

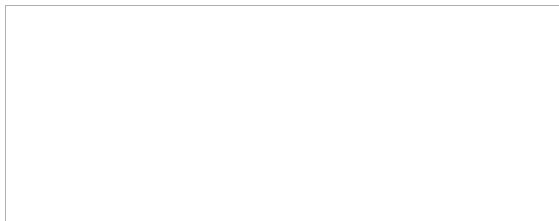
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From Landlords and Gentry to the  
People's Democratic Special Government

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 SECURITY INFORMATION

FROM LANDLORDS AND GENTRY TO THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC SPECIAL GOVERNMENT

Before the liberation, five out of six pao-chia chiefs in a suburban area around Peiping were landlords. The sixth was a good KMT henchman. The local police was all under the control of the landlords and lend support to all landlord schemes for mulcting the peasants. Not only were all taxes and levies passed down to the peasants but by means of false arrests on trumped up charges, the pao-chia chiefs levied heavy fines, the proceeds of which went into their own pockets. Wicked landlords required free labor of the people for their own construction purposes and even refused food to the workmen.

Naturally in the early days of the change-over from landlord rule to peasant rule, mistakes were made due to unfamiliarity with the new set-up and the difficulties the new cadres found in entirely breaking away from their attitude of subservience to the landlord class. At first the peasants' associations contained in their membership a number of undesirable elements. These were gradually weeded out and the peasants' control of affairs was strengthened.

Comrade Ch'en Po-ta has said that the old form of government was the 'oppression of the many by the few' while the new form is the 'oppression of the few by the many'. Lenin has said that a 'government by the few' was possible only by police oppression but that 'government by the many' is made possible by securing the confidence and the participation of the masses under condition of complete freedom without keeping any secret from them. This is the way it is with our new rural government; the people now take full part

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in the administration and nothing is hidden from them. Any errors of the cadres are immediately brought to light and corrected. Mao Tse-tung has directed that reactionaries are to be allowed no voice in political affairs; they are only to obey orders in an orderly manner. This is the program now being carried out in the rural areas. Mao said 23 years ago that a tornado would arise in all parts of China that no power could check and that all reactionary political institutions would be destroyed and buried out of sight. This prediction is now rapidly being fulfilled.

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