

1950

Meetings

Dates of Meeting:

07-01-1950

Type of Meeting

5th meeting CPGC

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

33 people including Zhu De, Liu Shaoqi, Li Jishen, and Zhang Lan attended the meeting. Vice Chairman Liu Shaoqi presided over the meeting

Major Agenda Items:

Finance

Speeches/Reports:

Peng Dehuai: On the work in the Northwest

It is more backward than other provinces (regions) in the country. In the national economy, agriculture accounts for about 75%, animal husbandry accounts for more than 20%, and modern industry and handicrafts account for less than 5%

At the meeting, Peng Dehuai was in high spirits and full of laughter. He said, "The entire Northwest has been liberated. The development of military victories in the past six months has exceeded our expectations... The national flag of the People's Republic of China has been planted in the farthest border of our motherland, the Pamir Plateau." He highly praised the historic achievements of the Northwest People's Liberation Army, stating, "In the past six months, we have completely annihilated the numerically superior enemy forces, marched nearly a thousand miles, crossed snow-capped mountains and grasslands, and deserts, despite the cold weather and lack of shoes, socks, and warm clothes. This is a miracle in the history of our army. Only a highly politically conscious People's Liberation Army could accomplish such a daunting task so quickly." (Excerpt from Peng Dehuai's report on the situation in the Northwest, January 7, 1950)

Zhou Enlai: On diplomatic work

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

The meeting approved three agreements and two additional protocols on postal, telegraph and wire telephone communications between China and North Korea.

Remarks:

The meeting heard reports from Peng Dehuai, Vice Commander of the Chinese People's Liberation Army and Commander-in-Chief and Political Commissar of the First Field Army, as well as Chairman of the Northwest Military and Political Committee, regarding the situation in the northwest, and from Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs Zhou Enlai regarding diplomatic work. The meeting approved three agreements and two additional protocols on postal, telegraphic, and wired telephone communications between China and North Korea. These were announced by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of the Central People's Government on January 27 and came into effect on February 1.

In military terms, the valiant Northwest People's Liberation Army eliminated the main forces of the Kuomintang armies that had long ruled the Northwest, including Hu Zongnan, Ma Bufang, Ma Buqing, and Ma Hongkui, totaling 519,000 troops. 205,600 patriotic Kuomintang generals and officers, including Zuo Xiezhong, Hu Jingduo, Peng Mingding, Zhou Xiangchu, Jiang Yuntai, Wang Zhiqi, Ma Hongbin, Ma Beijing, Tao Zhiyue, and Baolihan, among others, also defected. After the liberation of the entire Northwest, the main forces of the First Field Army were deployed to various provinces (regions), with the 19th Corps stationed in the Guanzhong region of Shaanxi (with the 60th Army), the 19th Army stationed in southern Shaanxi, the Third Army stationed in the Hexi Corridor of Gansu, the Seventh Army stationed in Longnan

and Tianshui, the Fourth Army stationed in Linxia, the 65th Army stationed in Ningxia, the First Army stationed in Qinghai, the Second Army, and the Ninth Army stationed in southern Xinjiang, and the Sixth Army and the Fifth Army stationed in northern and eastern Xinjiang. At that time, the burden on the First Field Army and the Northwest Military Region was still heavy, with many challenges and trials ahead.

Economically, Chiang Kai-shek, Hu Zongnan, Ma Bufang, and Ma Hongkui fled to the isolated island of Taiwan, leaving behind a backward and hole-ridden mess for the Northwest: low productivity, scarcity of goods, high unemployment, chaotic markets, and even more backwardness than other provinces (regions) nationwide. "Agriculture accounted for about 75% of the national economy, animal husbandry accounted for over 20%, and modern industry and handicrafts accounted for less than 5%." (Excerpt from Peng Dehuai's report on the situation in the Northwest, January 7, 1950) At that time, the finances of the Northwest were exhausted, so they had to ask the central government for money.

Peng Dehuai reported to the central government, "At present, there are more than one million military and political personnel in the Northwest, accounting for about 4.5% of the population of the five provinces in the Northwest." "According to the current income in the Northwest, only about 25% of the Northwest's fiscal expenditure can be solved (including some necessary construction expenses), the remaining 75% is a deficit that needs to be subsidized by the central government through unified planning." (Excerpt from Peng Dehuai's report on the situation in the Northwest, January 7, 1950)

Today, on behalf of the Northwest Military and Political Committee, I am delighted to present a brief work report to the Central People's Government! 07-01-1950

(1) The Northwest has been completely liberated, and the military victories achieved in the past six months have exceeded our expectations. On May 20, 1949, Xi'an was liberated, and Hu Zongnan's army lost its stronghold. On July 13, the battle of Fumai (County) was victorious, eliminating four of Hu's armies and forcing the remnants to retreat to Hanzhong. On August 26, Lanzhou was captured, annihilating the main force of Qinghai's Ma Bufang army, swiftly occupying Xining, and completely wiping out the Qinghai-Ma army. On September 19, Ningxia was occupied, and most of Ma Hongkui's army was annihilated, with a portion surrendering. Thus, the provinces of Qinghai and Ningxia were completely liberated. Following the successive annihilation of the remaining forces of the pseudo-Northwest Governor's Office and its remnants in Wuwei and Zhangye, Jiuquan was liberated on September 24. In Xinjiang, under the leadership of Generals Tao Zhiyue and Baoerhan, a telegram was sent on September 25 and 26, announcing the departure from the reactionary Kuomintang government and acceptance of the leadership of the Central People's Government. The People's Liberation Army entered Hami in Xinjiang on November 12 and has now stationed in the entire Xinjiang region. The flag of the People's Republic of China has been planted on the furthest border of our motherland, the Pamir Plateau. The Tao unit, with approximately sixty thousand people, has now been reorganized into the 22nd Corps of the People's Liberation Army, comprising the Ninth Army and the Seventh and Eighth Cavalry Divisions. The reorganization, under the leadership of General Tao Zhiyue, has been proceeding smoothly. In the Ili, Tacheng, and Ashan (Chenghua) areas of Xinjiang, the ethnic armies that fought against imperialist and Kuomintang dark rule for many years have now been reorganized into the Fifth Army of the People's Liberation Army. They are stationed in key areas throughout the region and, together with our First Army, exchange experiences and cooperate like brothers. In early December, the Eighteenth Corps moved south into Sichuan, sweeping through the remaining enemy forces in southern Shaanxi and Gansu. With this, the five provinces of the Northwest

have been completely liberated. In six months, we thoroughly eliminated the numerically superior enemy, marched nearly ten thousand miles, and crossed snow-covered mountains, grasslands, and deserts in freezing weather, lacking shoes, socks, and warm clothing. This is a great miracle in military history. Only a People's Army with a high level of political consciousness could accomplish such a formidable task so quickly. Many fighters and commanders, in order to fulfill their missions, sustained serious injuries in battle, concealed them, did not leave their posts, and demonstrated the great revolutionary spirit of self-sacrifice of the Chinese working people. The People's Liberation Army strictly adheres to the discipline of the masses, respects the customs and habits of all ethnic groups, and therefore, wherever they go, the people warmly welcome them, carrying the elderly and children. We were able to quickly liberate the Northwest because of the brave fighting spirit of all commanders and fighters, the enthusiastic support of the Northwest people, the efforts of the rear in supporting front-line work, and the coordinated cooperation of victorious strategic areas. Particularly crucial was the correct leadership of Chairman Mao, which was the decisive factor in our rapid victory.

(2) People's governments have now been formally established in Xinjiang and Ningxia, and preparations for the establishment of people's governments in Gansu, Shaanxi, and Qinghai are underway. People's governments at all levels below the provincial level have been established. The composition of various levels of government includes representatives from all ethnic groups, parties, democratic classes, and other patriotic democratic individuals. Most cities and counties have held meetings of people's representatives from all walks of life, with many areas already holding two meetings to discuss the government's agenda. People from all walks of life have expressed their opinions, providing constructive criticism and valuable suggestions. The government has implemented the people's opinions, allowing the people to understand their government through their own experiences.

(III) Northwest is a vast region, covering an area of three million one hundred thousand square kilometers, which is approximately one-third of the national territory. However, the population is sparse, with only about twenty-three million people, accounting for less than five percent of the total population of the country. Yet, it holds the first place in terms of oil reserves nationwide. Apart from the Yumen oilfield, which has already been developed, there are still large reserves of oil in places like Yongchang, Qaidam, Xiangtang, Wusu, Kashgar, Kuche, Aksu, as well as coal, iron, salt, and other precious metals waiting to be exploited. There is also vast arable land that can be transformed into fertile farmland with the development of irrigation. The boundless grasslands are suitable for animal husbandry. The flow of the Yellow River can be utilized for hydroelectric power generation. Due to these conditions, Northwest is one of the industrial bases for building the New China and should not be overlooked. From a geographical perspective, Northwest is farthest from the coast but shares a border with the Soviet Union, the world's bastion of peace, making it significant to construct Northwest as a solid defense base. The objective conditions for this are present, and the significance is profound. However, the current financial and economic situation in Northwest is extremely difficult. Because the economic conditions in Northwest are much more backward compared to other parts of China, agriculture accounts for about seventy-five percent, animal husbandry over twenty percent, and modern industry and handicrafts less than five percent of the national economy. Under the past exploitation of the Kuomintang reactionary regime, the people's economic livelihood in Northwest plunged into extreme poverty, with many people not even having pants to wear in winter. Last year, the Shaanxi-Gansu region suffered from floods, resulting in a significant reduction in cotton and grain production. Meanwhile, the military and government personnel in Northwest currently exceed one million, accounting for about four point five percent of the population of the five provinces in Northwest, which has caused great financial difficulties in the region. Based on the current possible income in Northwest, only about twenty-five percent of the financial expenditure in Northwest can be covered (including some necessary construction expenses), while the remaining seventy-five percent is a deficit that needs to be subsidized by the central government through unified planning. The financial and economic difficulties in Northwest, especially in Xinjiang, are severe. Because the Kuomintang reactionaries in Xinjiang have been implementing anti-Soviet policies for years, cutting off trade with the Soviet Union and suppressing the Xinjiang national democratic movement, the result has plunged the national economy and people's livelihoods in Xinjiang into extreme difficulty. Moreover, Xinjiang is vast, with inconvenient transportation and far from the mainland. The distance from Xi'an to Urumqi is over three thousand kilometers, and from Urumqi to Hotan in southern Xinjiang, it's another two thousand three hundred kilometers, making supply even more difficult. Therefore, it is necessary to vigorously engage in production and construction, quickly restore trade with the Soviet Union in Xinjiang, implement Sino-Soviet economic cooperation on the principle of equality and mutual benefit,

and obtain assistance from Soviet friendly nations in order to gradually overcome difficulties, promote economic prosperity, and make Xinjiang one of the bases for heavy industry in our country.

(IV) Northwest is a multi-ethnic region, with Xinjiang alone being home to more than ten ethnic groups. The total population of Uyghurs in Northwest is about three million, Hui people about two and a half million, Tibetans about five hundred thousand, Kazakhs about four hundred thousand, Mongols about one hundred thousand, Talanku people about ninety thousand, in addition to Kyrgyz, Xibe, Russian, Tajik, Uzbek, Solon, Tatar, Manchu, and other ethnic groups. The conditions of transportation, economy, and culture left by the reactionary ruling class are backward (except for Shaanxi, generally more backward than the inland), and some areas are even under complete feudal rule, with the existence of slavery in certain areas. Added to this are the differences in religious customs and languages among the various ethnic groups. All of these are important, complex issues that must be gradually addressed.

(V) The current work plan in Northwest is to give different tasks according to the different situations in each area. In the old liberated areas, the focus is on developing production and recovering from the scars of war; in the semi-liberated areas, the emphasis is on mobilizing the masses and completing land reform; in the newly liberated areas, besides paying attention to urban work, great efforts are needed to mobilize the masses in rural areas to carry out democratic reforms, first by suppressing bandits, eliminating spies, opposing local tyrants and evil gentry, and weakening feudal forces. The Kuomintang reactionaries have systematically organized so-called "guerrilla forces" in our liberated areas to engage in arson, murder, and looting, which the people deeply resent. Since the liberation of Xi'an by our army six months ago, about sixty thousand of these bandits have been eliminated. There are currently about ten thousand remaining bandits, scattered in the areas west of Xining, in the region of Lanzhou and Gonghe, and in the mountainous areas west of Linxia in Gansu Province. There are also remnants of Dewang and Li Shouxin's forces north of Ningxia, estimated to be completely eliminated by March or April this spring. Then, according to the actual development and the degree of consciousness and organization of the masses, land reform will be carried out to eliminate the feudal system. Northwest is also a multi-ethnic region, where complex relations exist among various ethnic groups. The past dark rule has caused mutual hatred among the ethnic groups. It is necessary to adhere to the policy of ethnic equality stipulated in the Common Program of the People's Political Consultative Conference, engage in long-term arduous work, cultivate outstanding cadres among the minority ethnic groups, and establish new friendly and cooperative relationships among all ethnic groups to jointly strive for the construction of Greater Northwest.

In terms of military affairs, winter training is currently underway, as well as the suppression of bandits in some areas, and active preparations are being made for large-scale production in 1950. In Xinjiang, this year, there are plans to cultivate sixty thousand mu of land for grain and fifty thousand mu for cotton. The garrisons in Shaanxi, Gansu, Ningxia, and Qinghai provinces are also actively planning for production (specific plans will be reported later). We will follow Chairman Mao's instructions to ensure that the People's Liberation Army in Northwest inherits the hard-working style of the past and becomes one of the important forces in the construction of the New Northwest. We hope that the central government will give more guidance and assistance in all aspects, especially hoping that the Tianjin-Lanzhou Railway will be constructed in 1950 to facilitate the construction of the Northwest.