

[Xinhua News Agency, Beijing, 28th] The Government Affairs Council of the Central People's Government issued instructions on the land reform and collection of public grains in the new liberated areas

#### Part One

1. In all the newly liberated areas in East China, Central China, South China, Northwest China, and Southwest China, where the preparatory work and the awareness and organization of the masses have not yet reached the required level, it is decided that land reform will not be implemented before the autumn harvest of 1950. After the autumn harvest of 1950, in the nine provinces of Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hubei, Hunan, Guangdong, and Shaanxi, as well as in the Han areas of Gansu, Ningxia, and Qinghai, in regions where the preparatory work is sufficient, and the awareness and organization of the masses have reached the required level, land reform will be initiated by the respective provincial people's governments. In the above-mentioned provinces, if in some areas the preparatory work is still insufficient, the awareness and organization of the masses are still inadequate, or there are bandit disturbances, the respective provincial people's governments may decide not to implement land reform after the autumn harvest of 1950 and postpone it until after the autumn harvest of 1951.

2. In Guangxi, Yunnan, Guizhou, Sichuan, Xikang, and Suiyuan provinces, it is decided not to implement land reform before the autumn harvest of 1951. After the autumn harvest of 1951, land reform will be decided upon by the respective provincial people's governments.

3. In Xinjiang and in areas where various minority nationalities reside and in areas where minority nationalities coexist with Han people, it is decided not to implement land reform before the autumn harvest of 1951. After the autumn harvest of 1951, a separate decision will be made on whether to implement land reform.

#### Part Two

4. Before the distribution of land is carried out in all newly liberated areas, a uniform reduction of rent must be implemented. Orders and regulations regarding rent reduction will be issued by the provincial people's governments. Before the distribution of land is carried out, it remains legal for landlords to collect rent from farmers who have benefited from the legally implemented rent reduction. However, landlords are not allowed to sell their land, divide it through pawn, mortgage, or gift, or otherwise disperse their land. After the local liberation, any sale of land or dispersal in the aforementioned ways by landlords should be declared invalid. The buying and selling of land among peasants themselves is not prohibited. The land originally owned by middle peasants, poor peasants, and hired laborers, both at present and in the future, belongs to the original peasants, and will not be confiscated or redistributed.

5. Land should not be left uncultivated, and local people's governments must ensure the right of those who cultivate the land to harvest their crops. If there is uncultivated land, the people's government can take measures to manage it and designate people to cultivate unused land, ensuring they benefit from the harvest. Land deserted by fleeing landlords, land confiscated from evil

landlords, and unattended land should be managed by local people's governments and cultivated by the original farmers.

6. Before land distribution is carried out, all forms of destruction, such as slaughtering draft animals, damaging agricultural tools, and cutting down trees, should be prohibited. Individuals found engaged in such destruction should be severely punished according to the law.

### Part Three

7. Currently, in the newly liberated areas, some landlords have already reduced rent, while in other areas, landlords have not yet done so. In some areas, farmers do not pay rent to landlords at all, and landlords dare not collect rent. Due to these circumstances, as well as the heavy grain collection task in the recent new areas, there have been serious problems in grain collection. For example, in some cases, landlords are required to contribute over 80% of their total income as public grain, and some landlords are required to contribute their entire grain income, with some still falling short. This is a flaw and a mistake. These flaws and mistakes must be corrected and remedied; otherwise, they will disrupt the steps of rural policies of the people's government. The announcement by the people's government before the autumn harvest of 1950, which stated that land distribution would not be implemented but only rent reduction policies would be applied, would become meaningless in practice. At the same time, it also affects the government's grain collection task, which has not yet been fully completed in some areas. To correct these flaws and mistakes and to fulfill the grain collection task, the following measures are decided upon:

a. The public grain collected by the Central People's Government should not exceed 17% of the total agricultural income in the new areas. Local people's governments can impose an additional grain collection of no more than 15% of the regular grain collection. Those regions with higher local public grain collection should correct this and reduce it to 15%. After the allocation of the grain collection task to various regions, a detailed on-site inspection should be conducted. If it is found that the task is overly burdensome for certain areas, it should be appropriately lightened.

b. The amount of public grain collected should be determined based on the actual income of each household, with the highest not exceeding 60% of their total agricultural income. In special cases, it should not exceed 80%. Excessive collection should be reduced accordingly. If the grain has already been collected in full, a portion should be returned. However, this does not apply to landlords who have sold their grain before the grain collection.

c. The public grain collection should generally be no less than 90% of the rural population.

d. Landlords who have not implemented rent reduction or have already collected pre-rent should bear the full responsibility for the public grain collection for their land, and tenant farmers should not bear this burden.

e. For landlords who have implemented the 25% rent reduction, in addition to the progressive part of the public grain, the basic public grain part should be shared equally between landlords and tenant farmers. This should be roughly determined as both parties sharing half of the basic public grain. If the rent reduction exceeds 25% or is less than 25%, the proportion of the basic public grain borne by tenant farmers should also change accordingly.

f. Landlords who cannot collect rent at all, or tenant farmers who do not pay rent at all, should bear the full responsibility for the public grain collection for the land, and landlords should not bear this burden.

g. According to the above provisions, the agricultural tax progressive collection method and the ratio established by various regions should be appropriately adjusted.

8. Local people's governments should establish detailed procedures in accordance with the above items and send personnel for on-site inspections. For households that have not been subject to public grain collection before or have been subject to insufficient collection as per the above requirements, additional collection should be conducted based on their specific circumstances. For households that have been excessively collected, the collection should be reduced, and for those who have already been excessively and heavily collected, rendering them unable to sustain themselves, a portion should be refunded, or advance collection receipts should be provided for the public

grain collected in the summer or autumn of this year. Those wishing to use this as a purchase of government bonds should also be allowed.

9. Local people's governments must effectively correct and remedy the flaws and mistakes that have occurred in the grain collection process, in order to enhance people's trust in the government and ensure stability in rural areas for this year's spring planting. Otherwise, this year's spring planting will be seriously affected.

#### Part Four

10. In order to smoothly carry out land reform in various newly liberated areas after the autumn harvest of 1950 or after the autumn harvest of 1951, the State Council of the Central People's Government, in addition to issuing this directive, will promulgate several laws and regulations related to land reform. The people's governments or military committees in various newly liberated areas should take advantage of the current time, in conjunction with spring farming, production, disaster relief, and famine relief, to quickly and intensively prepare for various tasks. These preparations include formulating specific methods for land distribution in accordance with this directive and the central land reform laws and regulations, conducting typical experiments with capable cadres,

training a large number of cadres for land reform, rapidly organizing farmer associations, convening representative assemblies of farmers at all levels, electing farmer committees at all levels, convening people's representative assemblies at all levels, thoroughly transforming regional and township political authorities, and paying attention to uniting all enlightened gentry who support land reform.

11. In areas where bandits have not yet been eliminated, bandits should be promptly eradicated. Rent reduction should be carried out immediately where it has not been implemented. For heinous landlords and individuals who oppose the farmers' movement and disrupt land reform, provincial and county people's governments should proactively and timely arrest them, send them to the people's court, or organize people's tribunals for lawful trials, and impose appropriate penalties. These criminals should not be treated lightly. Farmers should be allowed to file complaints against these criminals, but actions such as indiscriminate beating, killing, arresting, and punishing, as well as parading people with tall hats, must be strictly prohibited. If provincial and county people's governments and judicial authorities do not take the initiative to arrest, try, and punish these criminals in a timely manner, it will be difficult to avoid the occurrence of these chaotic phenomena once the mass movement has started.

Premier Zhou Enlai

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