

Chinese Communist Party Central Committee's Directive on Launching the "Five-Anti" Campaign in Large and Medium Cities First, issued on January 26, 1952:

Directive of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on First Launching the "Five-Anti" Campaign in Large and Medium Cities  
(January 26, 1952)

To all Central Bureaus, with copies to sub-bureaus, provincial committees, municipal committees, regional (district) party committees, prefectural committees, and with notification to all major military regions and the Party Committee of the Volunteer Army:

In all cities across the country—starting first in the large and medium-sized cities—it is now extremely necessary and timely to launch a large-scale, resolute, and thorough struggle against the bourgeoisie that violates the law. This struggle should rely on the working class, unite the law-abiding bourgeoisie and other urban citizens, and target the following five illegal acts:

1. Bribery,
2. Tax evasion,
3. Embezzlement and fraud of state property,
4. Cheating on government contracts (cutting corners),
5. Theft of state economic intelligence.

This campaign is to coordinate with the ongoing internal campaigns within the Party, government, military, and civilian sectors against corruption, against waste, and against bureaucratism.

In this struggle, Party organizations in all cities must meticulously organize class forces and the masses, pay attention to exploiting contradictions, implement divide-and-conquer tactics, unite the majority, and isolate the minority, quickly forming a united front for the "Five-Anti" struggle. In a large city, this united front can generally be established about three weeks after the campaign is vigorously launched.

Once such a united front is formed, those extremely reactionary capitalists who have committed major crimes will become isolated, and the state will have ample justification and favorable conditions to impose various necessary punishments—such as arrest, imprisonment, execution, confiscation of property, and fines.

The campaign in Beijing has been successful. A united front for the "Five-Anti" struggle has already taken shape, and around 6% of the most reactionary capitalists have become isolated. About 1% to 2% of the most reactionary capitalists (the majority of whom are speculators) are about to be punished, with a few already arrested. At present, it is entirely necessary to impose such penalties on this proportion of capitalists.

All major cities across the country (including provincial capitals) should enter the "Five-Anti" campaign in early February. Please make arrangements swiftly.

Attached below is a report from the Beijing Municipal Committee to the Central Committee dated January 23. (1) Please study it and follow its example. This report may be published in Party journals.

Central Committee  
January 26, 1952

[1] Refers to the report submitted by the Beijing Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China to Mao Zedong and the Central Committee and the North China Bureau on January 23, 1952 on the issue of winning the majority in the struggle against bribery and other crimes in the business community. The report said that the struggle against bribery, tax evasion and theft of state funds in the business community in Beijing had achieved significant success. After arduous and complicated work, the majority of business owners who have come close to us have become the majority, those in the middle are the second majority, and those who are opposed to the movement are the minority, accounting for about 6% of the total number of business owners. Among the business owners who violated the law, about 1% to 2% of the total number of business owners must be subject to legal sanctions of varying degrees. The report said that experience has proved that in the struggle against bribery and other crimes in the business community, we must pay attention to the policy of treating them differently, taking advantage of contradictions, defeating them one by one, uniting the majority and opposing the minority.