

Central Committee forwards the remarks on the report from the Shanxi Provincial Committee regarding the banning of the Yi Guan Dao (Unity Sect) (January 24, 1951)

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

Regarding the banning of the Yi Guan Dao, Shanxi's experience is the most comprehensive, accurate, and thorough. The summary by the Shanxi Provincial Committee (Secretary Lai Ruoyu) is well-written. It is hereby forwarded to you for study. All regions can emulate this approach, aiming to thoroughly ban Yi Guan Dao and other various sects in a planned manner, and eliminate key counterrevolutionary elements within them. Just as in warfare, do not engage in battles without preparation or assurance. The Shanxi Provincial Committee achieved this in both preparation and implementation of the extensive struggle to ban Yi Guan Dao, hence achieving significant success, worthy of the Party's study.

Central Committee

Annotation:

[1] Refers to the report submitted by the Shanxi Provincial Committee of the CPC to the North China Bureau and reported to the Central Committee on January 9, 1951, regarding the banning of Yi Guan Dao. The report stated that the work of banning Yi Guan Dao in Shanxi Province began in the winter of 1949. After a year of preparation, it was not until mid-November 1950 that comprehensive banning was launched province-wide. The preparatory work included: (1) Infiltration for reconnaissance to accurately grasp the overall situation of Yi Guan Dao; (2) Selecting key areas for experimentation to gain specific experience; (3) Continuously carrying out propaganda and exposure, organizing propaganda offensives; (4) Through rectification and party member training sessions, criticizing the attitude of numbness and correcting policy thinking; (5) Addressing historical legacy issues and plugging loopholes in the work. All of these prepared the conditions for the comprehensive banning work.

Province-wide arrests began on November 12, and within ten days, each region had essentially completed the task according to the pre-arrest list. The banning work was divided into three steps. The first step was to capture the leaders of professional sects, destroy their leadership organs, and paralyze their entire organizations. The second step was to educate and train minor sect leaders, have them register, repent, and based on individual circumstances, impose control. The third step was to conduct extensive exposure work, organize sect members to complain and accuse, and based on awakened awareness, launch a movement for sect withdrawal.