

Instructions of the Central Propaganda Department on banning the import of reactionary propaganda books and newspapers

Date:1950-10-14

For imperialism and Chiang bandits, it is urgent to try to strictly prohibit reactionary books and newspapers imported from overseas. Although private traders cannot be trafficked in batches because it is not easy to obtain foreign exchange, those who bring their own foreign exchange can still be unrestricted, such as Tianjin, where it was found that the French Library in Beijing brought foreign exchange into books in the name of scientific books, mixed with a large number of reactionary propaganda materials. Although many reactionary publications printed by the United States, Britain, Yugoslavia and Taiwanese bandits sent through the post office have been seized and detained, there are still many people who have escaped the net. In the past two months, various places have received reactionary publications published in Hong Kong under the cover of "Striving for lasting peace and people's democracy". Reactionary publications now mostly use Hong Kong as a source, and have penetrated into the mainland in large numbers through post offices or smuggling.

In order to prohibit the import of reactionary books and newspapers, and to facilitate the planned purchase of necessary foreign books and newspapers, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Trade, the General Administration of Customs, and the General Administration of Publications have formulated the following measures:

- (1) The state-run international bookstore will cooperate with the private merchants mainly specializing in the Western book industry, that is, the organization of the unified purchase of Western books. All organs and individuals who need to purchase foreign books and newspapers should contact the institution and purchase them uniformly. The government only approves foreign exchange for this institution.
- (2) The purchase of books and newspapers (including those who accept foreign gifts) is still allowed for the time being, but the bibliography must be submitted to the Foreign Trade Administration for approval in advance (the Bureau may contact the local press and publication office upon approval); When entering the country, it should be strictly inspected by the customs according to the bibliography to prevent entrapment.
- (3) After the implementation of the above measures, all books, periodicals and newspapers sent sporadically through the post office shall be inspected at the post office at the place of entry, and only those that are found to be indeed non-reactionary shall be released. This inspection may be carried out with the assistance of the local press and publication offices.
- (4) Publications carried by imported passengers shall be inspected by public security officers and customs officers, and the General Administration of Information and Publication shall notify the public security departments and customs at any time of the catalogue of reactionary books and newspapers to be detained. If suspected reactionary books and periodicals are found not listed in the catalogue, they should also be seized at any time and sent to the local press and publication office for processing.
- (5) Chinese books and newspapers published in Hong Kong and other places abroad, whether by mail or carried by passengers, shall be confiscated after being detected at the entrance, except for those that are allowed to be imported.
- (6) Those who systematically import and disseminate reactionary books, periodicals, newspapers, and other reactionary propaganda materials shall be investigated by the public security departments.