

Central Committee's Directive on Seriously Overcoming the "Left" Deviation in Dealing with the National Bourgeoisie

(May 31, 1949)

North China Bureau, East China Bureau, Central China Bureau, Northwest Bureau, Shandong Branch, Municipal Committees of Pingjin, Jinan, Shanghai, Nanjing, and Hankou, Front Committees of various Field Armies:

We are forwarding to you the telegraph sent by the Central Committee to the Northeast Bureau along with its attachments. Please relay this to all Municipal Committees, Provincial Committees, and District Party Committees. Use it as a basis for examining your own work and earnestly overcome the "left" deviation opportunism errors in dealing with the national bourgeoisie. Failure to overcome such errors would mean committing a line mistake.

Central Committee

May 31, [1949]

Attachment:

Central Committee's Directive to the Northeast Bureau on the Policy Issue Regarding the National Bourgeoisie

(May 31, 1949)

Northeast Bureau,

Recently, Comrade Zou Dapeng wrote a letter to Comrade Liu Shaoqi, stating that our party in the Northeast has not yet correctly resolved the issue of the policy toward private capitalism and the national bourgeoisie, despite prolonged debates. We consider this issue crucially important to the overall party line and believe it must be promptly and completely resolved correctly. We are hereby informing you of Zou Dapeng's recent telegram. We hope that the Northeast Bureau will convene a meeting, invite Comrade Tan Lofu to participate and express opinions, and subsequently report the results of the Northeast Bureau's discussion to the Central Committee.

Comrade Liu Shaoqi recently conducted an inspection tour in Tianjin and found that our comrades there completely ignore capitalists. Some cadres even believe that contact with capitalists indicates an unstable stance. The trade companies control raw materials and markets, without giving due consideration to the production of capitalists. Additionally, tax authorities have not provided the necessary support for private production. In labor-capital relations, workers' excessively high demands and overly leftist actions have not been decisively corrected. There is a tendency to force capitalists to start production without providing adequate assistance to overcome practical difficulties. In newspapers, only the negative aspects of capitalists are emphasized, without acknowledging any benefits they might bring. Within the party, the focus is on condemning the speculative and disruptive nature of private capitalism (specifically the type that is detrimental to national interests and people's livelihoods, such as speculative trade), rather than distinguishing between harmful and beneficial private capitalism. The emphasis is on restricting capitalism rather than recognizing the progressive, constructive, and necessary aspects of private capitalist production that contribute to national interests and people's livelihoods in the current and future extended periods. There is a lack of emphasis on utilizing the positive aspects of private capitalism to develop production. The emphasis is solely on the struggle against capitalists, neglecting the cooperation with willing capitalists. As a result, capitalists become panicked and passive, falling into a semi-paralyzed

state with no proactive production initiatives. Many capitalists are considering shutting down, closing, or fleeing. This tendency reflects an immediate inclination to eliminate the bourgeoisie in practice, a deviation from the fundamental direction and policies of the party. It is said that this tendency also exists in the work in Northeastern cities. The Northeast Bureau is urged to review and correct it promptly. Due to our concerns about the aforementioned bias within the party, we have not yet approved the publication of the document "Outline of the Economic Structure and Economic Development Policy in Northeast China." We believe that this document must include a paragraph refuting the above bias before it can be published.

Central Committee

May 31, 1949