

CCP Central Committee: Measures for Dealing with Communist Party Members Who Concealed Political and Historical Problems during the Campaign to Screen the “Middle” and “Inner” Layers (Draft)

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During the present campaign to screen the “middle” and “inner” layers, a small number of counterrevolutionaries and individuals with political problems have been discovered within the Party. It has also been found that some Party members concealed their past histories, experiences, and other problems from the Party. In order to strengthen Party discipline and consolidate the Party’s organization, it is necessary to adopt an attitude that is both serious and cautious. Differences must be made according to the nature of the problems, the degree of right and wrong, and the relative gravity of the cases, as well as the individuals’ degree of loyalty and candour toward the Party and their consistent record of conduct. After investigation, examination, and verification, the cases shall be dealt with separately.

Such disciplinary measures should be implemented only after the campaign of confession and disclosure has been completed in each locality, rather than during the campaign or at its outset, so as not to interfere with the campaign. The following measures are hereby stipulated:

1. Anyone who concealed having joined a secret-service organization or engaged in secret-service activities shall, once the facts have been verified, be expelled from the Party without exception. Those who have blood debts or are currently engaged in such activities shall be dealt with by the public security departments in accordance with the law.

However, if someone was formerly compelled to join an ordinary secret-service organization, held no position in it, and engaged in no reactionary activities, but subsequently made ideological progress, concealed this history, and joined our Party, and now voluntarily and sincerely confesses to the Party and gives a full account of the facts, with investigation confirming that nothing else has been concealed, and whose consistent record of conduct demonstrates that they genuinely meet the requirements for Party membership, then retention of Party membership may be considered. Nevertheless, the error of concealing this history must be pointed out, and an appropriate Party disciplinary measure, such as a warning, must be imposed.

2. Anyone who concealed having formerly served as a responsible official at or above the district-branch level of a reactionary party or organization of the Communist Youth League; as a responsible official at any level of the Kuomintang government; as a military or political officer of field-grade rank or above in the Kuomintang armed forces; or as a leading member of a reactionary association or daomen (secret religious or sectarian organization), shall be expelled from the Party without exception. Those who have blood debts shall be dealt with by the public security organs in accordance with the law.

However, if the individual's past offences were not serious, if they subsequently made contributions to the people's cause, if they now voluntarily and sincerely confess to the Party, and if their consistent record of conduct demonstrates that they genuinely meet the requirements for Party membership, retention of Party membership may be considered. Nevertheless, the error of concealment must be pointed out, and an appropriate disciplinary measure, such as a warning, shall be imposed.

3. For ordinary members who concealed having joined reactionary party, youth league, association, or daomen organizations, or having served in the reactionary police or secret police, if they now voluntarily and sincerely confess to the Party, and investigation establishes that they have in fact severed their organizational and ideological ties with these organizations, the error of concealment shall be pointed out and their Party membership may be retained. An appropriate measure, such as a reprimand, should also be imposed.

However, if their conduct has consistently been poor, if they fail to confess honestly to the Party or their confession is incomplete, or if they attempt to continue deceiving the Party, they shall receive a more severe Party disciplinary punishment according to the gravity of their case, up to and including expulsion from the Party.

4. Individuals under investigation who are strongly suspected of secret-service activities or have other major political problems shall have their Party membership suspended pending investigation. If it is established that they have no such problems, their Party membership shall be restored.

Individuals who are generally suspected politically, as well as those with political or historical problems that have not yet been fully disclosed, or about whom insufficient information is available, may remain in the Party while being carefully observed and given ideological education. Those working in sensitive or strategically important departments shall be transferred to other duties.

5. Anyone who previously surrendered to the enemy or defected and concealed this from the Party shall be expelled from the Party without exception. However, if the individual has undergone a prolonged period of testing and rendered meritorious service, retention of Party membership or permission to rejoin the Party may be considered.

6. Any Communist Party member who shields counterrevolutionaries or conceals their criminal activities without reporting them to the Party shall receive a severe Party disciplinary punishment according to the gravity of the case, up to and including expulsion from the Party.

7. If a Communist Party member concealed corruption, dereliction of duty, or other conduct violating the laws and regulations of the People's Government, then, if the individual voluntarily confesses to the Party, the punishment may be reduced or waived depending on the gravity of the case.

However, if the offence is serious, has had a very damaging effect on the Party's reputation, and the individual's conduct has consistently been poor, Party disciplinary punishment shall be imposed, or the case shall be referred to the judicial authorities.

8. If a Communist Party member concealed their landlord class background, or concealed circumstances in which members of their family had been struggled against, detained, placed under control, or killed during the land reform or suppression of counterrevolutionaries campaigns, then, if the individual voluntarily and sincerely confesses to the Party, the error of concealment shall be

pointed out and no punishment need be imposed. Those working in sensitive or strategically important departments shall, where appropriate, be transferred to other duties.

However, if the information was exposed by someone else and the individual refuses to confess, or if the individual's political stance is unstable and their conduct is poor, Party disciplinary punishment shall be imposed according to the gravity of the case, up to and including expulsion from the Party.

9. For those who concealed ordinary, non-political problems relating to their past (such as their length of Party membership or military service, age, educational qualifications, occupation, personal experiences, or social relationships), punishment may generally be waived if they voluntarily make a full disclosure to the Party. Nevertheless, the error of concealment must be pointed out.

If the information was exposed by someone else, the individual has not been sufficiently honest in their attitude toward the Party, and their conduct has consistently been poor, Party disciplinary punishment shall be imposed according to the gravity of the case.

10. If a Party member has been disciplined for concealing political or historical problems, and the original disciplinary measure was correct, the member must give a detailed account of the circumstances of that punishment whenever completing a Party member or cadre registration form, regardless of whether the punishment was subsequently rescinded. This is necessary so that the organization can review the matter at any time. Failure to do so shall be treated as concealment of historical problems from the Party.

Party committees at all levels may not rescind this requirement. When announcing a disciplinary decision, they must clearly explain this provision to the Party member concerned.

The handling of the above-mentioned problems involving Party members must in every case be discussed and approved by a general meeting of the Party branch and then submitted to the higher-level Party committee for approval and implementation. Where disciplinary measures affecting Party membership are involved—including probation within the Party, suspension of Party membership, readmission to the Party, or expulsion from the Party—approval must be obtained from the Party committees two levels above the member's branch.

Where administrative measures are also required in addition to internal Party disciplinary action, such as transfer to another post or arrest, the matter shall be handled through the individual's administrative supervisory authority in accordance with the relevant regulations.

Source: Reprinted from the Organization Department of the CCP Central Committee, Selected Documents on Organizational Work (《组织工作文件选编》).