Letter From Mao Zedong to I.V. Stalin On The Question Of Rubber Trees

September 16, 1951

To Comrade Filippov

I have received your telegram regarding rubber tree planting.

Your opinion is very good, and we fully agree with it.

Our plan for rubber tree planting will ensure the production of 200,000 tons of natural rubber annually: 100,000 tons

on Hainan Island and 100,000 tons on the Chinese mainland. Most

of this rubber will be supplied to the Soviet Union and a number of

People's Democracies. Only a small portion will be sufficient for us.

We are studying the possibility of planting rubber trees on a scale that would exceed the 200,000-ton rubber yield.

Your opinion that it is primarily necessary to establish state-owned plantations is absolutely correct. We are also studying this issue. Nurseries for growing planting material will be entirely state-owned.

We urgently need technical assistance from the Soviet Union and Soviet specialists.

In the last ten days of October, we intend to convene a meeting in Canton

to study and resolve specific issues related to rubber tree planting.

We hope that Soviet specialists will be able to come to Beijing in mid-October to participate in the meeting, which will be held in Canton in the last ten days of October. If you consider this advisable, I ask you to urgently send specialists to China.

Mao Zedong