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**THE DRAFT PROGRAMME
FOR
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
IN THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
1956-1967**



Approved For Release 2007/10/19 : CIA-RDP83-00418R006200350015-8

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EDITOR'S NOTE

On January 25, 1956 Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the People's Republic of China, called a meeting of the Supreme State Conference to discuss the Draft National Programme for Agricultural Development (1956-1967) which had been submitted by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

In his address at the meeting Chairman Mao said that the country was at that moment witnessing the flood tide of the great socialist revolution. With the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese revolution had passed from the stage of bourgeois-democratic revolution to that of socialist revolution. In other words, it had started the period of transition from capitalism to socialism. The work of the first three of the past six years had been concentrated mainly on restoring the national economy and carrying out various social reforms — first and foremost land reform — left incomplete in the first stage of the revolution. Since last summer socialist transformation, that is, socialist revolution, had developed on a vast scale with far-reaching results. This socialist revolution, he said, could be completed in the main and on a national scale in about three more years.

The object of socialist revolution, said Chairman Mao, was to set free the productive forces of society. It was quite certain that the change-over from individual to socialist, collective ownership in agriculture and handicrafts, and from capitalist to socialist ownership in private industry and commerce would lead to an ever greater release of productive forces; this laid

the social basis for an enormous expansion of industrial and agricultural output.

Our method of carrying out the socialist revolution, continued Chairman Mao, was a peaceful one. In the past many people, both inside and outside the Communist Party, doubted if that was possible. But since the great upsurge of the co-operative movement in the countryside last summer, and the swelling tide of socialist transformation in the towns and cities in the past few months, there was no longer much room for doubt.

Conditions in China were such that it was not only possible, by using peaceful methods, methods of persuasion and education, to turn individual into socialist, collective ownership, but also to change capitalist into socialist ownership. The speed of socialist transformation in the past few months had been far more rapid than anyone expected. There were people who had worried that it would not be easy to get through the "difficult pass" to socialism. It now looked, said Chairman Mao, as if this "difficult pass" would not be so difficult to get through after all.

A fundamental change had taken place in the political situation in China, he went on. Up to last summer there had been many difficulties in agriculture, but things were quite different now. Many things that had seemed impracticable were now quite feasible. It was possible to fulfil ahead of time and overfulfil the country's First Five-Year Plan. Now this National Programme for Agricultural Development for 1956-1967, based on the realities of the great upsurge in socialist transformation and socialist construction, was intended to outline the prospects for agricultural production and rural work and set a clear-cut goal before China's peasants and all who work in agriculture. A spurt must be made in other kinds

of work besides agriculture to keep in step with the situation arising from this upsurge of socialist revolution.

In conclusion, Chairman Mao said that the nation must have a far-reaching, comprehensive plan of work for the next few decades to wipe out its economic, scientific and cultural backwardness and get abreast of the most advanced nations in the world. To reach this great goal the decisive thing was trained personnel—to have plenty of capable scientists and technicians. At the same time they had to go on strengthening and extending the people's democratic united front, by uniting all forces that could be united. The Chinese people would ally themselves with people anywhere in the world to work for the preservation of world peace.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung was followed by Liao Lu-yen, Deputy Head of the Department of Rural Work of the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee, who made a speech explaining the Draft National Programme for Agricultural Development (1956-1967).

Then representatives of science, education, industry and commerce and of the various democratic parties made speeches, all expressing their warm support of the Draft National Programme for Agricultural Development. Included in this pamphlet are the full text of the Draft National Programme for Agricultural Development (1956-1967) and the explanations on the programme given by Liao Lu-yen.

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**THE DRAFT NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
1956—1967**

**(Submitted by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee
of the Communist Party of China on January 23, 1956)**

The great tide of agricultural co-operation that has swept China is bringing forth an immense, nation-wide growth of agricultural production, and this in turn is stimulating the development of the whole national economy and all branches of science, culture, education and public health.

To give the leading Party and government bodies at all levels and the people of China, particularly the peasants, a long-term programme of agricultural development, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, after consulting comrades holding responsible positions on Party committees in the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, has drawn up a draft national programme outlining the scale of agricultural development during the period 1956-1967 (the last year of the third Five-Year Plan). On a certain number of related questions this draft programme also touches upon work in the urban areas. It sets a number of important targets for agricultural production. Others will be specified in each of the five-year plans and in the annual plans.

This draft is now distributed so that it can be studied by the Party committees of all provinces (municipalities or autonomous regions), administrative regions (autonomous *chou*), counties (autonomous counties), districts and *hsiang* (nationality *hsiang*),

as well as by all departments concerned, all of whom are asked to submit their views on it. At the same time workers, peasants, scientists and people from all walks of life who love their country should also be widely consulted. These views should be collected before April 1, 1956, so that the programme can be submitted for discussion and adoption by the seventh plenary session (enlarged) of the seventh Central Committee of the Communist Party of China which will be held some time after that date. It will then be presented to the state bodies and the people of the whole country, first and foremost the peasants, as a recommendation.

Except in some remote areas where democratic social reforms have not yet been introduced, every leading Party and government body of provinces (municipalities, autonomous regions), administrative regions (autonomous *chou*), counties (autonomous counties), districts and *hsiang* (nationality *hsiang*) should draw up specific plans, based on the present draft national programme and taking into account conditions peculiar to each locality. These plans should specify the successive stages of development of every aspect of their local work. At the same time all state departments concerned with economic affairs, with science, culture, education, public health, civic affairs or the judiciary should also review and revise their plans of work in accordance with the present national programme.

(1) Seeing that in 1955 more than 60 per cent of all peasant households were in agricultural producers' co-operatives, all provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions should, in the main, complete agricultural co-operation in its elementary form and set themselves the goal of getting about 85 per cent of all peasant households into agricultural producers' co-operatives in 1956.

(2) Areas where co-operation is on better foundations and where a number of co-operatives of advanced form are already functioning should, in the main, complete the change-over to co-operation of advanced form by 1957. Each district of the remaining areas should, in 1956, set up and run one or more large co-operatives of advanced form (each with a hundred or more peasant households) to serve as examples; and by 1958 they too should practically complete co-operation of advanced form.

In going forward to the advanced form of co-operation certain conditions must be observed: the change must be of the free will and choice of the members; the co-operative must have people capable of giving proper leadership; and it must be possible for over 90 per cent of the members to earn more after the change. When all such conditions in the elementary form of co-operatives are ripe, they should at different times, group by group, go over to the advanced form of co-operation, otherwise the growth of their productive forces will be hampered.

(3) Every agricultural producers' co-operative must make suitable arrangements to see that those of its members who lack manpower, are widows or widowers, who have no close relations to depend on, or who are disabled ex-service men, are given productive work and a livelihood, so that they have enough food, clothing and fuel, can bring up their children properly, and see that the dead are decently buried, so that they are assured of help during their lifetime and decent burial thereafter.

(4) During 1956 attempts should be made to settle the question of admitting to the co-operatives former landlords and rich peasants who have given up exploitation and who have asked to join. This can be done on the following lines: (a) Those who have

behaved well and worked well may be allowed to join co-operatives as members and change their status to that of peasants. (b) Those who have conducted themselves neither well nor badly, but have behaved fairly well, may be allowed to join as candidate members, with their status for the time being unchanged. (c) Those who have behaved badly the *Hsiang* People's Council should allow them to work in the co-operatives under supervision; those who have committed sabotage should be brought to trial as the law directs. (d) Whether they acquire the status of co-operative member or not, former landlords or rich peasants shall not, for a specified time after joining a co-operative, be allowed to hold any important post in it. (e) Co-operatives must work on the principle of equal pay for equal work, and pay former landlords or rich peasants in the co-operative the proper rate for the work they put in. (f) Sons and daughters of landlords or rich peasants who were under eighteen at the time of the land reform, or who were still at school, or who had taken part in work before the land reform and had been under the thumb of other members of the family, should not be treated as landlords or rich peasants, but should be allowed to join the co-operatives as members, be reckoned as of peasant status, and given work suited to their abilities.

(5) Counter-revolutionaries in the rural areas should be dealt with as follows: (a) Those who have committed sabotage or had committed other serious crimes in the past, and against whom there is great public feeling, should be put under arrest and dealt with in accordance with law. (b) Those who committed crimes which were commonplace in the past, but have not committed sabotage since liberation, and against whom public feeling is not great, should be

allowed by the *Hsiang* People's Council to work in the co-operative under supervision, to be reformed by work. (c) Those who have committed minor crimes and since made amends, those who have served their sentence, been released and behaved well, and those who committed crimes but did deserving work in the campaign to suppress counter-revolutionaries, may be allowed to join the co-operative—some as members, no longer regarded as counter-revolutionaries but as peasants, and others for the time being as candidate members, not classified as peasants—depending on what they have done to make amends and what merit they have earned. In no case, however, whether they are admitted as members or not, must they be allowed to take on important posts in the co-operative for a specified time after joining. (d) Such counter-revolutionaries as have been allowed to work in the co-operatives under supervision should be paid for their work by the co-operative on the principle of equal pay for equal work. (e) Other members of the families of counter-revolutionaries should be allowed to join co-operatives, and enjoy the same treatment as anyone else without being discriminated against, provided they took no part in crimes committed by the counter-revolutionaries.

(6) In the twelve years starting with 1956, in areas north of the Yellow River, the Tsinling Mountains, the River Pailung, and the Yellow River in Chinghai Province, the average annual yield of grain should be raised from the 1955 figure of over 150 catties to the *mou* to 400 catties.¹ South of the Yellow River and north of the Huai the yield should be raised from the 1955 figure of 208 catties to 500 catties. South of the Huai, the Tsinling Mountains and

¹One catty=1.1023 lb. One *mou*=0.1647 acre.

the River Pailung it should rise from the 1955 figure of 400 catties to 800 catties per *mou*.

In the same twelve years the average annual yield of ginned cotton should be raised from the 1955 figure of 35 catties to the *mou* (the average for the whole of China) to 60, 80 or 100 catties depending on local conditions.

Everywhere vigorous steps should be taken to see that output targets set in state plans for grain, cotton, soya, peanuts, rape, sesame, hemp, cured tobacco, silk, tea, sugar-cane, sugar-beet, fruit, tea-oil and tung-oil trees, are reached. Besides this, all areas must take more energetic measures to develop all other marketable industrial crops. In large mountainous areas vigorous efforts should be made to grow all possible marketable industrial crops, provided that they not only produce enough food to make themselves self-sufficient, but also to build up a surplus against times of natural calamities. In those parts of South China where conditions permit, vigorous efforts should be made to develop tropical crops.

Agricultural producers' co-operatives should encourage their members to grow vegetables on their own private plots by way of improving their standard of living. Peasants who live on the outskirts of cities or near industrial or mining districts should go in for market gardening in a planned way so that the supply of vegetables to these places can be ensured.

More medicinal herbs should be grown. Those which grow wild should be protected and, wherever possible, gradually brought under cultivation.

(7) All agricultural producers' co-operatives, besides producing enough food for their own consumption and to meet the requirements of the state, should, within 12 years starting from 1956, store enough

grain for emergency use for a year, a year and a half or two years, according to local conditions. All provinces (municipalities or autonomous regions), administrative regions (autonomous *chou*), counties (autonomous counties), districts, *hsiang* (nationality *hsiang*) and all agricultural producers' co-operatives, should draw up detailed plans to meet this requirement. During the same period, the state too should store sufficient reserve grain for one to two years for use in any emergency.

(8) Live-stock breeding should be encouraged. Cattle, horses, donkeys, mules, camels, pigs, sheep and all kinds of poultry should be protected and bred. Special care should be taken to protect the females and young and improve breeds. State live-stock farms should be extended.

The prevention and cure of animal diseases is an important part of live-stock breeding. As far as possible, all areas should, within a period varying from 7 to 12 years, practically eliminate the most serious animal diseases such as rinderpest, hog cholera, Newcastle disease, pork measles (cysticercosis), contagious pleuro-pneumonia of cattle, foot and mouth disease, lamb dysentery, sheep mange, and glanders. For this purpose, within seven years starting from 1956, veterinary stations should be set up in all counties in agricultural areas and all districts in pasture areas. Veterinary work should be improved and extended. The co-operatives should have personnel with basic training in the prevention and cure of animal diseases.

Care should be taken to protect pastures, improve and grow grass for cattle fodder and encourage silage. Agricultural producers' co-operatives and live-stock breeding co-operatives should see that they have their own supplies of fodder and grass.

(9) There are two main ways of increasing the

yield of crops: taking steps to increase production, and imparting better techniques.

(A) The chief steps to increase production are: (a) water conservancy projects and water and soil conservation; (b) use of improved farm tools, and gradual introduction of mechanized farming; (c) efforts to discover every possible source of manure and improve methods of fertilizing; (d) extension of the use of the best and most suitable strains; (e) soil improvement; (f) extension of multiple cropping areas; (g) planting more high-yielding crops; (h) improving farming methods; (i) wiping out insect pests and plant diseases; and (j) opening up virgin and idle land and extending cultivated areas.

(B) The chief steps to impart better techniques include the following: (a) provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions should collect data on the experience of the best co-operatives in their own areas in increasing yields, compile and publish at least one book a year, so as to spread this knowledge as widely and rapidly as possible; (b) agricultural exhibitions; (c) conferences of model peasants called at regular intervals by provinces (municipalities or autonomous regions), administrative regions (autonomous *chou*), counties (autonomous counties), districts, *hsiang* (nationality *hsiang*), with awards and citations to peasants who distinguish themselves in increasing production; (d) visits and emulation campaigns, the exchange of experience; and (e) imparting technical knowledge and encouraging peasants and cadres to take an active part in learning better techniques.

(10) Water conservancy projects and water and soil conservation. All small-scale water conservancy projects (for example, the digging of wells and ponds and the building of irrigation canals and dams), the harnessing of small rivers and water and soil

conservation work should be carried out by local governments and agricultural producers' co-operatives systematically and on a large scale. This work and the large-scale water conservancy projects and the harnessing of the larger rivers undertaken by the state should virtually eliminate all ordinary floods and droughts in 7 to 12 years, starting from 1956. The engineering industry, commercial undertakings and supply and marketing co-operatives should see that pumps, water-wheels, steam engines and other devices for raising water are made available.

Local governments and agricultural producers' co-operatives, basing their work on the unified plan for developing the economy of the mountainous areas, should wherever possible carry out the water and soil conservation work required by agricultural production, live-stock breeding and forestry, so that within 12 years striking results are achieved and soil erosion is, in the main, stopped.

Within twelve years starting from 1956 small hydro-electric power stations should be built where water power is available, each of them to serve one or several *hsiang*. This, alongside the great water conservancy and power projects undertaken by the state, will gradually bring electrification to the countryside.

(11) Promote new types of farm tools. Starting from 1956, within three to five years 6 million more ploughs with two wheels and two shares should be in use, together with a considerable number of sowers, cultivators, sprayers, dusters, harvesters, shellers and silage cutters. Good repair services should be maintained. Agriculture will be gradually mechanized as the industrial development of the country forges ahead.

(12) Within twelve years, starting from 1956, local governments and agricultural producers' co-

operatives in most areas should have made themselves responsible for providing more than 90 per cent of all manure and other fertilizers needed—and in some places the whole of it. To work towards this position, peasants everywhere should be encouraged to do everything they possibly can to increase the amount of fertilizer, paying special attention to pig-breeding (and in some cases sheep-breeding), and providing adequate green manure crops. Local governments should take active steps to develop the manufacture of phosphate and potassium fertilizers, extend the use of bacterial fertilizer (including soya bean and peanut root nodule bacteria), and collect and utilize to the fullest extent urban waste and manure from other miscellaneous sources. At the same time the state will vigorously promote the chemical fertilizer industry.

(13) Energetic steps must be taken to breed and extend the use of improved strains suitable to local conditions and encourage work to improve seed. Within two or three years starting from 1956 picked seed should be in pretty general use for cotton growing, and within seven to twelve years the same should be true of such important crops as rice, wheat, maize, soya, millet, *kaoliang*, potatoes, rape, sesame, sugarcane, tobacco and hemp. All agricultural producers' co-operatives should set aside land specially for growing seed as such. State farms should make themselves centres for increasing the amount of picked seed.

(14) Agricultural producers' co-operatives should take energetic steps to improve the soil and do everything they can to turn poor into fertile land.

(15) Extend the area of multiple crops. In twelve years starting with 1956 the average multiple crop index set for various areas will be raised to the

following levels: (a) areas south of Wuling Mountains, 230 per cent; (b) areas north of Wuling Mountains and south of the Yangtse River, 200 per cent; (c) areas north of the Yangtse River and south of the Yellow River, Tsinling Mountains and River Pailung, 160 per cent; (d) areas north of the Yellow River, Tsinling Mountains and River Pailung and south of the Great Wall, 120 per cent; and (e) in areas north of the Great Wall, multiple crop areas should also be expanded as much as possible.

(16) More high-yield crops should be grown. First, the area under rice should be extended, and all available water resources used to grow more. In the twelve years starting 1956 the area under rice should be increased by 310 million *mou*, maize by 150 million *mou* and potatoes by 100 million *mou*.

(17) Methods of cultivation should be improved. Deep ploughing, careful cultivation, proper rotation of crops, intercropping and close planting, sowing in good time, thinning out and protecting young plants and improving field work—these things must be done to bring about good yields and good harvests.

(18) In seven or twelve years starting 1956, wherever possible, virtually wipe out insect pests and plant diseases that do most harm to crops. These include locusts, armyworms, rice borers, maize borers, aphides, red spiders, pink boll-worms, wheat smut, wheat nematode and black rot on sweet potato. Local plans should include any other serious insect pests and plant diseases that can be wiped out. Greater attention should be paid to plant protection and quarantine measures to achieve this end.

(19) The state should reclaim waste land in a planned way and extend the area under cultivation. Wherever conditions permit, agricultural producers' co-operatives should be encouraged to organize branch

co-operatives to carry out such reclamation. The work should be linked with the general plan of water and soil conservation so as to prevent any danger of water loss and soil erosion.

(20) Expansion of state farms. The area cultivated by state farms should be increased in the twelve years starting 1956 from the 1955 figure of 13,360,000 *mou* to 140 million *mou*. Vigorous work must be put in to improve the running of state farms, to raise their output, practise the strictest economy and cut down cost of production, so that state farms are the models of farming technique and management which they are expected to be.

(21) In the twelve years starting 1956 we must clothe every possible bit of denuded waste land and mountains with greenery. Wherever possible trees should be planted in a systematic way near houses, villages, along roads and rivers, as well as on waste land and mountains. To achieve that end, agricultural producers' co-operatives should set up decent-sized nurseries of their own to grow saplings, in addition to the nurseries started by the state.

We should plant and tend not only forests (including bamboo groves) for timber, but also other trees of economic value such as mulberry and oak (for feeding silkworms), and tea-trees, trees for varnish and fruit, and oil-yielding groves.

Afforestation plans should include the creation of wind-breaks, sand-breaks and shelter belts to protect farmland, the head-waters of rivers, sea coasts and cities.

Local agricultural producers' co-operatives should plant and look after trees along railways, roads and rivers, and the income derived from this source should accrue to the co-operatives. Afforestation work along railways and roads should tally with specifications

made by the government departments concerned with railways and communications.

Firm steps should be taken to prevent insect pests and plant diseases in forests, and to improve measures to protect forests and combat forest fires.

(22) Energetic steps should be taken to raise the output of marine products and develop fresh-water fisheries. In the case of sea fishing, more safety measures should be adopted and more deep-sea fishing done. In the case of fresh-water fish farming more should be done to breed good stock and prevent fish diseases.

(23) If agriculture, forestry, live-stock breeding, subsidiary rural production, and fisheries are to develop to the full, if the national wealth and the income of the peasants are to grow, co-operatives must make fuller use of manpower and raise labour productivity. In the seven years beginning with 1956, every able-bodied man in the countryside ought to be able to put in at least 250 working days a year. Serious efforts should be made to draw women into the work of agricultural and subsidiary production. Within seven years, every able-bodied woman in the countryside should, besides the time she spends on household work, be able to give at least 120 working days a year to productive work. In addition, all those in the countryside who can contribute only "half manpower" or who are fitted only for light work should be encouraged to do well at whatever work they are fit for and suited to. At the same time energetic efforts should be made to improve technical skills, to improve labour organization and management, and so steadily raise the labour productivity of all members of co-operatives.

(24) Agricultural producers' co-operatives should work on the maxim "industry and thrift" in all they

do. Industry means giving full encouragement to members to work conscientiously, to branch out into new fields of production, to develop a many-sided economy and to exercise minute care over everything. Thrift means being strictly economical, lowering the cost of production and opposing extravagance and waste. In all capital construction plans co-operatives should make the fullest use of their own manpower and the material and capital at their disposal.

(25) Improve housing conditions. As production by the co-operatives grows and the income of their members increases, agricultural producers' co-operatives should encourage and assist members to repair or build houses for their families and thus improve their housing conditions. This should be done in a prepared, planned way, at different times and group by group, taking needs and possibilities into account, and on a voluntary and economical basis, for it will help them with their work, their political and cultural activity, and improve their health conditions.

(26) In seven or twelve years from 1956 determined efforts should be made to virtually wipe out wherever possible all diseases from which the people suffer most seriously, such as schistosomiasis, filariasis, hookworm, kala-azar, encephalitis, bubonic plague, malaria, smallpox and venereal diseases. Energetic steps should be taken to prevent and cure other diseases such as measles, dysentery, typhoid fever, diphtheria, trachoma, pulmonary tuberculosis, leprosy, goitre and Kaschin-Beck's disease.

To this end every effort should be made to train medical workers and gradually set up health and medical services in counties and districts, and clinics in villages.

(27) Wipe out the "four evils." In five, seven or twelve years beginning 1956 we should practically

wipe out the "four evils"—rats, sparrows, flies and mosquitoes—wherever possible.

(28) We should improve our research in agricultural science, provide better technical guidance for agriculture and train in a planned way large numbers of people to handle the technical side of agriculture. A systematic effort is needed to start, improve and extend bodies undertaking research in agricultural science and those providing technical guidance. These bodies include colleges of agricultural science, regional and other specialized institutes of agricultural science, provincial agricultural experimental stations, model county breeding farms, and district agricultural instruction centres. In this way agricultural research and technical guidance will be of better service to developing agriculture. In the twelve years from 1956 agricultural departments at all levels should, to meet the needs of co-operative economy, between them be responsible for training five to six million experts of primary and intermediate grades for technical work in agriculture, forestry, water conservancy, live-stock breeding, veterinary work, farm management and accounting for agricultural producers' co-operatives.

(29) In five or seven years from 1956, dependent on the situation locally, we must virtually wipe out illiteracy. The minimum standard of literacy must be 1,500 characters. In every *hsiang* we should have spare-time schools to raise the educational standard of our cadres and the peasants. In the next seven or twelve years, again depending on the local situation, we should extend to all rural areas compulsory elementary education. Primary schools in the countryside should mostly be run by agricultural producers' co-operatives. In seven or twelve years, too, we should establish in the rural areas a

wide network of film projection teams, clubs, institutes, libraries, amateur dramatic groups and other bodies for education and recreation. In the next seven to twelve years, every *hsiang* should have a sports field and sport should be a common sight in the countryside.

(30) Starting from 1956 we shall, in the next seven to twelve years, depending on local circumstances, extend the radio diffusion network to all rural areas. All *hsiang* and all large producers' co-operatives in agriculture, forestry, fishery, live-stock breeding, salt producing and handicrafts are called on to install either rediffusion loudspeakers or wireless sets proper.

(31) In seven to twelve years from 1956, varying with local circumstances, all *hsiang* and large co-operatives should have a telephone service. Radio telephone-telegraph equipment should be installed wherever it is needed. Inside seven years all villages are to be provided with a decent post and telegraphic service and a proper distribution of newspapers and periodicals.

(32) In a matter of five, seven or twelve years, starting from 1956, depending on differing local conditions, the whole countryside must be provided with networks of roads. All roads between one province (municipality or autonomous region) and another, between administrative regions (autonomous *chou*), counties (autonomous counties), districts and *hsiang* (nationality *hsiang*), must be built to specifications laid down by government departments concerned with communications. All roads must be constantly and carefully kept up.

In places served by water-ways, navigable channels should be dredged and kept in good order under whatever conditions are possible to improve communications.

(33) In seven to twelve years from 1956, de-

pending on local circumstances, a network of hydrographical and meteorological stations and posts should be in the main completed so as to improve the work of providing agriculture with reliable weather and meteorological forecasts. All areas should pay attention to such forecasts so that they can ward off such calamities as flood, drought, gale and frost.

(34) In the main, co-operation among handicraftsmen and salt producers, the fishing and water-side population, should be complete in 1957. Plans should be drawn up to extend co-operation in livestock farming in the light of local conditions.

(35) Commercial bodies and supply and marketing co-operatives in rural areas should complete the reorganization of their buying and selling machinery in 1957, improve planning for the circulation of goods and ensure that all rural areas are given good service in the supply of goods and the purchase of agricultural produce.

(36) In 1957 there must be a rural credit co-operative in practically every *hsiang* to provide credit and encourage saving.

(37) Protection of women and children. The principle of equal pay for equal work must be rigidly adhered to wherever women do productive work. During busy times of the year on the farms agricultural producers' co-operatives should run crèches. When work is given out the health and physique of women members must be taken into consideration.

Organizations concerned with health should train midwives for the rural areas, do all they can to see that modern methods of delivering babies are used, provide post-natal care and take steps to cut down the incidence of maternal diseases and the infant mortality rate.

As co-operation in agriculture goes from strength

to strength and as production rises and the peasants begin to live better, suitable regulations and restrictions should be made in regard to the employment of children in auxiliary work, with consideration to their age and strength.

(38) Young people in the country should be given every encouragement to show initiative in their work, to study and acquire scientific knowledge and skill. The young people in the rural areas should become the spearhead, the shock force in productive, scientific and cultural work in the countryside.

(39) Starting from 1956, in the next five to seven years steps should be taken in the light of local conditions to wipe out unemployment in the cities and provide work for all urban unemployed. The unemployed can find work not only in the cities but also on the outskirts of towns and cities, in the countryside proper, in areas where land reclamation is going on or in mountainous regions, in agriculture, forestry, live-stock breeding, subsidiary occupations, fishing, or in the fields of science, culture, education and health in the rural areas.

(40) Workers in the cities and peasants in the co-operatives must give each other every support. The workers must turn out more and better industrial goods which the peasants need, and the peasants must grow more and better grain and industrial raw materials which industry and town-dwellers need. Besides this, workers in the cities and peasants in the co-operatives should arrange get-togethers, visit one another, and write to each other. They should keep in constant touch, give each other encouragement and swap experience so as to promote the development of industry and agriculture and help consolidate the alliance between the workers and the peasantry led by the working class.

**SOME EXPLANATIONS ON THE DRAFT
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DEVELOPMENT (1956-1967)**

LIAO LU-YEN

Chairman, Comrades and Friends:

The Draft National Programme for Agricultural Development in 1956-1967 put forward by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China elaborates and carries forward the earlier "seventeen-point" programme. On various occasions in November 1955, Chairman Mao Tse-tung exchanged views on the development of our agriculture with the secretaries of 14 provincial Party committees and the secretary of the Party Committee of the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region. The "seventeen points" were decided on as a result of these consultations. In January 1956, after further consultations with responsible comrades from various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, Chairman Mao Tse-tung expanded these 17 points into 40 to make the first draft of this programme. In the past few days, the Central Committee of the Party has invited 1,375 people gathered in Peking, including scientists working in industry, agriculture, medicine, public health and the social sciences, leading members of the democratic parties and people's organizations, and workers in the fields of education and culture, to group discussions of this draft. Some good points raised in these discussions were adopted and the necessary revisions made in the draft. Other useful points also emerged during the discussions. They will not be ignored; they will be taken up and dealt with later on in our practical work,

but they were not considered suitable for inclusion in the programme.

The revised version of this draft programme, adopted by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on January 23, is now being submitted to the Supreme State Conference for discussion. As I am working in the Ministry of Agriculture and am also in the Department of Rural Work of the Central Committee of the Party, the Central Committee of the Party has delegated me to explain some points in this draft.

The following are a few points that I would like to make.

First, the Draft National Programme for Agricultural Development in 1956-1967 is put forward at a time when the agricultural co-operative movement is on the upsurge throughout the country.

The situation in our country has changed radically as a result of Chairman Mao Tse-tung's report, "The Question of Agricultural Co-operation," delivered last July, and the decisions adopted on the basis of this report in the following October by the sixth plenary session (enlarged) of the seventh Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. Let us recall how things were in the first half of 1955. At that time, as a result of the influence of rightist conservative ideas, particularly in agricultural co-operation, the socialist transformation of agriculture had been brought to a standstill; in some cases the trend was even reversed; the spirit of progress was being suppressed in the countryside, the spirit of reaction was in the ascendant; the socialist initiative shown by the peasants was checked and capitalist ideas began to gain ground; the planned purchase and supply of grain, a socialist measure of paramount importance, came up against opposition from the forces of capital-

ism both in town and countryside. At that time, not a few people were worried because the growth of agriculture lagged behind the needs of industry; some even became sceptical of the policy of socialist industrialization of our country. At that time, although we never lost faith, although we were quite convinced that the disequilibrium between industrial and agricultural development would certainly be corrected, we had not yet mastered the most effective way to deal with this problem; we were not able to rid these people of their worries.

But now things are different. Since the Central Committee of the Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung grasped the key to the situation, that is, agricultural co-operation, and correctly tackled this problem, the second half of 1955 saw a radical change in the situation. There was an unprecedented upsurge of socialist initiative among the overwhelming majority of the peasants; a few well-off peasants, rich peasants and former landlords were the only exceptions. The tide of socialist revolution rose throughout the countryside. In a few brief months in the second half of 1955, the number of peasant households which joined agricultural producers' co-operatives increased from 16,900,000 to 70 million—that is, from 14 per cent to over 60 per cent of all peasant households. In some provinces and rural areas under municipal authorities, practically all peasant households have taken up co-operative farming in its elementary form. At the present time, more and more peasant households are joining co-operatives, and the percentage is still rising. It is estimated that before the spring ploughing this year, except for certain provinces and autonomous regions, all provinces and municipalities will have completed ahead of time the task set in Point One of the Draft National Pro-

gramme for Agricultural Development. In other words, the plan for agricultural co-operation in its elementary form will be completed ahead of time.

In areas where agricultural co-operation has a fairly sound foundation, the growth of co-operatives from the elementary to the advanced form (collective farms—*Ed.*), the transition from a semi-socialist to a socialist stage, has taken on the character of a mass movement. In other areas, actual steps are being taken to set up collective farms. Liaoning Province now has 4,655 collective farms with more than 1,600,000 peasant households in them; this is 60 per cent of all peasant households in that province. In the Sinsiang Special Administrative Region in Honan Province, the switch to collective farms has been virtually completed. And there are a great number of whole counties, districts and *hsiang* where co-operative farming has reached this higher stage. It is estimated that before the spring ploughing this year, one-third of the total number of peasant households in the country will be in collective farms. If all agricultural producers' co-operatives raise their output this year, it is very likely that the task set in Point Two of the Draft National Programme for Agricultural Development will be realized ahead of time, that is, the drive for advanced co-operative farming will be completed in the main by 1957 or 1958, depending on local conditions.

In the past six months, the number of agricultural producers' co-operatives has been growing, and growing rapidly. Are they well founded? Judging from the facts, most of them are. With this swift flowing tide of socialist revolution, there is no longer any question of cadres urging the masses to join co-ops; quite the contrary: plans for promotion of co-operative farming made by leading bodies at every level have been outstripped again and again by the eager-

ness of the masses to join co-ops. The bulk of co-op members are in fact already turning their eyes to socialism; they are concentrating their efforts on increasing both agricultural output and subsidiary production. There is a great deal less thinking about narrow personal gains and losses. At the same time, now that the co-operatives have gained experience and the Model Draft Regulations for the Agricultural Producers' Co-operative have been published, all the many concrete problems which crop up and concern the economic interests of co-operative members are being handled more carefully and in a more reasonable way. Generally speaking, relations between poor and middle peasants in the co-operatives are now normal and healthy. The essential thing—and the most important of all—is that all the agricultural producers' co-operatives have made or are making plans to increase production, while the peasants are showing the greatest keenness in their work. In 1955, there was a record harvest; grain output was more than 20 per cent higher than in the peak pre-liberation year; cotton output was 70 per cent higher. Ploughing and planting in the autumn and winter of 1955 have been done more satisfactorily than in any previous year. In many places, autumn and winter drought has been mastered and the plan for sowing winter wheat fulfilled and overfulfilled. The peasants are now busy with their winter tasks and preparing for the spring ploughing. Many jobs which in the past were left undone until the spring are now done early in the winter.

I myself am a native of Nanking. I was down there at the beginning of this month, and saw groups of peasants on its outskirts busy at work: even in cold weather like this, some were ploughing the land, some were working on water conservancy projects,

some were stocking up manure. This is something that one rarely saw in the past. And now it is happening not only in the south but in the north as well, according to what comrades from other places tell me. This is something new, but it has become a commonplace throughout the country. During the past few years, we kept on telling the peasants that the saying: "The plan for the year must be made in the spring" was not true. We said: "The plan for the year must be made in the winter," that is, in the winter of the previous year. Not very many listened to us. But today this new slogan has actually been put into practice by the agricultural producers' co-operatives and the peasant masses. There is a drain on supplies of bean-cake, chemical fertilizers, water-wheels, double-wheeled and double-shared ploughs and other new farm tools. This well illustrates how keen the peasants are at work and what initiative they are putting into increasing production.

True enough, in the past six months, agricultural producers' co-operatives have been set up in great numbers, very swiftly, and they are working well. This nation-wide upsurge in agricultural co-operation is resulting in an upsurge of agricultural production throughout the country. This National Programme for Agricultural Development is put forward precisely because at this time agricultural co-operation and production is rising to a new height. It is timely and fully conforms with the needs of the present situation.

Secondly, the National Programme for Agricultural Development (1956-1967) has been drawn up mainly for the peasants and we must rely mainly on the strength of the peasants for its realization. This programme shows the peasants in detail how to carry out the socialist transformation of agriculture and what is the aim of this long-term struggle for the

development of agriculture. It also gives a picture of the prosperous and happy future of the Chinese countryside.

The peasants who have gone in for co-operation—the peasants who are working hard to build their own happy socialist life—urgently need a well defined goal for their long-term struggle. Without this it is difficult for the agricultural producers' co-operatives to work out comprehensive plans.

The peasants not only need a goal for their long-term struggle to develop production: they have also put forward a list of demands concerning their material and cultural life. After raising output, increasing their incomes and being able to eat and dress well, they want to repair their old houses and build new ones, to improve their living conditions, learn to read and write, to raise their general cultural level; wipe out disease and improve sanitary conditions, so as to "have healthy people and abundant wealth." Such a list of things making for improvements in the material and cultural life of the peasants in line with the rising level of their production is just as it should be. We should try to realize these hopes sooner.

As Stalin pointed out, the basic economic law of socialist development is to continuously develop production so as to satisfy the growing needs of the people as the level of their material and cultural life rises. The National Programme for Agricultural Development put forward by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, the core of which is the development of agricultural co-operation and production, outlines plans to satisfy the peasants' demands for a better material and cultural life. For this reason, publication of the draft will exert a powerful influence on the peasants; it will call on and mobilize them for action; it will give fresh impetus to the

upsurge of agricultural co-operation and production. When the "17 points" drawn up in November 1955 by Chairman Mao together with the responsible comrades of various local Party committees were spread through the countryside, they played an important part in rallying the peasants for action. Many peasants in many places exclaimed: "Now we can see what socialism is!" Judging from this we may safely predict that the 40 points of this draft will play an even greater part in encouraging the 500 million peasants of China to march bravely forward along the road of socialism.

Realization of this programme depends mainly upon the peasants themselves, upon their manpower and their material and financial resources. The tasks set in this programme include: the promotion of agricultural co-operation, an increase in agricultural output and a number of measures to increase production, extend afforestation and clothe barren lands with greenery, the developing of animal husbandry, fishing and handicrafts, the wiping out of illiteracy, establishment of primary schools, increasing the number of broadcasting and receiving sets, the promotion of cultural, recreational and athletic activities and of health work in the countryside, the improvement of housing, and provision of work for the urban unemployed. Apart from a few of these things which will be done by the state or by the peasants with the assistance of the state, all the rest will be done by the peasants themselves.

Are the peasants capable of handling these tasks? Of course they are. They have a huge amount of manpower. And how about their material and financial resources? Suffice it to say that the value of the grain and cotton they produced in 1955 over and above their output in 1954 was double the amount the gov-

ernment budgeted in 1955 as expenditure on agriculture, forestry and water conservancy. Furthermore, their output is expected to increase every year from now on. That is, their material and financial resources will also increase steadily year by year. So we can be quite positive in stating that the peasants are quite capable of carrying out this programme.

Of course the state should give the peasants all possible financial, economic and technical assistance. But it cannot spend too much on these things, especially in the next few years. Too much dependence on the state, the habit of looking to it for all kinds of investments would place too great a strain on its financial resources and would delay or indefinitely postpone the doing of these things. Furthermore, if the state spent too much money in this way, it would have to reduce its investment in industry, and that would mean retarding the progress of our socialist industrialization. The postponement or abandonment of things which can be done mainly by the peasants themselves, or retardation of industrialization of our country, would neither serve the interests of our socialist construction, nor of our people as a whole, nor of the peasants.

As this programme is mainly for the peasants and will be carried out mainly by the peasants themselves, it should be a convincing document for mobilizing them for action. It should, therefore, be written in a clear and concise style easily understood by the peasants. During the many discussions some comrades suggested additional points for inclusion. Some concerned work which would be carried out entirely by the state, some had only a slight bearing on the development of the countryside and of agriculture, or no direct connection at all, while others concerned only methods of work or execution. We did try to incorporate these

suggestions in the programme, but we found that including them would have made it too long, too complex, too loaded with detail, and this would have tended to weaken its power of getting the peasants on the move. That is why they have not been included. In these many discussions proposals were also made to include the following items in the programme: output targets for various agricultural crops; targets for stock breeding, fishing, forestry and irrigation; targets for the number of tractors and the amount of chemical fertilizers to be produced and so forth. Such targets were actually incorporated in the programme. But they were later deleted because it is better to set these targets after thorough study as part of the various five-year plans and annual plans of the state. In this way it is possible to address the programme to the broad mass of the peasants specifically, to give them a clear idea of the aim of their long-term struggle, and the various things they should do to realize this aim. This makes it a more effective instrument in mobilizing the broad mass of peasants for action.

This doesn't mean, of course, that realization of this programme is an affair for the peasants alone. On the contrary, many points in the programme must be jointly carried out by town and country. Many government bodies will have to work hard to complete work set out in the programme and essential to its realization. Every single department concerned with agriculture must do its work well. But this is not all. Machine-building departments, too, must fulfil the state plan, and produce and supply the peasants with new-type farm implements such as double-wheeled and double-shared ploughs, pumps and other water raising equipment, and agricultural machinery such as tractors. The chemical industry should fulfil, and overfulfil, its task of producing chemical fertilizers.

Commercial enterprises and supply and marketing co-operatives should do a good job in purchasing agricultural and subsidiary products and supplying the peasants with the things they need, whether these are capital or consumer goods. Communications and transport departments should work hard to build up local road networks throughout the country, and telephone and postal services in the countryside. Scientific, cultural, educational and health departments should all work hard to fulfil the tasks set them in the programme. In short, as the programme itself declares in its very first sentence: "The great tide of agricultural co-operation that has swept China is bringing forth an immense, nation-wide growth of agricultural production, and this in turn is stimulating the development of the whole national economy and all branches of science, culture, education and public health."

Leading Party organs and government bodies at all levels in the country "should draw up specific plans, based on the present draft National Programme and taking into account conditions peculiar to each locality. These plans should specify the successive stages of development of every aspect of their local work. At the same time all state departments concerned with economic affairs, with science, culture, education, public health, civic affairs or the judiciary should also review and revise their plans of work in accordance with the present National Programme."

Workers and intellectuals must also be mobilized to give the peasants whatever assistance is needed in carrying out this National Programme for Agricultural Development. Many things listed in the programme—such as new farm implements, tractors, telephone sets, broadcasting and receiving equipment, medicines and medical apparatus—are made by the workers. The

peasants have to depend on help from intellectuals and scientists to carry out many of the tasks set out in the programme—both measures connected with increasing production and cultural, educational and health work. Unless the workers and intellectuals are mobilized to give this aid this programme cannot be realized.

So, although this programme is mainly for the peasants and depends for realization upon their manpower, material and financial resources, it is also for the whole nation. Its realization also depends on whole-hearted co-operation by the people of the entire nation, upon mobilization of all the workers, peasants, intellectuals, and patriotic people in every walk of life.

This draft programme with its 40 points will remain in the form of a draft for the next few months. Workers, peasants, intellectuals and patriotic people in every sphere of work throughout the land are asked to discuss it and give their opinions.

Thirdly, the tasks put forward in the National Programme for Agricultural Development (1956-1967) are forward-looking and feasible. The prerequisites and conditions for their fulfilment exist; they can be completed ahead of time or overfulfilled.

The keynote of the programme is to raise agricultural output swiftly, to produce things in large quantities, to develop agriculture, forestry, cattle-breeding, subsidiary occupations, fishing and other productive activities on the basis of co-operation. Special emphasis is put on raising within twelve years the average yield of grain per *mou* in three different regions from 150, 208 and 400 catties in 1955 to 400, 500, 800 catties respectively; on raising the average yield of cotton per *mou* from the national average of 35 catties of ginned cotton in 1955 to 60, 80 and 100

catties respectively depending on local conditions. These new standards will give China over two and a half times as much grain and three times as much cotton in 1967 as in 1955. If these central targets are reached, there is no doubt that, in keeping with the development of production, we can bring about the improvements in the peasants' material and cultural life set forth in the National Programme for Agricultural Development.

The responsible comrades in the localities are full of confidence and working with great zeal to reach the targets set for increased yields. Some provinces have reported that they can reach these targets ahead of time. When the original seventeen points were relayed to the countryside, the broad mass of peasants were similarly filled with confidence and enthusiasm in fulfilling the targets for increased production.

What are these prerequisites and conditions which ensure these increased yields? The most important is the fact that China has a huge population, a vast amount of labour power, a pretty good climate, and that there are vast potentialities in using labour power and land to increase production. By the time co-operative farming, especially socialist co-operative farming, is the rule everywhere, a system of collective ownership and the principle of "to each according to his work" will replace the system of private ownership of means of production. This will free the productive forces. This will foster an astonishing development of the initiative and creativeness of the broad mass of peasants in their work; it will permit us to use the available labour force more rationally and more effectively, to greatly improve the utilization of labour power and labour productivity in general, and enable us to make fuller and more reasonable use of land, draught animals and farm tools.

Co-operative farming by pooling the land wipes out borders and unnecessary paths between fields and so brings more land under cultivation. (Statistics show that this can bring 5 per cent more land under cultivation, that is to say, add another 80 million *mou* to the country's arable land.)

Co-operative farming makes it possible to carry out water conservancy projects, water and soil conservation, and land and soil improvement on a large scale. Co-operative farming makes it possible to transform arid land into irrigated fields, and barren and waste land into fertile soil.

Co-operative farming makes it possible to use to the full the abilities of all men and women—those who are able-bodied, those who are not fully able-bodied, and those who can do light tasks—enabling them all to engage in many fields of work to help develop production in agriculture, forestry, cattle-breeding, subsidiary occupations and fishing.

Co-operative farming makes it possible to have a single management for the farm, to cultivate crops best suited to the various types of soil, to put more labour power into improving the land, to improve methods of cultivation by deep ploughing and careful weeding, better techniques of sowing and planting; to improve the organization of field work and increase yields per *mou*.

In short, co-operative farming will develop potentialities for increasing production as never before, make it possible to do things on a bigger scale, and have more strings to our bows in doing jobs and to get more careful cultivation, all of which will greatly increase agricultural output, the wealth of society and the income of co-operative members. The reality of all this has been proved in practice by numerous co-operatives in various parts of the country. Today

there are already groups of co-operatives, some whole *hsiang*, districts, and even a few counties where the average grain and cotton yield per *mou* has reached or even surpassed the targets which the National Programme has set for the next twelve years. Since these typically high-yield co-operatives, *hsiang*, districts, and counties have reached, or even surpassed these targets, we have every reason to believe that other co-operatives and other *hsiang*, districts and counties in the same areas under more or less similar conditions can reach the targets too. Since these typically high-yield co-operatives, *hsiang*, districts and counties have reached or surpassed the targets under the circumstances of today, we have still more reason to believe that with development of industrialization in the next twelve years, and the gradual increase in the number of tractors, water pumps, amount of chemical fertilizers, insecticide and farming machinery in general, and with more large-scale water conservancy projects, it is quite possible for the various regions of the country to reach and even surpass the targets set out in the National Programme.

The demands for communications, posts and telecommunications services, cultural, educational and health facilities set out in the National Programme are things that have already been realized in many agricultural producers' co-operatives and villages. New solutions have also been found for the problem of resettling over a million city unemployed—a problem many people felt would be difficult to solve in a short time. The Chiahsing Region of Chekiang Province has asked for 100,000 people from Shanghai. Kiangsi Province has also asked for half a million urban unemployed capable of doing farm work. Needless to say sparsely populated remote regions have an even greater need of manpower. The more than one

million unemployed left over from pre-liberation days will all get jobs in a few years as a result of arrangements made both in the cities and countryside.

That is why we say the tasks and demands set forth in the National Programme for Agricultural Development are both forward-looking and feasible. They are not conservative, nor adventurist. It is quite possible to meet these targets ahead of time or overfulfil them. This way of doing things has its advantages; it stimulates the local government initiative.

Fourthly, by putting forward the National Programme for Agricultural Development (1956-1967) immediately after correctly solving the problem of agricultural co-operation, the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung firmly grasped the key link—agriculture; this enables our socialist cause to forge ahead still more swiftly.

The essential part of socialist construction is socialist industrialization of the country and the core of industrialization is development of heavy industry. Industry leads agriculture, the city leads the countryside and the workers lead the peasants—these are unchangeable, fundamental principles of socialism that are not to be doubted and cannot be brushed aside.

But ours is a big country. It has 600 million people. There are more than 500 million peasants, exceeding five-sixths of the population. Chairman Mao Tse-tung in his article *On Coalition Government* pointed out that “the peasants (are) the mainstay of the market for China’s industry. It is the peasants who are, and alone can be, the largest suppliers of foodstuffs and raw materials, and who consume the largest amount of manufactured goods.” No other country in the world has as big a domestic market as

ours. The purchasing power of this market is still very low (though slightly higher than in pre-liberation days). But its potential power is enormous. Once the National Programme for Agricultural Development is realized, we shall have a domestic market with a fantastically great purchasing power. Can there be any other way to develop China's industry, save by relying on our own domestic market? Of course we can manage to export some of our industrial products, but we must rely chiefly on our own domestic market. At the present time there are about 80 million people living in cities and industrial and mining areas, and each year they need huge quantities of grain and other foodstuffs. Is there any other source to which we can turn to satisfy this demand, besides our own, our rural areas? The purchasing power of our 600 million people is bound to rise steadily, and they will present a formidable demand for light industrial products. Should we try to get raw materials for our light industry mainly from foreign countries, instead of relying on the domestic supply of raw materials? Our agriculture also needs a huge quantity of means of production. If we are to use tractors on all our farmlands that can be tilled by machines, we will need 1,200,000 to 1,500,000 standard 15 h.p. tractors. Between 120,000 and 150,000 worn-out tractors will have to be replaced by new ones every year. If we make extensive use of chemical fertilizers, we will need at least 20 million tons of nitrate fertilizer, besides phosphate and potassium fertilizer. This again means a huge domestic market for heavy industry. Furthermore, the development of agriculture means an important source for the accumulation of funds for socialist construction. So we can see that unless we correctly solve the agricultural problem, unless we bring about a

tremendous development of agriculture, our socialist industrialization will run into serious difficulties.

China is a big country with 600 million people and over five-sixths of them are peasants—this is a fundamental fact which in our work of building socialism we ignore at our peril. Nevertheless, if anyone thinks that socialist industrialization is not the main thing, and refuses to recognize the leadership of the working class, he is making a gross mistake. We take serious note of the important role our five hundred million peasants are playing in the socialist construction of our country. We must take serious note of the extremely important bearing agriculture has on industrial development. By putting forward this National Programme for Agricultural Development (1956-1967) at this moment, during the great upsurge in agricultural co-operation, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party has systematically solved the most difficult and complicated problem of our socialist revolution—the problem of the peasantry and agriculture. As a result, we shall be able to strengthen still further the worker-peasant alliance on a new basis, accelerate the progress of socialist industrialization and fulfil the fundamental task of our country during the transition period ahead of time.