

Revisions to the Draft “Central Regulations on Care for and Lenient Treatment of the Family Members of Senior Democratic Personages during Land Reform and the Suppression of Counterrevolutionaries” (1)

(June 4, 1951)

To the Central Bureaus and Sub-Bureaus, the Party Committees of the major military regions and second-level military regions, and for transmission to the Party committees of all provinces, municipalities, and districts, as well as prefectural Party committees:

At present, some non-Party members of the Central People’s Government Committee, members of the Government Administration Council, and other senior democratic personages have experienced situations in which their family members or relatives and friends have been killed, arrested, “swept out” [of their homes], or had portions of their urban property confiscated during land reform and the suppression of counterrevolutionaries. This has already aroused extremely serious anxiety and dissatisfaction, and has had a very harmful impact on the united front.

With regard to democratic personages—especially senior democratic personages—who, prior to Liberation, had already begun to participate in the struggle against Chiang Kai-shek and had cooperated with us, as well as officers who genuinely rose in uprising, we must deliberately extend special care or apply lenient treatment to them during land reform and the suppression of counterrevolutionaries. This is absolutely necessary for consolidating the united front and the victory of the revolution. Under no circumstances must they be indiscriminately treated in the same manner as ordinary reactionary landlords or reactionary officers.

With respect to the family members of the above-mentioned personages (grandparents, parents, children, siblings, and spouses), the Central authorities stipulate:

1. **During land reform**, in addition to providing appropriate political consideration, necessary means of livelihood must be retained for them economically. They must not be “swept out.” Their urban property should, in general, be preserved and must not be confiscated. In rent reduction and deposit return (2), if they are genuinely unable to make the required returns, the government should persuade the peasants to accept reduced returns, or the government should provide a small amount of funds to settle the matter on their behalf. They must not be driven into a situation where they have no way out.
2. **Unless there is an absolute necessity**—that is, except in cases of current offenses or where failure to arrest would be insufficient to appease popular indignation—even if they have certain negative records, every effort should be made to persuade them to bow their heads before the masses, admit their mistakes, and bring the matter to a conclusion, rather than arresting them. Those who must be arrested and sentenced should nonetheless be treated with leniency, and detailed circumstances should be reported to higher levels.
3. **Hereafter**, if the family members of democratic personages who are government personnel at or above the level of vice provincial chairman or vice mayor, or central committee members of the democratic parties, or uprising generals, must be arrested and punished according to law during land reform or the suppression of counterrevolutionaries, approval must be obtained from the respective Central Bureau and reported to the Center for the record. If the death penalty is to be imposed, it must be reported to the Center for approval prior to execution. In the case of family members of important democratic personages at the county level and above but below the provincial level, if a death sentence is required, the provincial Party committee must decide and report to the Central Bureau for the record before execution.
4. **When senior democratic personages**, because of the arrest of their relatives or friends, submit inquiries or opinions that are transmitted by higher levels, the local government and

Party committee must promptly provide truthful responses or investigate and handle the matter accordingly.

5. **Within your respective jurisdictions**, regarding what errors or problems have occurred in the past in the handling of the family members of senior democratic personages, each Central Bureau is requested to submit a report to the Center within the month of June.