

1953

Speeches/Documents

Title: Closing Speech at the Fourth Session of the First National Committee of the CPPCC (Excerpts)

Author: Mao Zedong

Date: February 7, 1953

Source: The Writings of Mao Zedong pp 317-318

Description:

First, [we] must intensify the struggle to resist U.S. [aggression] and aid Korea. Because U.S. imperialism persists in holding Chinese and Korean prisoners-of-war ¹and undermining the cease-fire negotiations and, moreover, is vainly attempting to expand its war of aggression against Korea, the struggle to resist U.S. [aggression] and aid Korea must continue to be intensified. We desire peace, but as long as U.S. imperialism does not discard its barbaric and unreasonable demands and its plots to expand its aggression, the resolution of the Chinese people can only be to continue to fight together with the Korean people to the end. This is not because we like war; we would like to stop the war immediately and wait to resolve the remaining problems in the future, but U.S. imperialism doesn't want to do things this way. If that's the case, that's all fight; we'll continue to fight. No matter how many years U.S. imperialism is willing to fight, we are prepared to fight with them for as many years, right up to the time when U.S. imperialism is willing to stop, until the time when the Chinese and Korean peoples are completely victorious.

"Everyone of the Chinese officers and soldiers captured in Korea must be repatriated!"

Second, we should learn from the Soviet Union. We must carry out the great task of construction in our country. The work facing us is difficult and our experience is insufficient; therefore we must earnestly study the advanced experience of the Soviet Union. Regardless of whether they are in the Communist Party or outside the Communist Party, old cadres or new cadres, technical personnel, intellectuals, or the masses of the workers and the masses of the peasants, [our people] all must wholeheartedly learn from the Soviet Union. We should not only learn from the theories of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, but must also learn from the Soviet Union's advanced science and technology. We must whip up a high tide of learning from the Soviet Union throughout the whole country [in order] to build our country.

Third, [we] must combat bureaucratism in our leadership organs at all levels and among our leading cadres. At present among a good number of the basic-level organizations and basic-level cadres, serious commandism and breaches of law and discipline are occurring. ²The occurrence and breeding of such phenomena cannot be separated from the bureaucratism in our leadership organs and among our leading cadres. Take, for instance, the organs at the level of the Center; a good number of leading cadres in a good number of ministries and departments are still satisfied with merely sitting in the government offices writing decisions and issuing directives, paying attention only to arranging and assigning work but not paying attention to going down to the lower levels to get an understanding of conditions and to inspect the work. They have often let their leadership become isolated from the masses and separated from reality and have caused many serious problems to come up in their work. If we want to carry out large-scale national construction we must overcome bureaucratism and link ourselves closely to the masses of the people. Leading cadres at the Center and at all the local levels must all frequently go deep down to the lower levels to inspect the work. Once the

leadership organs and leading cadres have overcome bureaucratism, the bad phenomena of commandism and breaches of law and discipline at the lower levels will definitely be overcome. Once these defects have been eliminated, our planned national construction will definitely be successful, the system of the people's democracy will definitely develop, the imperialist plots will definitely be defeated, and we will definitely be able to win total victory.

Notes

1 See text Aug. 4, 1952, note 5.

2 See text Jan. 5, 1953.