

Instructions on the Development of the Militia

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1. During the Soviet era, the Anti-Japanese War, and the People's Liberation War, the militia played a significant role, and militia development has always been a priority for the entire Party. Now that the national war has achieved basic victory, some have developed a tendency to underestimate the development of the people's armed forces. This is a mistake and must be corrected. Today, banditry has not yet been completely eradicated, and spies are still waiting for opportunities to cause chaos. To safeguard our victories and suppress sabotage and resistance from domestic and foreign enemies, militia development remains urgently necessary. Furthermore, to lay a solid foundation for national defense mobilization, militia development must be gradually strengthened. Over the past year, our region's militia has grown considerably and achieved considerable success in bandit suppression and public security. However, due to a lack of clear development guidelines and systematic leadership, its numbers are still insufficient to meet the needs of the environment, and its quality is even less pure and consolidated. This situation must be rapidly reversed. We can no longer afford to neglect militia work; we must begin development with a planned approach.

Second, today's militia should be a broad, mass military organization voluntarily joined by the masses to defend the motherland and their own interests. Since preparing for national defense mobilization has become a major, long-term task, its organization should be expanded more broadly than in the past. The general goal is to organize the vast majority of working-age people, gradually implement military training, and lay the necessary groundwork for future compulsory military service. To effectively carry out bandit suppression and preparatory tasks, core units can be organized within the militia, without the need for separate self-defense units. The method of developing the militia should continue to be small-to-large, gradually expanding based on the voluntary initiative of the masses during the struggle for social reform. It should not simply pursue numbers, resort to forced registration, or resort to forced recruitment. The class purity of the armed forces must be maintained. Members should be rural working people, starting with activists emerging from the struggle, gradually expanding to include the majority of hired poor and middle peasants (roughly before the completion of land reform), and then to the majority of working-age people. Habitual bandits, soldiers, landlords, and rich peasants are not permitted to participate. Core units wielding weapons must always be composed of active and politically reliable individuals. In short, it should be a step-by-step, guided, gradual development, building a mass people's armed forces under the leadership of the Communist Party on the basis of the voluntary participation of the masses. We must overcome the current tendency in some areas to blindly develop without paying attention to rectification and consolidation.

3. The rise of the masses' class consciousness and improvement of their economic status are fundamental conditions for the expansion and consolidation of the people's armed forces. The organization and development of the militia must be combined with the peasants' uprising movement. However, a successful mass movement does not equate to a complete success in the development of the armed forces. The development and consolidation of the people's armed forces requires dedicated and systematic efforts. Generally, this can be done according to the following procedures: During the period of in-depth suppression of bandits and counter-tyranny, a small militia can be established under the slogan of anti-bandit and self-defense, relying on proven activists. These armed forces will be reviewed and approved by the district and county farmers' associations,

and then placed under strict management and leadership. During this period, particular attention must be paid to the purity of their composition and the establishment of a sound foundation. Establishment should not be rash, nor approval should be granted arbitrarily. Firearms should be handled with extreme caution. When rent reduction begins, targeted development can be implemented, and appropriate meetings of militia representatives can be held to expand their influence, ensuring that the militia actively participates in and supports the mass movement and attracting activists involved in struggle or production to join the militia. During the land reform period, as activists grew and class lines became clearer, peasants became widely organized, and this allowed for significant growth. They could convene militia congresses and formally elect their own leadership. When establishing militias, specific discussions and arrangements should be held at county and district peasant congresses to foster the political consciousness of the masses in arming themselves and to make the people's armed forces a strong supporter of the peasant associations.

Fourth, the militia is a military organization and should be distinguished from ordinary people's organizations; however, it is also a mass organization and should be distinguished from the formal army. Therefore, the militia's organizational principles should be democratic centralism and, based on this, strict military and political discipline. Its county, district, and village leadership organs can adopt the traditional form of the People's Armed Forces Committee, elected by a congress and appointed by higher authorities. Militia representative conferences and representative meetings are a primary means for the Party to lead the people's armed forces and integrate the broad masses with the armed forces. They should be held regularly from the county, district, and provincial levels. The election of the People's Armed Forces Committee, the adoption of various laws and regulations, and the mobilization of various periods of struggle tasks and training programs should all be discussed at representative conferences. The militia's military command structure and discipline must be established conscientiously, and continuous education must be conducted among the militia to cultivate the habit of observing discipline and obeying orders, thereby overcoming the peasants' laxity. However, only by implementing the democratic system of committees and representative meetings, fully promoting democracy, and mobilizing the initiative of the masses can the scattered peasant armed forces be unified, thereby creating the necessary conditions and foundation for centralized leadership and military discipline.

No separate military commissions will be established at the prefectural level and above; instead, they will be managed concurrently by military regions and sub-districts. This is to better enable the people's armed forces to serve as an auxiliary and reserve for the national defense forces, implement national military training, and ensure a gradual and prepared transition to the implementation of a compulsory military service system. Military regions at all levels should, as banditry is gradually eliminated, allocate a considerable amount of their resources, or even the majority of their forces, to strengthen this work and make effective efforts to raise the military proficiency and political awareness of all militia members.

5. The militia must be placed under the direct leadership of the Party. Party committees at all levels must attach great importance to their leadership responsibilities for the militia. Because the Party generally stagnated in rural areas before land reform, during this period, the Youth League should serve as an auxiliary to the Party's leadership of the armed forces. The vast majority of militia members are young people, and military training is a special requirement of young people. Therefore, assisting the Party in building the militia should be the League's primary task in rural areas. The militia should become the League's primary base for activities in rural areas. The principal leaders of the League at the county and district levels, if suitable, may also serve as deputy directors of the military commissions or heads of the political education departments, promoting the League's

political work in the militia. The League must ensure the implementation of all orders and regulations issued by the higher-level militia command organs, without any violation. All League members participating in the militia should be organized and fully exert their active and core role to consolidate the militia and ensure the political direction of its development.

6. Because the militia possesses weapons but is often dispersed and lacks centralized management, it is prone to becoming specialized, alienated from the masses, and even becoming overbearing and tyrannical, drawing public opposition. From the outset of militia development, strict management and strengthened leadership should be implemented, with particular attention paid to the vetting and selection of militia cadres. After being elected by the members, the village militia captain must be reviewed and approved by the village farmers' association and the village government before being submitted to the district or county level for approval. Furthermore, regular organizational restructuring is necessary to eliminate undesirable elements, enforce discipline, and combat unhealthy tendencies. The militia's primary source of firearms should be captured enemy weapons, transferred from landlords, and the use of people's own weapons, arming them in the struggle. All militia education and activities must not interfere with farming season or production, and the militia must be constantly taught to play an active role on the production front and strive to be role models. Only in this way can the militia gain public support and achieve healthy and substantial development.

7. The issue of militia cadres at the district level and above must be resolved promptly. Currently, the military region should be responsible for deploying a group of cadres to the county and district military committees. Provincial committees should select key cadres from the peasant movement who are suitable for this work, dispatching one or two to each sub-district to participate in sub-district leadership.

8. This directive, along with the regulations on militia organization issued by the Central-South Military and Political Committee, should be disseminated and discussed among cadres, and work should begin promptly. Existing militia organizations must be reorganized according to the above principles. Separate directives will be issued regarding the arming of urban workers.