

1951

Speeches/Documents

Title: Comment on Suppressing and Liquidating Counterrevolutionaries

Author: Mao Zedong

Date: January 24, 1951

Source: Wansui (1969), p. 9. Other Chinese Text: Wansui (1967a), pp. 153-154. Available English Translation: JPRS, Miscellany, I, p. 8.

Description

The suppression of counterrevolutionaries must be strictly confined to such categories as bandit chiefs, incorrigible criminals, ruffians and petty tyrants, secret agents, and chiefs of reactionary secret organizations and sects. ¹ We cannot include petty thieves, drug addicts, common landlords, ordinary *Kuomintang* members and members of the [Sanmin zhuyi Youth] League, ² and common officers in the *Kuomintang* army. Death sentences must be for those who have committed serious crimes only. It is a mistake for a light sentence to be given out for a serious crime; it is equally a mistake for a heavy sentence to be given out for a small crime.

Notes

1. See text Jan. 17, 1951, note 1.
2. The term Mao used here was *GuoMinDang dang tuan yuan* (Party and league members of the KMT). By "league" he evidently meant the Sanmin zhuyi Youth League (or Youth Corps), which was named after Sun Yat-sen's "Three People's Principles" (San min zhuyi) and was formed in March 1938 as a body associated with the KMT (with an autonomous organization but also with the leader of the KMT simultaneously as its chief). The proposal to form a youth organization adjunct to the KMT was raised as early as 1930, but when it was formed, its purpose was much more specific. In 1938, as the anti-Japanese United Front among the various political parties, primarily the CPC and the KMT, was formed, the Chiang Kai-shek wing of the KMT felt that at the same time that the United Front strategy was formally pursued, the internal solidarity and "purity" of the KMT must be strengthened. To counter the position of those who accepted the United Front as more than a temporary strategy, the Chiang wing, in the "Extraordinary Congress" of March 1938, pushed for the establishment of the SMZY Youth Corps, which would be constituted of younger and more energetic KMT members and affiliates who were more thoroughly indoctrinated with Chiang's political views. Chiang himself saw the institution as a means to eventually rebuild and strengthen the KMT. Until 1947, the SMZY Youth Corps maintained an autonomous existence, but in 1947, Chiang was compelled to order its amalgamation into the KMT proper. Leaders of the Youth Corps then became members of the KMT's Central Executive and Supervisory Committees, although they failed to make significant inroads into the Organization Department.-