

1950

Meetings

Dates of Meeting:

31 October 1950

Type of Meeting:

National Air defense meeting

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

Zhou chairs meeting

Major Agenda Items:

Korean war

Chinese leaders worried the United States might expand the war through air bombardment against China's cities and industrial centers. Rumors spread about possible U.S. attacks and generated increasing fear in the cities. However, mass evacuations would create chaos and shake public confidence in the newly established Communist rule.

when and how the air force should enter the war.

Speeches/Reports:

Participants agreed that Chinese ground forces were at a decided disadvantage in Korea since the United States had air superiority. Chinese pilots needed additional training, but some argued that the Chinese airmen could learn what they needed to know about aerial warfare through hands-on training under combat conditions. The PLAAF's leaders understood that they could not compare with the U.S. Air Force in either the number of aircraft available or in terms of technology. Based on their confidence in the CCP's leadership, their countrymen's support, and their own ground combat experience, they were nevertheless certain that the PLAAF could hold its own against the USAF, and that ultimate victory would depend upon ground operations. The air force, the participants concluded, would play only a supporting role. Chinese officers thus devised a strategy calling for the newly established air force to avoid engaging in a war of attrition that would work to America's advantage. Their method was to train fliers for the one hundred to 150 aircraft that they could mobilize. Those planes then would be concentrated for timely attacks on the Americans.

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

- Leaders decided to keep a low profile on the entire issue (of air attacks) and order no immediate evacuations of industry or people from cities, but instead made preparations for protecting themselves during air raids and treating bombing victims.
- the best defense against U.S. air attacks was the Soviet air force troops Moscow was sending to China.
- The National Air Defense Preparatory Committee was established at this meeting to take charge of this matter. In the meantime, four armies were deployed to Fujian and Guangdong Provinces to prepare for attacks on the coastal area by the U.S. Navy or Nationalist troops from Taiwan. *Red wings over yalu* , 84 , 100

Remarks:

See [Soviet participation in air defense of Manchuria CIA report](#)