

1949

Meetings

Dates of Meeting:

September/October

Type of Meeting:

Politburo

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

Mao, Liu, Zhou, Gao

Major Agenda Items:

Gao Gang visit to Moscow July 1949

Speeches/Reports:

Mao convened a special Politburo session in which Liu Shaoqi and Zhou Enlai accused Gao Gang of being a traitor to the Chinese people, one who wanted to hand Manchuria over to the Soviet Union during visit with Liu Shaoqi. At the end of the session, the "Gao Gang line" was condemned, and it was resolved to remove the pictures of Stalin and Lenin throughout China. Stalin placed himself at Mao's side because he had no desire to burden relations with the Chinese Party leadership in any way over Gao Gang. In a telegram to Kovalev, he stated that Mao Zedong, Liu Shaoqi, and Zhou Enlai were right on the question of the portraits. This is so elementary, that I am amazed that there could be any differences about it. . . . In general, one must say that it would be better to have as few pictures of Lenin and Stalin hanging in China as possible,"⁵⁶² Stalin also sent a telegram to Mao Zedong in which he approved the Mao-Liu-Zhou line and condemned Gao Gang's actions. After the Politburo session, Kovalev talked to Mao and worked out a compromise, The Stalin pictures should remain in place on Soviet military bases: in areas with concentrations of Soviet citizens; in CCR facilities, where Soviet railroad specialists worked; in joint Sino-Soviet institutions; in buildings of the Association for Chinese-Soviet Friendship; and in the Chinese Party and Youth Organization committees-'

The Soviet Union and Communist China, 1945-1950: The Arduous Road to the Alliance pg.216

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

the "Gao Gang line" was condemned

Remarks:

1. When Mao Zedong took the train to Moscow in December 1949, he noticed to his annoyance during a stopover in Mukden that the September Politburo resolution had not been implemented. Pictures of Stalin in the uniform of a generalissimo hung on all major buildings, but there were no portraits of Mao. Mao gave the order for the wagon loaded with presents for Stalin's seventieth birthday that had been coupled to the train in Mukden on Gao Gang's and Lin Biao's orders to be uncoupled. He had half of the presents sent to each of them and told them that he was carrying presents for Stalin from all of China, and Manchuria was still a part of China.