Start foreign trade immediately Liu Shaoqi (February 16, 1949)

As a result of the liberation of Tianjin and other important seaports, many foreign commercial organizations and commercial organizations in the Kuomintang area required to conduct trade with us. In order to quickly restore and develop the national economy of New China, we also need to conduct such trade. Therefore, we should immediately start the new China's foreign trade.

At present, we have not established formal diplomatic relations with any foreign country in the world. The foreign trade before such diplomatic relations is naturally only a temporary trade relationship. However, this kind of temporary trade relationship can and should be allowed under the conditions that it is beneficial to us and strictly maintains the sovereignty and independence of our country and is strictly controlled by the government. To this end, the central government made the following decisions: 1. Propose to the North China People's Government[24]: Immediately establish a Foreign Trade Bureau in Tianjin to manage all foreign trade matters in North China. Whether it is necessary to establish a foreign trade bureau in Shandong and other regions, it should be established after the approval of the central government according to the situation.

2. Foreign trade should be managed and controlled by the state. Certain trades that the country cannot currently operate, as well as certain trades that are harmless or not harmful to private operations, should be allowed to operate privately under state control. All privately-operated exporters and importers must report to the Bureau of Foreign Trade the types and quantities of exported or imported goods in advance, in addition to the customs declaration and taxation, and the foreign trade bureau shall issue licenses before they can import or export. After this article is promulgated in legal form, all goods that have not been approved by the Foreign Trade Bureau shall not be imported or exported. Those who export or import privately shall be treated as smuggling.

3. In order to conduct foreign trade, foreign commercial organizations that are willing to trade with New China and abide by the laws of the people's government should be allowed to send representatives or designate their agents to contact us, and allow these representatives to set up offices in designated locations. As for business representatives sent by foreign governments, they should not be received for the time being. Representatives dispatched to me by commercial organizations in the areas currently under the Kuomintang should also be approached.

4. All representatives sent by foreign commercial organizations shall be temporarily certified and introduced by the Foreign Affairs Office of the local government and be approached by the Foreign Trade Bureau. After reviewing the reliability of these representatives, the Bureau of Foreign Trade and these representatives can discuss the exchange of goods and various trade-related matters between the two sides, and understand the scope, type, quantity and conditions of trade between countries and China. According to our own possibilities and needs, we will separately conclude contracts for the exchange of goods under more favorable conditions. All such contracts must be approved by the central government before signing. All public agencies and private agencies in New China who must purchase goods from foreign countries or sell goods to foreign countries must report to the Bureau of Foreign Trade, or the Bureau of Foreign Trade will contact them on their behalf, or the Bureau of Foreign Trade will introduce them to contact foreign representatives. However, all trade contracts between public and private agencies and foreign commercial agencies must be approved by the Foreign Trade Bureau before they can be considered valid.

5. Where possible and necessary, the Foreign Trade Bureau may dispatch commercial representatives to foreign countries and establish commercial agencies in foreign countries. New China's public and private commercial agencies must send representatives to foreign countries, and must be approved and recommended by the Foreign Trade Bureau, and the local government shall issue the national passport.

6. After understanding all aspects of foreign trade, the Bureau of Foreign Trade shall formulate appropriate foreign trade policies and plans, and submit them to the central government for review and approval. In this policy and plan, it should be determined: (1) Items that allow imports, high-tax imports, and goods that are prohibited from import; (2) Items that allow exports, high-tax exports, and goods that are prohibited from export; (3) Export and Temporary tax rate table for imported goods; (4) According to the possibility and need of export and import, make requirements and suggestions to domestic production agencies and trade agencies; (5) Make export according to the situation of export, import and foreign exchange and domestic economic needs And import plans, and decide which countries' business organizations to conduct which trade plans.

7. In order to conduct foreign trade, it is necessary to declare the methods for the import of Chinese and foreign ships, the stopping and unloading and loading of Chinese and foreign ships along the coast, the methods for the use of terminal leases, the methods for customs declaration and taxation and inspection, the methods for the management of foreign exchange and settlement, and violations These methods and penalties for smuggling and tax evasion. The Bureau of Foreign Trade must immediately study these past methods and prepare to amend or revise them, which will be announced by the people's government. And must immediately study the past export and imported goods tax rate table, prepare to revise it and announce it. Before the people's government announces these measures, the previous measures can be used temporarily.

8. In order to conduct foreign trade, postal and telecommunications relations should be established with certain foreign ports for trading. The North China Bureau should immediately study the past methods of communicating with foreign countries through post and telecommunications, and establish such post and telecommunications relations where possible. Regarding the entry and exit of foreign businessmen and the provisional measures for conducting business activities in relevant areas within the territory of New China, the Foreign Nationals Affairs Office of the North China People's Government must also promptly formulate and announce.

9. In order to carry out the foreign exchange required for foreign trade, stipulate the exchange rate and conduct foreign exchange settlement, billing and foreign exchange trading, etc., the manager of the National Bank shall be the responsibility. Other banks are not allowed to operate foreign exchange and buy or sell foreign exchange. The Bureau of Foreign Trade should immediately study the past methods of foreign exchange management and modify them, and the people's government shall announce new foreign exchange management methods.

10. When selling imported goods on the domestic market, the laws and regulations of the people's government must be observed. For privately imported goods, the Bureau of Foreign Trade has the right to first purchase.

The Bureau of Foreign Trade should pay close attention to exporters and any public and private agencies when buying export goods on the domestic market, so as to give possible and necessary guidance and restrictions at appropriate times to protect and develop domestic production.

11. In order to strive for exports and develop the economy, local governments must immediately pay attention to increasing the production of certain important materials. For example, cotton, soybeans, coal, salt, peanuts, tobacco leaves, silk, bristles, fur, and some handicraft and industrial products that can be exported. Local foreign trade bureaus and inland trade bureaus, banks, cooperatives, etc., must use appropriate price ratios that are sufficient to stimulate the production of these materials to order these materials with farmers and producers when issuing loans in the spring, so as to increase the production of these materials. Facilitate collection at harvest, use it as raw material for your own industry, and strive for export.

12. At present, trade with areas currently under the rule of the Kuomintang through Tianjin and Qinhuangdao and other Haikou areas may also be conducted under the management of the Foreign Trade Bureau in accordance with the above-mentioned regulations.

13. The North China Bureau and the Tianjin and Beiping municipal committees' opinions and implementation methods for this directive are expected to be telegraphed immediately. The foreign affairs agencies of Pingjin and Tianjin should concentrate on studying various issues related to foreign trade.