

Dates of Meeting:

01-12-1952 – 04-12-1952

Type of Meeting:

2nd national health conference

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:**Major Agenda Items:****Speeches/Reports:**

He Cheng: 'Chinese Medical Section of the Summarizing Report of the Second National Health Administrative Convention' reaffirmed his views on the future of Chinese and Western medicines in China. He said that while some were worried that Chinese medicine would soon die out, others were also worried that both medicines would continue to exist in China. He Cheng declared that at the moment there was no other choice but for both medicines to exist together in China. But it would not be right, if in the long-term, the two medicines were to diverge, and continue along their separate ways. He proclaimed that 'in the future, there would only be one medicine in the world (jianglai shijie de yixue zhi you yige)', the progressive medical reserves of the world, and in this way be able to carry out more work for the health of the people.

He Cheng advocated that all medicines of the world had to work together, and learn from each other, and in this way China would make its own particular mark on this future medicine of the world.

Therefore, according to He Cheng, his policy towards Chinese medicine was going to plan. While the two medicines still existed separately in China, the aim continued to be for the two to merge and form one medicine. What was happening in the Chinese medical profession, therefore, was not the strangulation of the majority of its members, but rather the necessary sorting of the 'wheat from the chaff'. He Cheng was, in his view, ensuring Chinese medicine a place not only in the Chinese health care system, but also in the 'medicine of the world'.

Zhou Enlai: Public health work must be incorporated with mass movement, the new national health campaign should follow three principles: "mian xiang gong nong bing" (serve workers, peasants and PLA soldiers), "yu fang wei zhu" (prevention takes precedence), and "(tuanjie zhong xi yi)" (use both Chinese and Western medicine). In addition, "public health must be linked with mass movements."

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

- The 4 targets of the 1st national conference [07-08-1950](#) were upgraded to four during this meeting to include the directive of 'the integration of health work with [organized] mass movements (weisheng gongzuo yu qunzhong yundong xiang jiehe)'.
- Chinese medicine was thus to hold a central place in health care work from the time of the inception of the Ministry of Health.

Remarks:

1. Yet in the process He Cheng was effectively drastically reducing all the numbers about which Mao was so concerned. Mao had been advocating the re-education of Chinese medical practitioners, but not their extinction.
2. Zhou's proposals were accepted by the convention. Renmin Ribao lost no time turning Zhou's new principle into the official guiding principle for public health work.