

1953

Meetings

Dates of Meeting:

15-06-1953 and 23-06-1953

Type of Meeting:

Politburo

Attendance:

with the attendance of the Party secretaries of ten cities Mao presides

Major Agenda Items:

General Line for the Transition to Socialism based on an investigation reports

Report Concerning Labor-capital Relationship and Labor Policy and Report Concerning the Issues of the Public-private Relationship in Capitalist Industry. By Li Weiha

it advocated a fundamental solution for the Transformation of private enterprises. Furthermore, it also advocated to strengthen the state management over different modes of the state-capitalist economies. The government should take an "overall consideration" (*tongchou jiangou*) of state and private sectors by unifying the leadership over both sectors so as to improve the shortcoming of bureaucratic negligence upon the private economy. The report only discussed industrial state-capitalism. It more or less reflected that the Party kept on the original policy towards the private commerce, namely "squeezing them out" rather than "transforming" them. Later on, state-capitalism was re-considered to be applied to the Socialist Transformation of private commerce.

Speeches and Reports:

Mao Zedong "**REFUTE RIGHT DEVIATIONIST VIEWS THAT DEPART FROM THE GENERAL LINE.**"

“: should bring about, in a ten- to fifteen-year period, the transition to socialism in all spheres of the economy; those who believe the transition period is too long commit a leftist mistake; others commit a rightist mistake by persisting in "New Democracy" without engaging in socialist transformation.

Mao became furious with what he termed a "general rightist tendency" in the agricultural cooperative movement. Mao's argument went further--to address the issue of whether the country as a whole ought to maintain its new democratic status or carry out the socialist reform

Mao is against the new-democratic social order

"how can this New Democratic social order be firmly solidified? It would be very difficult indeed to 'solidify' it 'firmly'!The idea, to 'firmly solidify the New Democratic social order,' goes against the realities of our struggle and hinders the progress of the socialist cause." See also [06-02-1954 meeting](#)

Decision:

- The general line or the general task of the Party for the transition period is basically to accomplish the industrialization of the country and the socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts and capitalist industry and commerce in ten to fifteen years, or a little longer."
- Besides the Transformation of private enterprises, the Meetings also settled in principle the disposition of capitalists. Li proposed that the Party should transform not only the ownership of private enterprises, but also capitalists into "socialist citizens." Lin Boqu, one of the Politburo members, disagreed. Then Mao made the final decision to transform them into "workers."

Remarks:

1. This meeting occurred at the start of the National Conference on Financial and Economic Work and set the stage for it.
2. Gao Gang, Zhou Enlai, and Chen Yun, all Politburo members who were also participants at that Politburo conference, were well aware that Mao's real target was none other than Liu Shaoqi
3. Mao, Liu, Zhou and Deng Xiaoping had openly endorsed the above reports, but Gao Gang kept quiet during the meetings. When Mao sought his opinion, Gao replied that he had no comment.
Mao did not want to name Liu openly yet, so Bo was singled out instead. At Mao's request, Zhou had to report to him personally each evening after the daily session of the financial and economic conference had concluded.
4. Mao Zedong wrote: "Several confusing points: (1) consolidation of New Democratic social order; (2) New Democracy leads to socialism; (3) guarantee of private ownership." In *Jianguo yilai Mao Zedong wengao*, 4: 251. Bo Yibo and Zhou Enlai took detailed notes of this speech; see Bo Yibo, *Ruogan*, 65–66. Mao's comments were an implicit criticism against Liu Shaoqi, who encouraged capitalist development and emphasized the protection of private industry and commerce. According to Liu, this was basic Party policy, known as the "New Democratic Order." Mao Zedong, however, believed that the New Democracy was but a temporary Party

tactic in the transition period; the New Democratic Order should not be consolidated, and private ownership must be eliminated. Takeover Hangzhou 309

- 5 "The general line for the transition period" was put into the Constitution of the People's Republic of China in September 1954.