For the immigrants in such border areas, the government will construct high walled cities, well protected by high walls, deep moats, catapults, and thorns. Each city, along strategic points and thoroughfares, will be designed to hold no fewer than one thousand households. Each walled city will have an inner wall and an outer wall 150 paces apart. Each inner area in the middle will be surrounded by a sandy field, to detect the intrusion of enemies in the night. Infringers will leave footprints in the soil.

The Xiongnu live on meat and cheese, wear furs, and possess no house or field. They move like birds and beasts which abound in grass and water, and which they use. The Xiongnu are herding at several places along the frontiers. It will be profitable to dispatch generals and officers together with troops to govern the frontier areas. People (slaves, convicts, and willing peasants) should be selected to settle along the border areas permanently, who can set up families and grow food grains while getting prepared against possible invasion by the Xiongnu.

Note: Chao Cuo, an advisor to several Han emperors, was highly respected for his ideas about the military and border defense. The recommendations made in this letter were adopted.