

## **The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party Forwards Luo Ruiqing's Summary Report on the National Anti-Narcotics Campaign**

**Date: December 18, 1952**

To all Central Bureaus, Sub-Bureaus, and Provincial, Municipal, and District Party Committees, and to Comrade Luo Ruiqing:

The Central Committee approves Comrade Luo Ruiqing's summary report on the national anti-narcotics campaign dated December 14. We are hereby forwarding it to all regions. Local authorities should promptly address remaining issues from the recent stage of the anti-narcotics campaign and summarize their experiences. At the same time, they should earnestly implement the next phase of anti-narcotics work in accordance with the Government Administration Council's December 12 directive regarding smoking cessation, opium cultivation prohibition, and the collection of stored narcotics in rural areas.

**The Central Committee  
December 18**

### **Summary Report on the National Anti-Narcotics Campaign**

To Chairman Mao, the Central Committee, the Government Party Group, and the Political-Legal Affairs Party Group:

We hereby submit the *Summary Report on the National Anti-Narcotics Campaign* for your review and instructions.

#### **I. Overview**

The anti-narcotics campaign commenced its first phase of arrests across 1,202 key regions beginning August 10. It was followed by second and third phases of arrests. Under the wise leadership of Chairman Mao and the Central Committee, with strong coordination from relevant departments and the active efforts of public security organs, the campaign proceeded with thorough reconnaissance, mass mobilization, and concentrated arrest operations. These concluded successfully by the end of November.

In the targeted areas, 369,705 individuals involved in the production, trafficking, and transportation of narcotics were identified—exceeding original estimates. Of these, 82,056 were arrested (22% of the total). According to incomplete statistics, 51,627 have been processed, including:

- 33,786 sentenced to various prison terms (including death and life imprisonment),
- 2,138 assigned to reform-through-labor,
- 6,843 placed under control (管制),
- 3,534 released,
- 4,337 pending classification.

So far, 880 major narcotics criminals, notorious for their severe crimes and hated by the people, have been executed (1% of arrests).

Seized materials include:

- Narcotics (converted to opium equivalent): 3,996,056 taels,

- Drug-making machines: 235 large units and 15,716 sets of smaller equipment,
- Tools for trafficking, transporting, and hiding drugs: 263,459 pieces.

Additionally seized:

- 2 sixty-mm mortars,
- 5 machine guns,
- 877 rifles and pistols,
- 80,296 rounds of ammunition,
- 167 grenades,
- 16 bombs,
- 6 radio transmitters.

The relatively small amount of narcotics seized during this campaign can be attributed to two reasons:

1. Prior to the campaign, large quantities had already been confiscated since liberation. According to incomplete statistics from the Northeast, North China, East China, and Northwest regions, a total of 24,473,308 taels (opium equivalent) had been seized.
2. Large amounts of stored narcotics remain in rural areas and were not targeted in this campaign.

This campaign effectively dealt a heavy blow to narcotics criminals, educated and mobilized the masses, and cleared much of the narcotics scourge. Most offenders were found to have counterrevolutionary backgrounds or be former members of enemy or puppet military, government, police, and judicial systems, landlords, thugs, and other socially dangerous elements. In the Northeast, North China, and Central South, out of 30,502 arrested offenders, 20,383 (67%) belonged to these categories. In Shenyang, 826 of the 867 arrested (95%) fell into this group. Of the 245 narcotics criminals executed in Central South, 212 (87%) had similar backgrounds.

Thus, punishing narcotics criminals has also struck at counterrevolutionaries and played a significant role in further stabilizing public security.

A total of 765,428 propaganda meetings were held nationwide during the campaign, educating 74,595,181 people. In key areas, anti-narcotics messaging became household knowledge. For example:

- Shenyang held 21,425 meetings, reaching 1,171,648 people.
  - Guangzhou held 11,046 meetings, reaching 1,239,283 people.
- Cities like Xi'an, Chongqing, Nanjing, Beijing, and Tianjin held comparable activities. In Southwest China's focal areas, each person was typically educated two to three times.

Mass mobilization and public support were widespread. Execution of narcotics criminals often garnered even more sympathy and approval than that of counterrevolutionaries. People increasingly saw the campaign as directly connected to their well-being and enthusiastically joined in. Incomplete statistics show:

- 1,312,535 informant letters were submitted,
- 220,806 narcotics criminals were reported,
- Henan province received over 680 cases of family members reporting relatives (e.g., sons reporting fathers, wives reporting husbands).

A total of 345,463 individuals voluntarily confessed and registered with public security, including minor and historical offenders, many stating they would “never dare engage in drug trafficking again.” This campaign has struck at the roots of the narcotics industry left behind by imperialism and reactionary rule, laying a firm foundation for its complete eradication.

## II. Anti-Narcotics Work in Government Agencies

Anti-narcotics education or confession registration campaigns were carried out in:

- Regional-level organs of Northeast, North China, and East China,
- Provincial and municipal departments in Guangxi, Hunan, Guangdong, Henan, Guangzhou, and Ningxia,
- Central ministries and bureaus including the Ministries of Railways, Posts and Telecommunications, Transportation, Justice, the General Administration of Customs, the Tax Bureau, and the People's Liberation Army.

A total of 12,958 drug offenders and 17 related cases were found inside government agencies nationwide (excluding those uncovered during the “Three-Antis” campaign). In four regions—North China, East China, Central South, and Southwest—103 individuals were arrested.

These departments combined mass study, focused investigations, and voluntary confessions, emphasizing a non-coercive, fact-based approach. The results were positive, both in clarifying internal situations and providing deep political education to staff.

## III. Key Features and Experience of the Campaign

### 1. Clear Policy:

The campaign consistently targeted the manufacture, trafficking, and transport of narcotics, especially those with counterrevolutionary backgrounds. It sought to win over coerced participants, occasional offenders, drug addicts, and their families. This policy was fully implemented across all regions and levels, rapidly expanding mass participation, isolating drug criminals, and pushing the campaign to a climax.

### 2. Thorough Preparation:

Each arrest phase was preceded by extensive ideological, organizational, and intelligence work. Powerful anti-narcotics offices were set up under unified Party leadership, with police leading investigations months in advance. Accurate lists and evidence enabled swift, decisive arrests and punishment, crucial for success.

### 3. Tight Control and Supervision:

Provincial-level public security agencies dispatched inspection teams to focal points. A strict reporting system corrected local issues such as insufficient preparation, weak early propaganda, and rash behavior during the campaign's peak. This ensured steady progress and ultimate success.

4. **Integrated Methods:**

Coordination of intelligence, interrogation, public reports, and voluntary registration proved effective. In regions where these methods were combined, deeper insights into drug networks were gained, and campaign momentum was significantly boosted.

5. **Massive Public Trials and Punishments:**

Arrests and executions were publicly staged to display the government's resolve and mobilize mass support. This centralized and intensive method was far more effective than scattered efforts.

6. **Widespread Oral Propaganda:**

Oral outreach—through trained speakers, vehicles, teams, and meetings (including for families, seniors, and public trials)—was widely used instead of print or broadcast media. This achieved universal awareness and mass mobilization.

#### **IV. Next Steps**

Although the main phase has ended, some cunning criminals continue covert operations. The complete eradication of narcotics is a long-term, complex struggle. Therefore, regular follow-up efforts must continue, including:

- Speeding up unresolved criminal cases,
- Transferring seized narcotics to finance departments,
- Handling confiscated weapons and drug-making equipment,
- Launching programs for addiction treatment, rural narcotics confiscation, and eliminating opium cultivation.

Preparations are already underway. Once the Government Administration Council issues formal directives, work will intensify in accordance with Central Committee instructions, with an emphasis on practical and effective solutions.

**Luo Ruiqing**

**December 14, 1952**