

**Dates of Meeting:**

15-12-1953

**Type of Meeting**

Secretariat

**Place of Meeting:**

Beijing

**Attendance:**

Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, Gao Gang, Zhu De, Rao Shushi, and Lin Boqu

**Major Agenda Items:**

Replacement of Mao during his leave

**Speeches/Reports:**

**Mao** proposed Liu would replace him as was custom since 1945

**Liu** is favour of a rotation system for all members of the secretariat

**Gao** agrees with Liu, the others back Mao

Chen Yun, who agreed to vote for the rotation option. However, Chen, at the meeting of December 15, voted for the conventional option, together with Zhou Enlai and Deng Xiaoping, while Gao, Zhu De, Rao Shushi, and Lin Boqu voted for the rotation option.

**Other Decisions and/or Actions:**

No decision made

**Remarks:**

1. Gao's personal secretary, however, had a different version of the story. Once Mao suspected Gao of leaking An Ziwen's list, he was out to get Gao. Thus, he told Gao that he was about to take a leave, and he raised a question for Gao: while he was on leave, should Liu take charge, or should the members of the Secretariat take turns? Mao wanted Gao to talk to a few people about the alternatives. Gao went to Chen Yun, who agreed to vote for the rotation option. However, Chen, at the meeting of December 15, voted for the conventional option, together with Zhou Enlai and Deng Xiaoping, while Gao, Zhu De, Rao Shushi, and Lin Boqu (林伯渠 1886-1960) voted for the rotation option. After the meeting, Gao spoke to Deng Xiaoping about the matter, but Deng was unwavering. Gao then went to Chen's home, and was very angry about Chen's turnabout. They parted still angry, and that was when Chen Yun decided to tell Zhou Enlai, through whom Mao was told about Gao's proposition to divide the vice-chairmanships, the so-called "one for you [Chen], one for me [Gao] proposition. Two days later, around five o'clock afternoon, Chen Yun and Deng Xiaoping went to Mao's residence and they talked until eight o'clock. Mao asked Zhou Enlai to join them as well. The next evening, the three of them went to Mao's residence for the 3 time in a row.

*Michael Sheng Mao and the Chinese elite 86*

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