

Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on the Establishment of the Chinese New Democratic Youth League January 1, 1949

Chinese youth, in the long-term struggle of the Chinese people against imperialism and feudalism, especially during the resistance against Japan and after the victory over Japan, in the struggle against American imperialism and the reactionary government of the Kuomintang in the liberated areas of China in military, political, economic, and cultural construction, have played a great and positive role. Through the long-term trials of various struggles and the education of the Communist Party of China, their political consciousness has generally been elevated, and a large number of advanced and active individuals have emerged. Therefore, the existing forms of organizations and activities such as the Youth Salvation Association, Youth Anti-Japanese Vanguard, and Youth Reading Society alone cannot meet the demands of these advanced youth and active individuals. The Party's work among the youth masses in the liberated areas often becomes lax due to the lack of organized and systematic impetus from advanced youth, and fails to exert its due strength. In October 1946, the Central Committee of our Party had already put forward the proposal to establish the Chinese New Democratic Youth League for advanced youth and active individuals, and entrusted the Central Bureau and various branches to try it out in selected locations. Over the past two years, in the liberated areas of Northeast, East China, North China, and Northwest (including Jin-Sui), organizations of the Youth League have been established in several regions. The results of experimenting with the Youth League in various regions have proven that any Youth League established in accordance with the spirit proposed by the Central Committee receives the care of the broad masses of youth and adults. It has played a significant role in leading and uniting the youth in joining the army, participating in the war, developing production, land reform, and the construction of democratic rule, as well as in cultural endeavors. The facts demonstrate that establishing the New Democratic Youth League is entirely possible and necessary. In response to this need and to unite and educate the entire youth generation, as well as to fully unleash the enthusiasm and creativity of the youth masses in the People's Liberation War and the construction of

the New Democratic state, the Central Committee formally decided to establish the organization of the New Democratic Youth League throughout China.

The New Democratic Youth League of China, under the political leadership of the Communist Party of China, is a mass organization of advanced youth who resolutely struggle for the New Democratic cause. It is the core for the Party to unite and lead the broad masses of youth and the school where the Party imparts Marxist-Leninist education to the youth. Its task is to first unite and organize the active individuals among the advanced youth, and then, through the organization of these youth, unite and educate the broader youth masses. Together with the Chinese people, they strive to completely overthrow the rule of imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucratic capitalism in China, establish the New Democratic People's Republic of China, and work towards the thorough liberation of all of China and humanity. This struggle involves continually educating the youth of China in the course of practical efforts. In China, the New Democratic Youth League should admit all male and female youth who firmly support the propositions of the Communist Party of China, are willing to actively strive for the cause of New Democracy, and are ready to serve the working people loyally as league members. Generally, their age should be between fifteen and twenty-five. Because it is a New Democratic Youth League, it should, in comparison to the past Communist Youth League, more broadly admit active individuals from various democratic strata to expand its mass base. However, it remains an organization of advanced and active individuals among the youth masses in China, rather than an ordinary or general youth group. Only by effectively organizing the active individuals among the youth in China can it establish a solid core among the vast youth masses and carry out persistent work among the national youth. Otherwise, it cannot effectively unite the youth masses throughout China. The membership should be based on active individuals among young workers, young farmers, and general labor youth, as well as other revolutionary youth intellectuals from different strata. Simultaneously, it should also admit progressive and conscientious youth from other strata who are willing to actively strive for New Democracy.

Regarding internal affairs, on the basis of democratic centralism, the New Democratic Youth League should fully utilize democratic and mass-oriented dynamics, cultivate the enthusiasm and creativity of its members, and train their organizational and disciplinary skills. Special attention should be given to preventing narrow-minded exclusivity, youth vanguardism, or sectarian tendencies in the work and style of the Youth League. The New Democratic Youth League accepts the political leadership of the Communist Party of China, but organizationally, it should maintain its independent system. The Party does not have the authority to directly command the Youth League. Party members within the Youth League must obey all Party resolutions and, through tireless persuasive education work and their exemplary actions, consolidate the Party's leadership within the Youth League. (2) The fundamental task of the New Democratic Youth League is to systematically study Marxist-Leninist theory, continuously educate its members and the youth masses through revolutionary practice, and, at the same time, organize the broad youth masses to actively participate in various movements called for by our Party and the People's Democratic Government in the spirit of Marxism-Leninism. Therefore, various methods should be created based on serving the people and youth, tailored to the environmental characteristics and interests of the youth, to unite and lead the broad youth masses in achieving the following tasks:

Firstly, considering the two major strategic tasks of the Chinese people at present—achieving the thorough victory of the people's liberation war and restoring and developing all liberated areas' production activities—the Youth League must take the leadership of the youth masses in actively joining the army, participating in the war, supporting the front, and developing agriculture and industrial production as the central focus of all its work.

Secondly, the Youth League should, on the basis of the greatest interests of the majority of the people, consistently pay attention to and strive to serve the special interests and immediate needs of the youth masses. In these efforts, it should gradually guide the broad youth masses to participate in the construction of the military, political, economic, and cultural aspects of the People's Democratic State and the international youth movement against imperialism, advocating democracy, and peace.

Thirdly, extensive and systematic ideological education on Marxist-Leninist theory and the unified thought of Chinese revolutionary practice should be conducted among both Youth League members and youth masses outside the league. This aims to enable them to progressively learn to apply the dialectical materialist viewpoint of Marxism-Leninism, understand the process of social development, recognize the laws of the development of the Chinese revolution, and acquire knowledge in culture, science, production, and military affairs. They should also learn skills and expertise, continuously elevating themselves in terms of ideology, politics, culture, and work. All Youth League members should consider propagating Marxist-Leninist thought and various policies of New Democracy as their honorable responsibility. The Youth League should also assist educational institutions of the government in improving school and societal education. Fourthly, lead work for children and youth, admit children aged seven to twelve into the Children's League, and admit youth aged thirteen to seventeen into the Youth Vanguard. In smaller rural areas, they may be organized into a Children and Youth League. The Youth League should select the best cadres to lead this work and establish Children and Youth Departments or Committees under the various levels of Youth Committees as the leading bodies for the Children's League and Youth Vanguard.

Fourthly, the New Democratic Youth League should be established on the voluntary and conscious basis of the youth masses, openly conducting the establishment of the league

in mass movements and various activities. Therefore, regular propaganda about the New Democratic Youth League should be carried out among the people and youth, establishing a correct understanding of the Youth League among the people and youth. When initiating the formation of the league, thorough propaganda and ample preparation are necessary. Membership should be formalized based on voluntary participation and through proper procedures. The use of coercive methods, casual recruitment into the league, and a simple pursuit of a large number of members must be strictly avoided in the process of developing league members. In the establishment work, it is essential to maintain the political purity of the league on one hand, while preventing narrow-mindedness and refusing entry to some advanced youth, hindering the league's connection with the broader masses. Party organizations at all levels must carefully review existing youth work cadres and promptly promote and select a group of ideologically correct, grassroots-connected young male and female Party cadre. After a short-term training, they should be capable of correctly understanding the league's establishment principles. The leaders of various levels of Youth Committees should be appointed by cadres equivalent to Party Committee members at the same level and Party Committee secretaries at the next level. In the past two years, the experience of establishing Youth Leagues has proven that grasping the central guidelines for establishing the league, training and equipping a sufficient number of youth work cadres, is a fundamental prerequisite for building the league.

The steps of establishing the league should be gradually and strategically advanced. It should start with cities, factories, schools, military units, and towns with a concentrated population, where the Party's work foundation is relatively strong, and then proceed to more widespread development. In areas where there is no organizational presence of the league, the Party must instruct the local Party organizations to designate a portion of young and outstanding Party members as league members, forming the foundation and backbone for establishing the league. A preparatory committee for the Youth League should be established at the district level and above. In a factory, school, street, or village with five or more league members, a league branch should be established. In a district with three or more branches, a district committee should be formally

established. In a county or city with three or more district committees, a county or city committee should be officially established, facilitating the rapid development of the league's organization and work. Subsequently, representatives from various regions, provinces, and liberated areas should be convened for the National Congress of Youth League Representatives to elect the leadership bodies of the Youth League at different levels. In newly liberated cities and regions lacking a work foundation, more comprehensive propaganda and preparation work are required during the establishment of the league, especially in comparison to older areas.

Fifthly, the central decision is to convene the first National Congress of Representatives of the Chinese New Democratic Youth League in the summer of 1949, officially establishing the Chinese New Democratic Youth League, formulating the work program and regulations of the Youth League, and electing the Central Committee of the Youth League. At present, preparatory committees for the establishment of the National Youth League should be initiated by local Youth Leagues, preparing for the convening of the Youth League's representative assembly. It is also proposed that around the time of the second National Congress of Representatives of the Chinese New Democratic Youth League, a national youth representative assembly should be convened to establish a united organization for the national youth. To systematically train the cadres of the Youth League, in addition to the Central Youth Work Committee organizing the League School as instructed by the central authorities, each central bureau, regional Party committee, provincial committee, regional committee, county committee, and city committee should also establish schools or training classes for the League in their respective areas. In order to guide the work of the national Youth League and organize the extensive youth learning, the central decision is that the Central Youth Work Committee will be responsible for publishing the periodic publication "Chinese Youth."

Sixthly, establishing national and local New Democratic Youth Leagues is a central link in the current youth movement and is one of the Party's extremely important tasks in the context of the current victorious and developing revolutionary situation. Party committees at all levels must give it due attention. Each central bureau, sub-bureau, provincial committee, regional Party committee, county committee, and city committee, as well as the Party committees at all levels of the People's Liberation Army, after receiving the separate notice regarding "How to Establish the League in the Military," issued after this decision, should promptly convene meetings to formulate specific work plans and effectively supervise their implementation.

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