issue separate instructions. Periodic comprehensive reports fall into this category. Even if a comprehensive report addresses issues requiring instructions, these issues must be addressed separately and should not be confused. Periodic comprehensive reports should generally be made every two weeks. Some departments may, with Central Committee approval, submit monthly or bimonthly reports. Reports must be substantial, highlighting major issues and policy-related matters, and avoid trivial details. Concise and vivid language is preferred.

Certain major issues or issues of a specialized nature should be reported to the central government in special reports. There is no time limit, but the number of words should not be too long.

Secondly, government departments can also report the situation to the central government in the following ways:

A. Periodic or irregular briefings or intelligence reports should be compiled. The content must be carefully selected and organized, focusing on materials that can identify issues, especially new ones. Briefings or intelligence reports should be brief rather than long.

B. Record the important matters discussed or decided at the meeting in the simplest terms and submit them for review.

C. Regularly and purposefully reflect certain necessary numerical data of a statistical nature.

Finally, all specialized meetings held by government departments, particularly those of a significant nature rather than those addressing purely operational or technical issues, should adhere to the principle of prior reporting and central approval before they can be held. Near the beginning or end of the meeting, a report should be submitted to the central government detailing the issues discussed and the key points on how to resolve them. Conclusions of significant overall policy significance must be submitted to the central government for approval before being announced to attendees. Following the conclusion of the meeting, a summary report should be submitted to the central government. To facilitate the review and examination of various meetings, the various committees of the State Council and other government departments not affiliated with the committees may, at the end of each month, submit a brief report to the central government on the status of the specialized meetings planned for the following month.

In addition, from now on, all documents and telegrams sent by government departments to the central government must clearly state the main addressee and the reporting or forwarding party, and should also indicate which people or units have been copied.

Second, in order to strengthen the central government's leadership over government work and to facilitate the organized and unified leadership of Party members within government departments and the implementation of the central government's policies, resolutions, and directives by Party leaders in various government departments, the work of the Party groups in various government departments must be strengthened and they should now accept direct leadership from the central government. Therefore, the current Executive Committee of the Party Group of the Central People's Government is no longer necessary and should be abolished immediately. However, based on the current organizational structure of the Central People's Government and to facilitate communication between departments within the same system, the Party groups of the various commissions of the State Council should continue to exist for the time being, reporting directly to the central government and overseeing the Party groups of the ministries, commissions, agencies, bureaus, and banks under their jurisdiction. The Party groups of these departments should continue to be called Party group sub-groups. The Party groups of other departments that are not part of the commissions but directly under the State Council, such as those in the Foreign Affairs, Ethnic Affairs, Overseas Chinese Affairs, and Personnel Affairs departments, should accept direct leadership from the central government.

3. From now on, all major and important work of the various committees of the State Council and other government departments not affiliated with the committees shall be reported directly to the Central Committee. Matters involving two or more departments but not under the same committee shall be reported to the Central Committee through the responsible person of the State Council. Matters directly assigned by the Chairman shall be reported directly to the Chairman.

From now on, matters directly submitted to the Executive Yuan for approval or handling by the various commissions, ministries, commissions, agencies, bureaus, and banks under the Executive Yuan, except for routine matters, involving guidelines, policies, and plans, should be limited to issues already discussed and decided by the Central Committee, or within the scope of approved plans and approved principles. If responsible officials of the Executive Yuan discover such matters that still require directives and reports from the Central Committee, they should immediately submit them to the Central Committee. As for matters that are purely routine government business, they should continue to be handled according to government procedures.

If matters that should be reported to the central government are not submitted to the central government, the government official who is finally involved should bear the primary responsibility.

In order to better ensure that all leading comrades in government work are directly responsible to the Central Committee and to increase their responsibilities, a clear division of labor is hereby stipulated as follows:

Gao Gang was in charge of national planning;

Political and legal work (including public security, procuratorial work, and court work) was the responsibility of Dong Biwu, Peng Zhen, and Luo Ruiqing;

Financial and economic work was handled by Chen Yun, Bo Yibo, Deng Zihui, Li Fuchun, Zeng Shan, Jia Tuofu, and Ye Jizhuang;

Xi Zhongxun was in charge of cultural and educational work;

Zhou Enlai was in charge of diplomatic work (including the Foreign Trade Bureau, foreign economic and cultural relations, and overseas Chinese affairs);

Deng Xiaoping was responsible for other work that did not fall into the five categories mentioned above (including supervision, ethnic affairs, personnel work, etc.).

The aforementioned comrades should determine, within the scope of their own division of labor, which events should be reported to the Central Committee for instructions, which events should be entrusted to various departments for implementation, which events should be reported to the government system for instructions, which events can be handled by themselves, and undertake the relevant tasks and work assigned by the Central Committee.

Fourth, the work of all government departments should be systematically submitted to the Central Committee for discussion in order to strengthen the Central Committee's leadership over government work. All government departments should begin preparations for this immediately. To ensure that the Central Committee has a comprehensive overview of the work of all government departments as soon as possible and can provide guidance on their work this year without excessive delay, the first phase of the discussion plan has been decided. Each discussion should be presented separately according to the nature of each government department, with a specific focus. The first phase of the discussion is tentatively scheduled for eleven or twelve sessions: two on political and legal work, four or five on finance and economics, two on culture and education, one on foreign affairs, one on supervision and personnel, and one on overseas Chinese and ethnic affairs. This phase of discussion could begin in March, with the primary focus being approval of the work plans or guidelines of each department. After all discussions are completed, plans for subsequent discussions will be formulated based on circumstances and needs. Before each discussion, all government departments must make careful preparations, submitting a written report to the Central Committee at least five days in advance, and providing necessary reference materials to all comrades in the Central Committee.