

Report on the Suppression of Counter-Revolutionaries and the Regulations on Punishing Counter-Revolutionaries

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Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Members:

The question of suppressing counter-revolutionary activities is a matter of great concern to the people of the whole country. In the past period, because we have not yet effectively implemented the policy of combining suppression with leniency in Article 7 of the Common Program, many places have shown excessive leniency, which has caused dissatisfaction among people of all walks of life with the people's government.

The people accused us of being "boundlessly lenient" and "having no laws but heaven", saying: "We are not afraid of heaven or earth, but we are afraid of the Communist Party's leniency", "The people's government is good in everything except being so polite to bad guys. It is not good to watch bad guys harm the people and not make decisions for the people." Some workers questioned the cadres indignantly, saying: "Look! We competed for several months, but the spies set a fire and it was all over. If we don't suppress it, we will not compete no matter what." Some said: "The government is asleep" and "it can't even distinguish between friends and enemies." Some people said that the government "tolerates evil and harms the people" and "it doesn't look like a people's government at all."

The masses are fair and intelligent. They praised the Korean War, the land reform, the price and financial stability, the urban management and democratic construction, but they thought that we were too lenient with the counter-revolutionaries. Indeed, we did not do well on this issue in the past, and there was a period when we did not do well in some places. Especially after the U.S. imperialists launched the Korean War, the problem became clearer.

At that time, the U.S.-Chiang Kai-shek spies and bandits and other remnant counter-revolutionary forces thought that the time for their dream of "three major wars and counterattack on the mainland" had come and that the U.S.-Chiang Kai-shek would come back to restore the rule. They arrogantly tore off the masks of pretending to repent, emerged from the underground covert activities, carried out various blatant sabotage activities, and blatantly attacked the people. The spies and bandits conspired to destroy railways and bridges, factories and mines, burn warehouses and property, openly robbed, assassinated cadres, and harassed and rioted in many places. All political bandits who had not been severely eliminated and suppressed became more active. Some reactionary party and special elements who had long expressed repentance and were willing to obey control also refused or evaded control in various forms, and even colluded with reactionary organizations to carry out sabotage activities. The reactionary Taoist feudal gangs also spread rumors and sabotage in various ways to carry out activities against the people's government. Not only in the newly liberated areas, some landlords threatened the peasants with "Chiang Kai-shek will be beheaded if he comes", sabotaged the land reform, and prepared to welcome Chiang Kai-shek. Even in the semi-old areas where land reform had already been implemented, some landlords whose "prestige" had not been completely destroyed also rose up to take revenge on the peasants, threatening them to return their land, grain, livestock, and farm tools, and forcing them to move. In some places, counter-revolutionary underground armies were organized to prepare for riots. In some

places, the whole family of village cadres was killed. In some places, more than ten cadres of the farmers' association were killed at one time; more than forty members of the farmers' association in a village were killed; and whole teams of civilians who transported military supplies and fodder for the People's Liberation Army were killed. In Guangxi Province alone, more than 3,000 cadres of the People's Government were killed. And the number of bandits there has increased over the past period of time, because we did not kill or rarely killed the bandit leaders and habitual bandits. As for the production, construction and various material resources destroyed by the counter-revolutionaries, it is even more difficult to calculate the number. The spies and bandits are so rampant that they are truly intolerable.

This proves that the Kuomintang reactionaries and their accomplices, the running dogs of imperialism, will never be willing to die just because their rule has been overthrown, but will always use every possible means to attack the people and the people's government with the utmost brutality.

This proves that it is wrong to be lenient without limit. We must not be lenient to all the counter-revolutionary ringleaders who are unrepentant and other elements who continue to carry out counter-revolutionary activities after liberation, but must severely suppress them. Those who should be killed should be killed, those who should be imprisoned should be imprisoned, and those who should be controlled should be controlled. We must not be indecisive or tolerate evil. This is clearly stipulated in the Common Program and is what Chairman Mao has repeatedly instructed us.

Since Chairman Mao and the Central People's Government had such a firm and clear policy, why did they have such a lenient and boundless deviation? This was because there were many confused ideas among the cadres.

First, after the victory, they became arrogant, underestimated the enemy, and became numb. They thought that so many of Chiang Kai-shek's bandit gang's troops had been wiped out and the Kuomintang's reactionary rule had been overthrown, and that the remaining counter-revolutionaries were no big deal. As a result, they lost their vigilance and relaxed their suppression.

Secondly, some comrades have confused the consolidation and expansion of the people's democratic united front with the issue of resolutely eliminating counter-revolutionary remnants in the struggle against the enemy. They do not understand that the more thoroughly the counter-revolutionary remnants are eliminated, the fewer factors there will be to sow discord and undermine the united front, and thus the more consolidated the united front will be. At the same time, the more consolidated and extensive the united front is, the more isolated the enemy will be, and the easier it will be to eliminate the counter-revolutionary remnants.

Some people are afraid that resolutely suppressing counter-revolutionaries will "cause shock and panic." They fail to distinguish who is shocked and who is panicked. The ones who are shocked and panicked are the spies and bandits. The purpose of the suppression is to eliminate them. They should be shocked and panicked. Isn't this good? What is there to be afraid of? The people are not shocked or panicked. As long as the people's government suppresses counter-revolutionaries without beating and killing them randomly, and is steady and accurate, the people will only applaud and will never panic. What they are panicking about is that the government is boundlessly lenient, indecisive, tolerating evil, and indulging spies and bandits to harm the people instead of making decisions for the people.

Some people think that the people have already won and that we should be merciful and lenient. Those who say this do not understand that without resolutely destroying the enemies of the people, there will be no victory for the people; without resolutely suppressing the remnants of the U.S.-Chiang Kai-shek bandit gang, there will be no security for the people and the consolidation of the people's victory. Being merciful and lenient to them is cruelty to the people, treating the great people's revolutionary cause as a joke, and being disloyal to the people. The severity of the sentence imposed on criminals should be based on the severity of their crimes. If the crime deserves death, the death penalty should be resolutely imposed; if the crime does not deserve death, then death should not be imposed; those who are between being punishable and not being punishable should not be executed either; only those who deserve to be killed and must be killed should be killed, and only those important counter-revolutionaries with solid evidence should be killed.

Although the occurrence of boundless bias is due to the various confused ideas mentioned above, as Chairman Mao said, the key to the decision still lies in leadership.

Since the Central People's Government issued a series of instructions and stepped up its leadership last autumn, all localities quickly corrected their tendency to be extremely lenient, and began to resolutely suppress the bandit leaders, habitual bandits, bullies, spies and reactionary secret societies who were extremely evil and unrepentant. As a result, the situation changed rapidly. The landlords and bullies who had previously plotted against the peasants bowed their heads and confessed their crimes to the peasants; the spies who had previously carried out sabotage and rampant activities were either shot or imprisoned; many gangs of political bandits were quickly eliminated or collapsed and surrendered; even in Fujian, western Hunan, Guangxi, Guangdong, Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan and other places where the banditry was most rampant, the revolutionary order has gradually been consolidated. In short, the evil spirit has declined and the righteous spirit has risen. When counter-revolutionary activities were resolutely suppressed in various places, and important bandit leaders, habitual bandits, tyrants, spies and reactionary secret society leaders were executed, the masses did not show panic and shock, but applauded, cheered, or set off firecrackers to celebrate. In places where the correct policy of the Central People's Government was implemented, the masses no longer blamed us for "there are laws but no laws", but praised "the people's government has laws and laws", "making decisions for the people", and praised "the people's government's policy is targeted and the measures are good", "it really looks like a people's government". However, at present, there are still some places that are not resolute enough in suppressing counter-revolutionary activities, are indecisive, weak and incompetent, and continue to indulge spies and bandits at large, thus causing dissatisfaction among the people. We believe that these places must quickly correct this deviation and resolutely suppress all counter-revolutionary activities in accordance with the policy of the Central People's Government.

Now, in order to provide cadres and the masses with legal weapons to suppress counter-revolutionary activities, in order to provide sentencing standards for those who try counter-revolutionary criminals, and in order to overcome or prevent right and "left" deviations in resolutely suppressing counter-revolutionary activities, it is necessary to have a regulation on punishing counter-revolutionaries. All localities have also generally demanded that the Central People's Government quickly promulgate such a regulation. Therefore, the Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the State Council has drafted the "Draft Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Punishing Counter-Revolutionaries" in accordance with the principles of Article 7 of the Common Program. It has been adopted at the 71st State Council Meeting of the State Council and is now submitted to the Central People's Government Council for examination and approval.

This regulation was formulated based on the policy of combining repression with leniency, that is, "the main culprits must be punished, the accomplices will not be questioned, and those who have made contributions will be rewarded." The principle of severe punishment is adopted for the main counter-revolutionaries and for the spies who have not repented of their crimes and continued to carry out counter-revolutionary activities after liberation; the principle of leniency is adopted for the accomplices who participated in counter-revolutionary activities under the coercion and deception of counter-revolutionaries, for those who participated in counter-revolutionary activities before liberation but whose crimes were not serious and who have truly repented after liberation, especially those who have made contributions to the people.

In order to make it easier for cadres to understand this regulation, when drafting it, we tried our best to solve the problem while avoiding complexity and tediousness, so we wrote it in a relatively concise and comprehensive manner.

Please verify whether it is appropriate.