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Speeches/Documents

Title: PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR CARRYING OUT REGULATIONS GOVERNING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR RED ARMY MEMBERS

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The First National Congress of the Chinese Worker-Peasant-Soldier Congress passed the regulations governing preferential treatment for Red Army members. These regulations on preferential treatment have set forth many superior privileges for the Red Army members. Why so many superior conditions have to be regulated for the Red Army members? Because, in the past several years of struggle, the Red Army has "been the main force in the resolute implementation of agrarian revolution, the determined opposition against imperialism, and against the Kuomintang warlords, and it is a powerful defender of the soviet government. In the past history of the revolutionary struggles of China it has a glorious record of heroic struggles.

Presently, the Chinese revolution is in an environment of savage revolutionary warfare and it is in a period of actively carrying out this revolutionary warfare, to wage even more ferocious warfare against the imperialist Kuomintang warlords. To first achieve victory in one or several provinces, and then victory throughout the nation, there must be a massive Red Army. The Red Army fights for the liberation of workers, peasants, and all oppressed people. They are fighters who do battle for the soviet political power., struggle for the liberation and the interests of workers and peasants and all oppressed people with the greatest spirit of sacrifice. Therefore, the soviet government and the worker-peasant masses should naturally give special preferential treatment to the Red Army members so that these fighters will feel assured and will not worry about their families, thereby enabling them to concentrate wholly on fighting bravely. For this reason the First National Congress specially set forth these regulations governing the preferential treatment of Red Army members.

In the past, the various local Soviets have certainly set forth certain regulations governing the preferential treatment of Red Army members and their families. However, in their actual implementation, there was a lack of attention and care, and, in some areas, outright neglect or no implementation at all. That was tantamount to sabotaging the Red Army and created a great obstacle to the expansion of the Red Army and the strengthening of its combat effectiveness. This is a major error. From now on all levels of soviet government should strictly rectify the errors of the past, and absolutely ensure the carrying out of the regulations passed by the All Soviets Congress on preferential treatment of Red Army members. Henceforth., should there again be neglect in giving preferential treatment to the Red Army members, or there is a dragging of feet in the implementation of regulations governing the preferential treatment of Red Army members, it will be punished in a similar manner as for counterrevolution. Therefore, the following practical measures for the implementation of the regulations governing preferential treatment of Red Army members are set forth to facilitate putting them into effect.

1. With the areas as the unit, immediately investigate who have become members of the Red Army, the number of people in the families of these members, how much land they have, how many labor effectives they possess, who lack, or have inadequate, labor, total them up and make two copies, retaining one for reference and one to be turned over to the county soviet for record. This task is to be completed as of 1 March.

2. The political departments and political commissars of the various armies of the Red Army and its independent divisions[^] as well as local armed forces divorced from production, will "be responsible for detailed registration of all commanders, fighters, and workers by name, age, domicile,, and family situation, and report them to the revolutionary military commission or the local soviet government. This task is also deadlined for completion before 1 March.

3. The local government and the political department and commissars of the Red Army will investigate to the best of their ability those fighters of the Red Army already sacrificed, and report to the revolutionary military committee or the local soviet government so as to have the county governments take action.

4. The responsible persons of various armies and local armed force units will investigate and differentiate by class composition, or by the principal or support roles played by those in the Red Army or local armed forces who have, in the past, participated in counterrevolutionary organizations regardless of whether they are those who have "been sentenced or who have confessed, reformed, and remained in the units, and report them to higher echelon organizations so that decisions could be made on whether their land should, or should not be, confiscated and these decisions turned over to the various local governments for implementation after decisions have been reached in these cases.

5. Except for Red Army fighters with foreign domicile, the registration ledgers of the various armies are to be forwarded by the Central Government to the various area governments. They, in turn, will compare the name lists of the various army units with their own and report the result to their own higher level of government for record. If there are discrepancies, they, are still required to be examined carefully and reported to the higher level government for review so as to avoid omissions or errors.

6. The current important problem on the implementation of the regulations governing preferential treatment is the mobilising of the masses to help the families of Red Army members cultivate their land and to farm public land half for the Red Army. This should be done by the area and village government in accordance with the compiled name lists, totalling up the number of Red Army member families with no labor or have inadequate labor force, and calculate the amount of voluntary labor needed. Then total how much labor force is available in the various villages of the entire area and, accordingly, allocate the worker-peasant masses of a certain area to help the families of that area in farming their land and to cultivate the public land of the Red Army. The village Soviets are assigned this responsibility and practical allocations are to be made and cultivation carried out by them.

7. After receipt of notice from the area soviet, the various village Soviets are to immediately call a meeting of the village soviet and decide upon the method of implementation. Then call the families of Red Army members and the entire populace of the village to a meeting to discuss and publicize the significance of assisting families of Red Army members in farming their land and the cultivation of public land of the Red Army, and the number of voluntary labor force the village is obligated to provide. After the masses have approved, allocate the number of days of voluntary labor and the schedule in a practical manner. At the same time, the village soviet should also, do their best to convene a meeting of responsible persons of poor peasant groups and tenant farmer union and request their help in mobilizing the masses to carry out the cultivation of public lands held by the Red Army and extend assistance to families of Red Army members in the farming of their land. The village soviet will be responsible for the supervision at cultivation and harvesting periods and, at the same time, it must guard against giving coercive orders (the rich peasants are exceptions).

8. At the time of cultivation and at harvesting period the village soviet will apply the methods of propaganda and encouragement to mobilize the broad masses before they take place and assist the Red Army and the families of Red Army members in these tasks based the voluntary labor force assigned, thereby completing the cultivation and the harvesting of Red Army fields somewhat ahead of the others.

9. Regarding measures for retaining public land for Red Army fighters of foreign domicile, they should be in accordance with how much land has been distributed to each person in that area and the stipulated quota of public land set aside. This quota will be large or small in accordance with the land distributed. For example, the method set up by Kiangsi Province is to allocate public paddies for three to five people in villages where the per person distribution is 5 tan, and more for those villages with distribution exceeding 5 tan. Those villages distributing less than 5 tan per person should also allocate public paddies for at least two persons. The other soviet areas may allocate in a manner similar to Kiangsi's method. Besides the necessity for old soviet areas to take measures for allocating public paddies, all newly developed areas must give their special attention to setting aside of public paddies when land is distributed.

10. With the administrative area as a unit all public paddies in the area are to be totalled and reported to the county and then to the provincial governments, A report on the total amount of public paddies in the entire province is then made to the Central Government. The General Political Department of the Red Army will then distribute the public paddies available in the various counties in accordance with the number of persons with foreign domiciles in the Red Army.

While reporting this, on the one hand, to the Central Government for forwarding to local governments for announcement to the masses, on the other hand announcements will also be made to the fighters of various army units on how much public land have been newly allocated and their locations. The fighters of the various units will then elect representatives to inspect the allocated paddies at these locations.

11. Special markings should be set up by the area government on the public paddies in various areas with the notation that it is the public paddies of fighters of a certain army unit. Regarding such items as seeds and fertilizers, they will be mainly supplied by mobilizing the masses, and, when possible, the government will provide additional support.

12. After the harvest each year the area soviet will be responsible for selling the harvested products and changing them into currency. This will then be forwarded to the county government, and the provincial government will hand the currency over to the Red Army for distribution to the person enjoying the privilege of the public paddies.

13. The names, domiciles, and families of Red Army fighters with foreign domicile who have sacrificed their lives should be registered so that when the revolution developed to that area at a future date the Central Government will issue orders to the local government to investigate and certify in accordance with the addresses and give preferential treatment to their families in accordance with these regulations.

14. If after the death of a Red Army fighter, his family has inadequate means, or no means at all, to maintain a livelihood, - the government should give a financial subsidy in accordance with the living expense needs of the area until his children become self-supporting, or until the death of parents and spouse where there are no issues.

15. The children of Red Army members have the right to free tuition in areas where schools have been established. The village and area Soviets will be responsible for carrying this out.

16. Red Army fighters and their families enjoy special privileges in communications, and this will be implemented in accordance with Directive No 1 of the People's Committee.

17. With regard, to disabled Red Army fighters, they will be handled "by the Red Army Relief and Comfort Committee of the (central) military committee and the Disabled Veterans Hospital in accordance with the regulations governing preferential treatment.

18. For the purpose of carrying out the aforementioned measures and all the stipulations set forth in the regulations governing preferential treatment of Red Army members, a committee has been set up under the military affairs department of the various county governments, and it will be responsible for the management of matters concerning the preferential treatment of Red Army members. A provincial committee has "been set up under the provincial government with the responsibility to oversee and direct the various county committees for the preferential treatment of Red Army members.

19. In order to supervise the thorough implementation of regulations governing the preferential treatment of Red Army members by the various levels of government, the Worker-Peasant Inspection Department of the various levels of government will be responsible for dispatching personnel at any time to inspect, and if it is discovered that the regulations are not being implemented or charges had been brought by Red Army fighters or their families, the department will launch speedy investigations and take quick measures to rectify the situation. The courts may prosecute such cases and punishment will be meted out in accordance with the offense.

Spring is now here and spring cultivation is imminent. The various levels of governments and the political organisations of the Red Army must immediately discuss practical items of implementation and carry them out in accordance with the regulations governing the preferential treatment of Red Army members and the measures delineated in this directive. The progress of implementation is to be reported to higher echelon at all times up to the Central Government for review.

It is of vital importance that there must be no negligence nor dragging of feet.

By Order of, Mao Tse-tung, Chairman

Hsiang Ying, Chang kuo-tao, Vice Chairmen

Central Executive Committee of the Chinese

Soviet Republic.

0 "Soviet China," USSR Foreign Workers Publishing House (Moscow), 1933

* "Soviet China," Soviet Research Institution, China Book Store (Shanghai), 1932

* "Red China," Vol 8 (To be continued), 3 February 1932.

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