

Do Not Express Attitudes Publicly Without Authorization

January 26, 1949

To: East China Bureau, Central China Working Committee, Liu, Chen, Deng, Su, Tan, Central Plains Bureau, Henan-Anhui-Jiangsu Sub-Bureau

Please forward to all relevant departments:

According to a report from the Central China Working Committee, a Party committee member at the district level in a certain subregion of Central China responded to a foreign journalist from Guangzhou and a Chinese journalist from a magazine in Shanghai without first seeking approval from superiors. These journalists asked probing and provocative questions. The local comrades appeared entirely unaware of the need to seek prior approval in such matters, or perhaps they were aware but unwilling to comply, allowing the enemy to exploit this oversight.

This incident shows that your struggle against the undisciplined practice of subordinates acting without prior approval has not been sufficiently emphasized or deepened. You must use this incident as an example to issue a directive to all subordinate units, using it as a cautionary lesson. The responsible comrade at the district committee level should also receive appropriate disciplinary action.

In the future, all local departments must refuse to engage in any discussions with journalists from Kuomintang-controlled areas or any Chinese and foreign journalists whose background is unclear. For journalists who are known to be genuinely revolutionary or sympathetic, whether or not to engage should still require approval from higher authorities. No subordinate personnel are permitted to express positions publicly without prior authorization.

****Central Committee****

(Note: This document was drafted by Mao Zedong for the Central Committee as a telegram to the East China Bureau, Central Plains Bureau, and the General Front Committee of the Huaihai Front.)