

The Central Committee agrees with Comrades Bo Yibo and Luo Ruiqing's "Report on the First Meeting of the Central Labor Reform Production Management Committee"

Date: 1953-1-11

To all central bureaus and sub-bureaus, and forwarded to the provincial, municipal, and district party committees:

Comrades Bo Yibo and Luo Ruiqing read the "Report on the First Meeting of the Central Labor Reform Production Management Committee" dated January 2. The Central Committee approves the decisions of this meeting on certain labor reform policies and specific measures, and hereby forwards them to all localities for implementation.

Central, January 11, 1953

Chairman and Central Committee:

The Central Labor Reform Production Management Committee has been established, with Bo Yibo as chairman and Luo Ruiqing as vice chairman; Eleven comrades—Xu Zirong, Wang Guanlan, Li Fanwu, Liu Lanbo, Li Baohua, Wang Shoudao, Wang Huaian, Li Chuli, Lü Zhengcao, Li Tianhuan, and Zhuo Xiong—serve as committee members, with Zhuo Xiong concurrently managing the office. On December 25, the first meeting was held to study the current situation of labor reform work and make several decisions for future work. This report is submitted for your instructions.

(1) Current Situation:

1. As of now, the number of prisoners engaged in production nationwide is ×× ten thousand, accounting for 73.7% of the total number of detained prisoners. By type of production: agriculture ×× ten thousand people, with ×× farms with over a thousand people, ×× with over 5,000 people, and × with more than ten thousand people. There are × million mu of wasteland, with over ×× million mu of cultivated land; There are ×× water conservancy and road construction engineering teams, totaling over ×× ten thousand people, including × with more than ten thousand people; ×× in industrial, mining, and kiln industries, there were ×× people, with the largest having over a thousand people, and the average being three to two hundred; There are still more than ×× ten thousand people engaged in temporary handicraft production.

By the end of this year, the number of self-sufficient production inmates could reach over ×× million, accounting for 80% of the total production and 51% of the total detained inmates. Northeast and North China are basically self-sufficient, while East China, Central South, Northwest, and Inner Mongolia are all around 45%, while the southwest is relatively low. The total self-sufficiency value was ×× billion yuan, equivalent to the entire annual ration supply for ×× ten thousand prisoners. However, this self-sufficiency is unstable, and development is uneven, generally in three scenarios:

First, those established early, with a solid foundation, whose production income is not only self-sufficient but also has surplus accumulation and can be reproduced, such as the Shenyang prison factory, which is an exception; Second, having laid out production stalls and starting to generate income, some of the prisoners' supply can be met, but continuing or expanding production to consolidate existing achievements still requires considerable support; Third, production is very unstable; if production continues, it can be self-sufficient, but if production is interrupted, it will be completely consumed.

The policy of focusing on agricultural production and gradually shifting from dispersion to centralization has been proven correct in local implementation. First, concentrate in remote areas of

the Northwest, West North China, and Northeast North. This was the direction pointed out by the labor reform work conference. There are ×× new farms being prepared in this region, with a total area of about ×× ten thousand mu, and within five years, ×× ten thousand prisoners can be invested in batches. Second, concentrate on production units with promising prospects. Only with a considerable concentration can there be a long-term plan for production development, which benefits national economic construction and facilitates the thorough transformation of criminals into new individuals. However, there are still some difficulties and issues that must be addressed on the path from dispersion to centralization.

1. Issue of expanding farm establishment: Currently, land is not difficult. Northeast Manchuria, North China Suimeng, Northwest Qinghai, Ningxia, and the border areas of southwest Sichuan and Xikang all have large amounts of wasteland, providing favorable conditions for establishing farms. The difficulty was inconvenient transportation, and all the necessary farming tools, seeds, and food had to be shipped from outside; The land was barren, and the number of people reclaiming land was limited, requiring a certain number of agricultural machinery and livestock; Constructing large numbers of houses, etc.; As a result, capital investment has increased, but turnover has slowed. Based on past experience, the first year or two mainly involves building farms to accept prisoners and begin partial production, with large-scale production only starting in the third year, making it difficult to be self-sufficient within two or three years.

2. Water conservancy issues: Running farm water conservancy is very important, but large-scale construction is currently difficult. It can only be expanded year by year within budget, and engineering surveying and design technicians must assist the water conservancy department in solving these issues.

3. Funding issues: Funding is widely reported as insufficient. According to local estimates, the total number of prisoners in 1953 was expected to reach ××× ten thousand, with production and administrative expenses estimated to total about ××× billion. Total: (1) Newly established and planned key production units, requiring them to be key investors according to production scale and requirements, totaling ×× units, with a total of ××× billion yuan; (2) Existing production units need continued support to consolidate production, requiring appropriate subsidies to investors, totaling ×× units requiring about ×× billion; (3) It cannot solve the problem of prisoners who must be temporarily raised as production targets, and even the total administrative costs for supplying labor reform cadres nationwide are about ×× billion.

4. Management and leadership issues in production: As labor reform production developed, tasks became more complex and heavier. In the past, efforts focused on production so prisoners wouldn't sit idle and were responsible for prisoner discipline. Now, some production units have become sizable enterprises. According to existing materials, the total fixed working capital of labor reform production enterprises is estimated at about ×× billion yuan (excluding those already consumed by prisoners). Production management institutions and labor reform cadres are staffed at a 5% ratio, with a shortage of about ×× to ×× people. Necessary management systems have not yet been established. Product promotion, technical guidance, and financial management all face many issues, so the organization must be appropriately expanded and strengthened. However, the task is huge and cannot be managed by just one or two departments; it requires the participation and leadership of all specialized departments of the Finance Committee to provide full support.

2. Implementation of labor reform policies: In the education and management of prisoners, issues such as beatings, corporal punishment, policy violations, and confusion between friend and foe have gradually been corrected, but they still exist to varying degrees in labor reform units in specialized

and county schools. Most prisoners, after a period of forced labor and ideological education, developed the desire and behavior to reform themselves, bowed their heads, confessed their crimes, actively worked hard, further confessed their crimes, handed over hidden assets and weapons, developed labor habits, and after serving their sentences and being released, truly reformed. This proves that only by implementing policies correctly can most criminals be reformed. Additionally, some stubborn individuals are deeply influenced by reactionary ideas and resist reform; Or after release, they may face employment difficulties, continue to commit misdeeds, repeatedly arrest and release them, which has led to poor public reactions and undermines the significance of reform. Therefore, there are still several specific issues in implementing labor reform policies that need to be further clarified:

1. Handling of Death Penalty Probation Offenders After Probation Period: According to existing materials, there are about ×× cases nationwide, accounting for 1.65% of all inmates, and should be handled according to the sentence duration: (1) Those who have shown genuine self-reform and have prospects for reform shall be sentenced to imprisonment of 10 to 15 years; (2) Those who do not refuse or show good behavior shall be sentenced to life imprisonment or 15 years or more; (3) Those who persist in a reactionary stance and refuse reform shall be probated for another year or two years or immediately executed according to the severity of the case. The second option accounts for the majority, with the latter being a very minority. For the sake of caution, approval authority is entirely controlled by the provincial (municipal) level. Pay attention to fully explaining policies to prevent deviations.

2. Handling of prisoners serving fixed sentences after their sentences: According to statistics from Nanjing, Lüda, Songjiang, Hebei, and other places, about 30% of prisoners with sentences under two years are held in custody, with an estimated ×× nationwide, most of whom are general criminal offenders. The principle of stricter treatment for counter-revolutionary offenders and leniency for general criminal offenders should be carried out in three separate situations:

(1) Those who performed well during labor reform, were honest and thorough, have changed, and have a home or a legitimate employment, will be released on schedule. For a few counter-revolutionary offenders with slightly worse performance, it may be suggested that local authorities grant short-term control.

(2) All producers who voluntarily remain on the site after serving their sentence should be taken in. For lesser cases, social thugs and thieves, although performing well and having changed, could have been released on time, but after release, they will be homeless and unable to find employment, especially those living in large cities. All should strive to stay in the field (team) or organize them at the provincial (municipal) level to continue production. However, treatment should be differentiated from that of prisoners, and necessary management and assessment systems should still be maintained. Among them, technical staff and those in difficult families could also be given priority care, allowing them to take over their families, settle down and establish new villages.

(3) If there is a possibility of relapse or further harm to society after release, no release shall be granted. For example: counterrevolutionaries who persist in reactionary positions but still pose risks, who perform poorly during labor reform, have not fully reformed, and are homeless bandits, thieves, and homeless people without proper employment, should be forced into long-term labor reform and then dealt with separately according to their transformation. Generally speaking, efforts should be made to gradually follow the path of the second type of prisoner (paid labor and on-site production). This is beneficial for consolidating public order and thoroughly reforming criminals into new individuals.

(2) The meeting studied the above situation and made the following decisions

1. Considering that ×× million prisoners have already been engaged in various productions and the situation is quite large, and the agencies managed by public security departments at all levels are still only departmental and section organizations, making it difficult to manage them well. It is believed that the central government should immediately establish the Labor Reform Work Bureau, which is under the Central Ministry of Public Security, responsible for the overall planning of labor reform production nationwide and the ideological education and reform of prisoners, and also serves as the daily office of the Central Labor Reform Production Management Committee. There is one director, assigned by the Ministry of Public Security, and three deputy directors, each assigned by the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Water Resources. Other cadres and staff will be resolved by the Ministry of Public Security and relevant financial and economic departments at the request of the Central Organization Department and the Ministry of Personnel. Major administrative regions and provinces and cities with a large concentration of prisoners may also establish labor reform offices based on this spirit as needed. However, cadre staffing must adhere to the principle of streamlining, with the main focus placed on direct production units to strengthen specific management institutions.

2. The labor reform production is developing rapidly, with a large scale and extremely heavy tasks. Therefore, the management and leadership of labor reform production must be: first, rely on the specific operations of local provinces and cities; Second, rely on relevant departments such as central agriculture, water resources, finance, forestry, and fuel. All specialized departments must also attach importance to labor reform production work and have the responsibility to support it to the fullest. The development direction should gradually shift to transferring operations to specialized departments directly responsible for operations, with labor reform departments only responsible for prisoner management and education. However, all departments currently report lacking such capability, and have decided that those who can be handed over and the other party is willing to take over can handle the handover immediately, while those who cannot accept it will still be managed by labor reform departments at all levels in coordination with relevant departments.

3. Labor reform funds: Currently, the national finances are still facing difficulties. The Ministry of Finance has set the 1953 national labor reform budget control figure at ×× billion yuan, which is ×× billion yuan less than the figure set by the Ministry of Public Security after local budget reductions. It was decided that the public security department would add additional calculations and deductions to ×× billion yuan. If there are real difficulties, a slight increase may be made, but not exceeding the limit. Local governments are required to make thorough new plans; those that need to be handled and can be handled should be handled first, and those that cannot be handled should be delayed or not handled reasonably.

4. There are too few cadres in labor reform production units across regions, making it difficult to manage prisoners well and posing risks. First, the original 5% ratio should be allocated, and the Central Organization Department should be instructed to resolve the issue locally, in order to strengthen labor reform institutions and strengthen key leadership. Measures: Local party committee organization departments are requested to select a group from veterans cadres, military demobilized cadres, and district/township cadres who are capable of working; Relevant professional departments are requested to assist in resolving some key financial and economic cadres. In addition, technical personnel who have been reformed among the prisoners may be carefully selected and employed by labor reform departments.

Bo Yibo, Luo Ruiqing, January 2, 1953