

Letter from Wu Zeheng to the Central Committee of the CPC and State Council (11/20/1998)

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Suggestions to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and State Council

With the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the country, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), broke away from feudalism and the tyranny of imperial rule. Living standards improved substantially and, with each passing day, as China's stature in the international community increased, the country became more stable and secure. The achievements and developments now seen in China are rooted in the leadership provided by the Communist Party of China. Together, the Divine Land and the Communist Party forever will remain engrained in the minds of people because, as the people understand, "without the Communist Party there would be no New China!"

Today, the people of China step into the new millennium under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. At this momentous time, as I see fellow-countryman embracing the twenty-first century with great enthusiasm, I find myself deeply concerned about various abuses existing in our society.

Despite formal celebrations throughout the country, the image of the party in power is marred greatly. The suspicion of and dissatisfaction with the party, specifically officials at all levels of the CPC, increases daily, among all parts of the society. With the intertwining of the two theoretical systems, socialism and capitalism, it is difficult to establish unified rules to develop a socialist system with Chinese characteristics. Political beliefs commonly fluctuate because the principles of dialectical materialism, inherent in Marxism-Leninism, are not applicable readily to a society with a commodity-based economy. A political belief crisis of the people is emerging. In the resulting ideological turmoil, corruption of all kinds, including neo-bureaucratism, bribery, money-power collusion, and malfeasance of duty, worsens since the establishment of country, reaching the top levels of government. Even though the central government continuously imposes severe punishments for all types of corruption, only a small percentage of violators are convicted. Meanwhile, assorted crimes, social violence, and national and religious conflicts severely worsen by the day. Moreover, in a society with a commodity-based economy, where money corrupts the vision and conduct of the people, when unemployment rates rise and the prospects of re-employment are uncertain, we see moral degeneration of the society manifested by greater incidence of economic crimes, such as theft, fraud, and robbery. With the rising aggravation from multiple societal ills, the people's discontent with their government worsens and worsens.

Despite our country's stable development and prosperity, we feel extremely anxious regarding various crises hiding in the corners, any of which, if aggravated intensively, can cause social turbulence at all

levels. We should be greatly alarmed by the political upheaval of June 4th, 1989. China is becoming stronger and more prosperous and she cannot endure social turbulence. Considering such circumstances, I, a Chinese descendant with enthusiasm and conscience, submit the following suggestions to President Jiang Zemin and Prime Minister Zhu Rongji of the Central Committee of the CPC and the State Council:

- 1) Form a research group composed of experts in politics, economics, education, science and technology, culture, religion and so forth, to research and explore the laws of evolution and principles of communication, interaction, and integration, concerning spiritual and physical, subject and object, part and whole, and human and nature. Apply such theoretical principles and practical methods intensively in various social and natural fields, promoting the subject-object unification of the social management system between central and local governments, one department and the another, cadres and the people, for the purpose of clarifying each other's position, the responsibility of each position, and the harmonization of all levels in order to form a coordinated and unified political system. Also, at the appropriate time, to avoid dissension and even conflict among different social groups seeking their own purposes, the principles should be made part of the constitution.

In terms of the economic system, and the country's need for planned regulation, the principles of the four unifications mentioned above will lead the liberal and commodity-based economies to establish a novel mode of subject-object unification and of integral development between different systems, production and distribution, state-owned and private-owned, for beneficial competition. The novel mode will avoid a new proletarian class revolution involving extreme polarization according to the jungle law.

In terms of science, technology, and culture, the principles of the four unifications will lead to the establishment of a novel mode, shifting analysis to comprehension and opposition to unification, in regard to, scientific exchange, phenomenon and essence, and part and whole. This mode will relieve or completely resolve various problems caused by industrial production and high energy consumption, such as high temperature and pressure, air and water pollution, and resource and energy deficiency.

- 2) Complement dialectical materialism with representative theoretical systems of nations and religious beliefs, to improve the country's principles of unity and gradually establish a theoretical system of belief for the people having Chinese characteristics. Through various channels, conduct intensive education to enhance the people's trust in and access to the party in power in order to resolve national issues and quell the centrifugal forces that cause turbulence. Meanwhile, through sublime moral education, the people will be led most ardently to improve their status and properly conduct themselves, reducing the criminal and economic crimes caused by moral degeneration, finally attaining harmonious unification and overall progress among individuals, nations, religions, the government and the people. The purpose is for our people to be assured of their own survival and for our country to have steady and long-term progress, under the leadership of the party and our government.
- 3) Form an investigation group composed of non-Communist party personnel. The group should be responsible to the central committee of the CPC and the State Council directly and be

authorized to investigate, inspect, and impeach cadres and officials of all levels of the party, the political system, the economic system, the military, the police, and the judicial system. A formal directive from the central committee of the CPC and the State Council should be issued to all levels of the government commanding that they cooperate with the investigation group as necessary. For the final arbitration, the investigation group is to submit the investigation materials to the central committee of the CPC and the State Council or to the supervising authorities of the person involved. The duration of the investigation group and the terms of its members are to be determined by the Central Committee of the CPC and the State Council, according to its societal accomplishments. The composition and functions of the investigation group will eliminate the possibility that cadres and officials of the Party and political system who commit crimes can escape CPC internal investigations because of personal connections. The party in power will gain the trust and support of the people because of the justness of non-CPC inspections, the effectiveness of the measures, and the trust in non-Party personages.

- 4) Gradually, expose the affairs of government to full view and bring political affairs into the open. Prohibit some acts of some local governments, such as invading public benefits or depriving the rights and interests of citizens by using political or legal maneuvers. The government should be responsible to, willing to accept the supervision of, and implement the will of the electorate, periodically conducting public-opinion polls and consultation. The people will then feel that they are in control of the country and be confident in and work passionately on behalf of their own government. Although the central government adheres to the above principles as established doctrine, some local governments throughout the country fail to follow these principles when actually administering the law. In some coastal cities, some people even hold virulence and enmity toward the local governments. There can be no doubt the implementation of the suggested actions will help to improve the relationship between the party and the people.
- 5) To execute an open, fair, and equitable employment selection system, top level appointments and public elections should be set up to select the best qualified candidates, based on their capabilities. Implement universal education regarding the legal system and democracy for all administrative levels and grades. Lower level officials should be chosen through fair and competitive elections, gradually and upwardly, in selected experimental, precincts. Candidates nominated by the superior power and those elected by popular vote should, compete for the support of the electorate by public campaign and speeches, with the winners choosing their own deputies, according to the political agenda of the candidates. After the government is selected, the electee shall form a cabinet. The People's Congress will inspect the qualifications of each nominee, according to legal procedures, and decide whether to approve or reject the candidate for the cabinet position. During the term of each administration of the government, Political Consultative Conference at the same level shall inspect the actions of the government, initiating trust or impeachment motions regarding the achievements, to be scrutinized and determined by the People's Congress at the same level. This mode will provide the prerequisite basis for the People's Congress, the political consultative conference, and all other levels of the government to proceed in future general elections with the objectives of maintaining a democratic constitutional system and retaining the Communist Party of China in power.

For any society, without the right ideology, reform cannot alter the essence of things. Without proper guiding principles, there can be no possibility of having a correct system. Whether China of the twenty-first century will stand among the elite powers of the world will be determined by whether the people form a common ideological belief and correctly recognize universal and objective principles. People ought to be united and work harmoniously at all levels, to be the best and do the most they can to perform the required responsibilities of their position. We must carry forward from the history we inherited, to progress and develop steadily.

At this important time, a historical turning point, the people of China are expecting the Communist Party of China to guide them to greater glory. History offers an opportunity, to the people of China and a greater opportunity to the Communist Party of China. The Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese people will-confront ever greater challenges. In what direction is China going in the twenty-first century? Communist ? The world is watching!

The above thoughts are based on my personal limited vision, even though I have more I would like to say. I sincerely hope my comments are unneeded because the government already has a well-thought out plan arranged.

Throughout Chinese history, most civilians who commented on politics did not have peaceful endings. Here I express my feelings to end this letter by quoting a verse from a famous Chinese poem: "Fear not death, my body and mind are embedded in the mountains and rivers."

Respectfully,

Wu Zeheng