

Telegram Stalin Mao Zedong about the Chinese plan to plant of rubber trees in PCR

September 10, 1951

To Comrade Mao Zedong

Received your telegram outlining an elementary plan of planting of rubber trees in China.

1. To end our shared dependence on imperialists in such an important strategic raw material as natural rubber, in our opinion, the plan should provide for the planting of rubber trees in China in sizes to ensure the production of at least 200,000 tons of natural rubber per year.

In doing so, we take into account the needs of China, the Soviet Union, and, in part, the people's democracies.

It goes without saying that it is essential to carry out the planting of rubber trees as quickly as possible to accelerate the production of natural rubber.

2. The draft plan raises the question of the form of ownership of rubber plantations. Who will own the rubber tree plantations - the state or peasants? In our opinion, it is necessary, first of all, to start creating state plantations. At the same time, we proceed from the fact that the establishment of plantations of rubber trees on undeveloped land will require large investment, land reclamation and mechanization, which may be beyond the power of peasant farms. When creating state plantations at the same time, the planting of rubber trees by peasants on their lands should be encouraged in every possible way. Peasant farms, with suitable land for planting rubber trees and a sufficient amount of labor with appropriate government assistance, can supply a significant amount of rubber.

As for nurseries for growing planting materials, it is advisable to concentrate them in the hands of the state, organizing for these are special farms where it will be possible to carry out proper management of the cultivation of planting material by specialists and widely apply mechanization.

3. It can be seen from your materials that the island of Hainan, due to its natural conditions, can be the most important base for the production of rubber in the coming years. Based on this, it seems to us essential to quickly develop a plan and begin business with the creation of large areas of rubber tree plantations on the island of Hainan.

4. Preparation of the land and planting in the coming years of rubber trees on large areas will require the use of equipment: tractors, plows, cultivators, and other machines. In this matter, we are ready to provide you with the necessary assistance.

5. If you deem it expedient, we could send to China a group of Soviet specialists familiar with the organization of forestry, specialized state farms, knowledgeable in the reclamation of wetlands, the mechanization of the establishment of nurseries and plantations of tree plantations.

Filippov