

## **Directive of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party on Eradicating the Prevalence of Narcotics**

**Date:** April 15, 1952

To: All Central Bureaus and Sub-Bureaus of the CCP Central Committee, for transmission to provincial, municipal, and district party committees; also notify all major military region party committees for transmission to provincial military regions and military unit party committees:

During the ongoing movement against corruption, waste, and bureaucratism, numerous criminal activities have been exposed in the railway, shipping, postal, public security, judicial, and tax departments, as well as in many regions. These activities involve a significant number of personnel from state organs who have either colluded with or sheltered unscrupulous merchants, drug traffickers, gangsters, or even counterrevolutionaries engaged in smuggling narcotics, precious metals, and contraband. Similar cases have also been discovered among military personnel. These crimes have inflicted alarming losses upon the nation and the people. This is a poisonous legacy of the old Chinese society. Although somewhat reduced in certain areas since the national liberation, the problem remains severe nationwide. To completely eliminate this malignant remnant of the old society, it is highly necessary to launch a focused, large-scale, and vigorous mass campaign to thoroughly eradicate it. Therefore, the following directives are issued:

### **1. Focus first on eradicating drug trafficking.**

Although drug trafficking, smuggling of precious metals, and contraband are often interlinked and frequently uncovered together, narcotics inflict the gravest harm to the nation and the people. Thus, this campaign must concentrate on suppressing drug trafficking. Cases that also involve smuggling of precious metals or contraband may be handled together. Cases unrelated to drugs should be dealt with according to existing government regulations. Drug criminals with counterrevolutionary intent should be treated as counterrevolutionaries.

### **2. Elimination of drug production, trafficking, and protection of drug offenders must rely on mass awareness and active participation.**

In regions currently conducting the “Three-anti” and “Five-anti” movements, attention should be given immediately to this issue. Designate personnel to organize and analyze existing materials, continue to investigate leads, and, in the case of major cases, set up dedicated investigation teams to uncover the full picture. Toward the end of the “Three-anti” and “Five-anti” campaigns, mobilize those teams within government offices and society to launch a focused movement to eliminate the spread of narcotics. Where these campaigns are wrapping up, government organs and the broader society may initiate anti-drug efforts either simultaneously or in sequence, ensuring coordinated action for best results. Except for the most serious cases requiring immediate arrest, currently exposed drug cases should be temporarily withheld from resolution and those arrested should not yet be sentenced, so as to handle them collectively when the anti-drug campaign officially begins and gain greater momentum.

### **3. Transportation networks such as railways and highways are key routes for drug smuggling;**

Departments such as public security, judiciary, and taxation are prime targets for infiltration and bribery by drug traffickers seeking protection;

Border control and customs are critical points for import and export of narcotics.

Thus, the campaign should prioritize these departments: railway, road and river transport, maritime shipping, postal service, customs, public security (including border defense), judiciary, and taxation. Under the leadership of local governments at all levels, serious and thorough efforts must be made

to eliminate all drug criminals. As for geographic focus, prioritize large and medium-sized cities, border regions, and historically narcotics-prone areas—especially areas of drug production, distribution hubs, and border crossing points. Each Central Bureau should determine its own key target regions.

#### **4. For offenders exposed or who confess during the campaign,**

adopt a policy combining strict punishment with reform and education:

Punish a minority severely, and reform and educate the majority. Specifically:

- Severe punishment for manufacturers and large-scale traffickers; leniency for small-scale, individual cases.
- Main culprits punished more heavily than accomplices.
- Repeat offenders punished more severely than first-time offenders.
- Those who refuse to confess treated more harshly than those who confess fully.
- Crimes committed after liberation treated more severely than those before.  
Focus should be placed on organized large-scale drug operations and seriously complicit state employees.

Those whose cases are not especially serious but who confess, show genuine remorse, or report other criminals should receive reduced or waived punishment.

**Note:** Pure drug users should not be the target of this campaign. Their numbers are too large to be handled in this campaign, and they should not be equated with drug manufacturers or traffickers. Moreover, if drug production and trafficking are thoroughly eliminated, drug use will naturally decline.

#### **5. As for drug cultivation,**

this problem currently mainly exists in remote ethnic minority areas and should be addressed gradually in future work.

In the interior regions, poppy cultivation must be banned and investigated. If it cannot be resolved in the current campaign, it should be handled separately afterward.

**Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party**

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