

1953

## Meetings

**Dates of Meeting:**

02-05-1953 – 11-05-1953

**Type of Meeting:**

7<sup>th</sup> congress of ACFTU

**Place of Meeting:**

Beijing

**Attendance:**

830 delegates (representing 10 200 000 members.) hundreds were 'technicians, engineers and managers in State-owned industry'.

**Major Agenda Items:**

constitution

**Speeches/Reports:**

**Liu Shaoqi** : Speech.

**Lai Ruoyu**: Speech "Struggle for the Task of Accomplishing the Industrial Construction of the Nation “, May 3, 1953

'It should be pointed out ... that the leadership of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions . . . has committed mistakes of economist and syndicalist tendencies.'

How was this 'economism' of the national leadership of the trade unions expressed? Mainly in excessive demands for workers' welfare: 'In the matter of welfare and living conditions of the workers, account is not taken of actual possibilities and needs.'

Lai Jo-yu underlined the pressing need: 'The immediate and sectional interests of the working class must be subordinated to the longterm and over-all interests of the state, that is, the interests of the state led by the working class.'

**Xu Zhizhen**, General Secretary and Chief of the Organisation Department of ACFTU:

"Some of our trade-union organisations have long ceased to call membership meetings or congresses and to make reports on their work and their expenditure to them. They neither hold timely re-elections nor carry out criticism and self-criticism, especially criticism from below. As a result, these trade-union organisations have become alienated from the masses, thereby hampering supervision from below. These conditions have given impetus to the growth of bureaucratism, commandism and violation of regulations in the trade-union organisations.

**Other Decisions and/or Actions:**

- Elected new 7<sup>th</sup> committee Lai Ruoyu president and Liu Ningyi, Liu Changsheng and Zhu Xuefan, vice-presidents ; 24 members du presidium et 8 members du secretariat.
- [Constitution of the Trade Unions is adopted](#)

**Remarks:**

1. Communist domination of the unions is abundantly clear from the fact that the Chairman, two of the three Vice-Chairmen and all the eight members of the Central Secretariat of the ACFTU are CCP members.
2. CCP states: 'paid too much attention to workers excessive demands.' 'the direct and selfish interests of the working class must be subordinated to those of the state'. 'allowed themselves to be led too much by the workers', i.e. who 'showed too much concern over the workers living standards', or who 'proved overzealous in ensuring workers' rights'. Meetings were called at which attacks were made on those who 'failed to understand that, while strikes are necessary in a capitalist country, they are superfluous in a socialist state'. A campaign was launched against 'laxity in labour discipline',