

TASKS OF INSPECTION OF PARTY DISCIPLINE IN THE TRANSITION PERIOD

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Comrade Mao Zedong has pointed out the following: The period between the founding of the People's Republic of China and the basic completion of socialist transformation is one of transition. The Party's general line or general task for the transition period is to accomplish step by step and over a fairly long period of time the country's socialist industrialization and the socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts and capitalist industry and commerce. This general line should be the beacon illuminating all our work, and wherever we deviate from it, we shall make Right or "Left" mistakes.²⁹² This statement is a guideline for setting forth and carrying out the Party's policies and tasks in all fields. It is likewise a guideline in regard to the tasks of inspection of Party discipline. If we should deviate from this general line in such work, we are bound to make Right or "Left" mistakes.

Party discipline helps ensure the implementation of the Party's line. Party discipline-inspection commissions assist Party committees at corresponding levels in the enforcement of Party discipline. These commissions are administrative organs in charge of investigating and settling cases of violations of discipline by Party members or organizations. Specially, they are responsible for examining all cases involving discipline violations and taking appropriate measures, and for guiding Party organizations at the grass-roots level in discipline enforcement. Through discipline inspection, these commissions help ensure the implementation of the Party's general line as well as its tasks, plans and policies for different periods; they also conduct education among Party members on observance of discipline. With the adoption of the

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Party's general line for the transition period, the basic task of the discipline-inspection commissions is to help ensure its smooth implementation through the handling of violations of Party discipline occurring in the course of carrying out this general line or general task, and through preventing or overcoming all acts and tendencies detrimental to it. To be specific, they should do the following:

1. Help ensure production and the thorough fulfilment of state plans.

In the First Five-Year Plan (1953-57) formulated in accordance with the Party's general line, our basic tasks are to concentrate our effort on developing heavy industry as the foundation for the country's industrialization and for the modernization of our national defence; train the necessary personnel, expand communications and transport services and develop light industry, agriculture and commerce; promote step by step the co-operative transformation of agriculture and handicrafts and continue the socialist transformation of private industry and commerce while allowing individual farming and handicrafts and individual private industry and commerce to play their proper roles; and further consolidate the alliance between workers and peasants, ensure the steady growth of the socialist sector of the economy in relation to the other sectors and, on the basis of increased production, ensure the gradual improvement of the people's material and cultural life.

The whole Party must make preparations and strive to carry out the foregoing tasks in an orderly, planned way. We must in the process exploit all our potentials and check the negative factors that hinder change. At the same time, we must make a correct appraisal of both subjective and objective conditions and oppose impetuosity and rashness. Naturally, tasks of such magnitude have to be carried out by the entire people under the leadership of the Central Committee of the Party, the Party committees and the people's governments at various levels. The responsibility of the discipline-inspection commissions, under the leadership of the Party committees at various levels, is to co-operate with all relevant departments in safeguarding the Party's policies regarding development of production and in guaranteeing the thorough fulfilment of state plans. To this end, they must make timely investigation into violations of the Party's policies and decisions, deceptions or even sabotage in the implementation of the five-year plan or annual plans; falsifying of work reports to deceive the Party; any violations of the laws and decrees of the state; and

acts of any Party organizations or cadres that hamper production and thereby bring losses to the Party and the state. They must report the results of their investigation to Party committees at the corresponding or higher levels so as to set things to rights. Appropriate disciplinary measures must be taken against those Party organizations and cadres who have made grave errors and caused serious harm. In dealing with such cases, the discipline-inspection commissions should conduct systematic education on Party discipline and see that no Party organizations or cadres act in contravention of the Party's general line or state plans and that they fulfil their allotted tasks. In this way, the Party's policies on the expansion of production can be correctly implemented and the five-year plan and annual plans of the state can be carried out smoothly.

2. Oppose and prevent corruption of the Party by the bourgeoisie and capitalist ideology, and further consolidate and perfect the Party organization.

In recent years, our Party has been tempered in the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea,²⁹¹ in the Agrarian Reform,²⁹³ in the movement to suppress counter-revolutionaries,²⁹⁴ in the movement to consolidate the Party,²⁹⁵ in the movements against the "three evils"²⁹⁶ and the "five evils",²⁹⁷ and in other struggles. The ideological level of large numbers of Party cadres has thereby risen remarkably and the Party organization greatly improved and consolidated, with a number of counter-revolutionaries, alien class elements and degenerates having been expelled. But the enemy has not been completely eliminated. Neither the imperialists nor the overthrown classes in China will take their defeat lying down. They will attempt a come-back by taking every opportunity and using every possible means to undermine our cause and the unity of the Party. Moreover, for a long time to come we will be in a complicated situation in which we both co-operate with and carry out struggles against the bourgeoisie. We must, therefore, maintain unrelaxed revolutionary vigilance and further consolidate and perfect the Party organization.

The historical experience of our Party has proved that "Left", adventurist errors are liable to occur among our Party cadres when there is a split between our Party and the bourgeoisie, while Right errors characterized by slackened vigilance are more likely when there is co-operation between the two. In the socialist transformation of private industry and commerce, agriculture and handicrafts, resistance on the part of some members of the bourgeoisie is only to be expected.

and one of their methods is by using their ideology to influence us, lower our guard and even attack us in the political and economic spheres. It will therefore be our Party's important task for a long time to come to prevent and oppose corrosion by the bourgeoisie and capitalist ideology.

Henceforth, along with working in close co-operation with the Party's organization and propaganda departments to understand the general ideological state of Party cadres and step up intra-Party education in discipline, it will be of special significance for the discipline-inspection commissions at various levels to conduct the above-mentioned struggle in a serious yet cautious and effective way, using typical examples. At the same time, they should continue to weed out of the Party counter-revolutionaries, alien class elements and degenerates. Only by consolidating and improving the Party both ideologically and organizationally will it be possible to keep the Party organism healthy and ensure the correct implementation of its line, policies and decisions.

3. Cement the ties between the Party and the masses.

To fulfil the tremendous task of socialist industrialization and the socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts and capitalist industry and commerce, it is necessary constantly to cement the ties between the Party and the working people and to oppose all intra-Party activities detrimental to them. Only with mass support and supervision can our Party become strong, overcome all obstacles and other difficulties and push our cause forward.

In the past few years, the Party successfully dealt with a number of major cases in addition to launching movements to rectify and consolidate the Party, the struggle against bureaucratism, coercion and commandism and violations of the law and of discipline, and the struggles against subjectivism and the "five excesses" in the rural areas.²⁹⁸ These actions have been of enormous significance, being aimed at cementing the ties between the Party and the masses; at rectifying the Party cadres' erroneous ideas and ways as manifested in using defective work methods, ignoring the interests of the masses, failing to heed their opinions and alienating oneself from them, and suppressing democracy; and at remedying gross violations of the law and of discipline. Our general objective is to make the Party a leading force truly worthy of the trust and support of the masses. Facts have shown that, as a result of the said effort, the ideological and political level of our Party cadres has been raised, their style of work has markedly

improved, and the Party and the masses have become much closer. In implementing the Party's policies and decisions, therefore, Party organizations and Party cadres at all levels must henceforth strive to improve their methods of work, show real concern for the interests of the masses, listen attentively to their opinions, be resolved to protect their democratic rights and oppose violations of the law and of discipline so as to further cement the ties between the Party and the masses.

The discipline-inspection commissions at various levels should cooperate with the organization and propaganda departments to discover, examine and remedy acts of Party cadres that infringe upon the people's interests, carefully to deal with complaints, accusations and appeals involving them, and do a good job of attending to letters and visits from the people, so that the ties between the Party and the masses can be cemented, and so our Party can win their wholehearted support at all times and remain firm and invincible.

4. Ensure centralized and unified Party leadership.

Centralized and unified Party leadership is a principle the Party Central Committee and Comrade Mao Zedong have long since stressed and adhered to. Experience has shown that this is vital if we are to overcome the erroneous tendencies towards anarchy as well as towards neglect of organization and discipline, and if we are to prevent a small number of Party organizations or members from asserting independence, prevent decentralism, and avoid or reduce possible errors in all our work. Under the leadership of the Party, the people of all our nationalities have entered a new era characterized by planned national construction. In order to industrialize the country and modernize our national defence, all aspects of our construction work must be put under the Party's centralized and unified leadership, whether it be in industry and national defence, or in financial and other economic matters, or in culture and education. Otherwise it will be impossible to materialize the Party's general line or general task for the transition period. Therefore, it is of particularly vital significance to emphasize and to adhere to the principle of the Party's centralized and unified leadership.

To ensure such leadership, it is imperative that the discipline-inspection commissions at all levels oppose decentralism, see if any of the Party organizations or cadres has violated the Party Constitution, discipline, policies or decisions or state laws and decrees and, upon discovery of such violations, make timely and truthful reports to

Party committees at the corresponding or higher levels for remedial purposes.

At the same time, on the basis of giving full play to democracy, practising criticism — especially criticism by the lower levels — and self-criticism, and strengthening the collective leadership of the Party and the ties between the Party and the masses, we should enhance the unity of the Party and step up education in discipline, so that the entire membership will be united as one and be able to carry out, under the leadership of the Party Central Committee and Comrade Mao Zedong, the general line or general task for the transition period.

The major tasks mentioned above constitute the basic ones for the discipline-inspection commissions during the transition period. They will indeed be their routine work for a considerably long period to come. In carrying out these tasks correctly, the discipline-inspection commissions at all levels must closely integrate their daily work with the carrying out of the general line or general task set forth for the transition period, and enhance their understanding of the stated policies in the course of their work. They must plan their main work in the light of the central tasks of the Party committees at corresponding levels, concentrate the efforts of their personnel on closely examining how the Party organizations and cadres execute policies and observe discipline in fulfilling such central tasks, and deal in good time with violations of Party discipline so as to help the Party as a whole to improve its work and facilitate the smooth implementation of the general line. So long as we carry out these basic tasks correctly, we will be able to make our work of discipline inspection a success and to help ensure the thorough implementation of the Party's general line for the transition period.

It is necessary to point out that the discipline-inspection commissions are confronted with heavy tasks whose fulfilment will not be easy. On the one hand, our work of Party discipline inspection is still weak; the related organizational structure leaves much to be desired and our cadres, inexperienced as they are, cannot yet meet the requirements of the work. In addition, many new and complex situations and problems will arise. In the course of investigating and settling specific cases, it is quite possible that a small number of Party organizations and cadres will refuse to co-operate or even offer resistance, lest the shortcomings and mistakes in their own work should be exposed. Of course, our Party has a uniform discipline. It never allows any "independent kingdom" to exist that defies Party

discipline. So long as we are modest and prudent, adhere to principles, seek truth from facts, keep contact with the masses, constantly strive to enhance our ideological and political levels and professional competence and resolutely grapple with all difficulties, I am convinced that we can appropriately perform our tasks under the leadership of the Party's Central Committee and committees at all other levels.