

Revisions and Remarks on the Central Committee's Propaganda Draft Regarding the Unified Purchase of Grain (1) Mao Zedong

(October 31, 1953)

To live a better life, it is essential to implement socialist industrialization and the socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts, and capitalist industry and commerce. Regarding agriculture, only by gradually implementing the socialist system in rural areas can agricultural production and the lives of farmers be improved step by step and universally.

All those in rural areas who understand the principles should actively join mutual aid groups with socialist characteristics, and join semi-socialist production cooperatives and supply and marketing cooperatives. In the future, this will allow for the further implementation of fully socialist production cooperatives (i.e., collective farms) and supply and marketing cooperatives with collective peasant ownership, achieving collective production and a prosperous life. Workers build in the cities, and farmers build in the countryside. Farmers should cooperate and compete with workers to transform the countryside into something almost identical to the cities; this is the true worker-peasant alliance. Otherwise, the so-called worker-peasant alliance could not develop and be consolidated, and there was a danger that the already established worker-peasant alliance would break down.

To achieve socialist industrialization of the country. Socialist industrialization means transforming China from an underdeveloped industrial nation into an industrially developed one, and from non-socialist industry to socialist industry. This requires, on the one hand, striving to build new socialist industries (new factories, new mines), and on the other hand, socialist transforming handicrafts and capitalist industry. The most crucial aspect is to produce more steel, coal, kerosene, and electricity, and to manufacture more machinery. Only with developed industry can the country manufacture more new agricultural tools and machinery to help farmers develop large-scale socialist agricultural production cooperatives (i.e., collective farms), build more railways and highways to connect cities and rural areas, construct more water conservancy projects to develop agriculture, and supply farmers with large quantities of inexpensive chemical fertilizers, pesticides, medicines, sugar, cloth, bicycles, radios, movies, and other daily necessities.

How should agriculture be transformed? This means developing the mutual aid and cooperation movement step by step, based on the farmers' voluntary participation (not solely through administrative orders, and especially not through coercion), progressing from mutual aid groups with nascent socialist characteristics to semi-socialist production cooperatives, and then further to fully socialist production cooperatives (collective farms).

Because everyone works together, their strength is great. What individual work cannot do, mutual aid groups can do; what mutual aid groups cannot do, cooperatives can do. Therefore, mutual aid groups are stronger than individual work, and cooperatives are stronger than mutual aid groups. Each step forward leads to further development of production and improvement of living standards. At the same time, more grain, cotton, and other agricultural products can be supplied to the country and the people of the whole country. Furthermore, the habit of collective labor can be cultivated step by step (but not through communal eating), funds can be accumulated step by step, and the ability to manage collective affairs can be learned step by step, leading to socialism.

Published based on Mao Zedong's revised manuscript.

Comrade Qiao Mu [2]: In the "Key Points of Rural Propaganda [3]", the word "collective" should be added after "cooperative member ownership".

