

1953

Meetings

Dates of Meeting:

16-09-1953 – 17-09-1953

Type of Meeting:

27th meeting of CPGC

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

Mao Zedong, Liu Shaoqi, Song Qingling, Li Jishen, Zhang Lan, Gao Gang, Chen Yi, Li Lisan, Lin Boqu, He Xiangning, Peng Dehuai, Wu Yuzhang, Peng Zhen, Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, Shen Yanbing, Chen Shu-tong, Sze Meitang, Huang Yanpei, Cai Tingkai, Xie Zhongxun, Peng Zhen Zhang Zhizhong, Chen Zushu, Zhang Yuxian, Liu Yazi, Long Yun, Zhang Zhizhong, Fu Zuoyi, Li Candle, Zhang Bojun, Cheng Qian, Members of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference who were in Peking at the time sat in on the session. In total more than 200 people.

The Beijing members of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference attended this meeting as nonvoting delegates.

Major Agenda Items:

Liang Shuming, elections, economic reconstruction

Speeches/Reports:

Mao Zedong: [Criticism of Liang Shuming's reactionary ideas](#)

Peng Zhen, [Main tasks of political and legal work](#) deputy director of the Political and Legal Committee of the State Council, made a report on political and legal work at the meeting. The majority of people's congresses of all ethnic groups and all walks of life were convened, and a coalition government of ethnic autonomous regions and nationalities at all levels was set up at all levels. In the area of ethnic minorities, the people's congresses were held.

Guo Moruo, director of the Cultural and Education Committee, reports on work on culture and education.

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

- CPGC earlier decision "to convene in 1953 the various grades of hsiang, hsien, and" provincial (or municipal) people's congresses" had been based on excessive optimism. The present decision postpones these elections for 3 to 5 months, and delays the elections at higher levels correspondingly, presumably to permit the completion of necessary preparatory work
- the Procurator-General's Office placed another urgent item on the agenda of its lower echelons as, in September, 1953, it circulated a directive outlining the mechanics of "Supervision over Elections to the National People's Congress and Local People's Congresses of all Levels." 88 Greeting the forthcoming elections as a sign "that our state of people's democratic dictatorship is about to enter a more perfect and consolidated stage" and noting that "basic level elections are going to be started throughout the country," the edict enjoined subordinate departments in all districts to "consider close co-ordination with election work one of their main tasks of the moment." Accordingly, the document went on, " they should supervise the implementation of the Election Law and prosecute those violating laws during the elections, in order to ensure smooth completion of the elections."
- [Telegram to the SU for economic aid](#)

Remarks:

1. Source: Xuanji, V, pp. 107-115. Available English Translation: SW, V, pp. 121-129. These are excerpts from Mao's remarks at the Twenty-seventh Session of the Central People's Government Council, held in Beijing, September 16-18, 1953. This session, convened to discuss the "General Line on the Transition to Socialism," was attended by members of the National Committee of the CPPCC, a conference of which was convened in Beijing on September 8-11 (see text Sept. 7, 1953, note 3). Earlier in the session, Liang Shuming had leveled harsh criticism at the CPC's program for industrialization, particularly its policy toward the peasants. At that time Mao is reported to have responded with a sharp outburst of criticism. The initial criticism of Liang is said to have been mitigated by the intercession of Chen Mingshu (see text Jun. 12, 1950, source note), who argued that Liang's criticism was a problem of thought (sixiang wenti) and not a problem of politics (zhengzhi wenti). See Zhou Jingwen (1962), pp. 434-437. Zhou mistakenly identifies this meeting as an enlarged meeting of the National Committee of the CPPCC. These latter comments of Mao then, are an attempt by Mao to place his criticisms of Liang in the larger context of his view of Liang's politics. For Mao's other criticism of Liang's position made just prior to this meeting see text Sept. 12, 1953(1).

2. At the 28th session of the CPGC, Teng Hsiao-p'ing, a member of the Central Election Committee, explained the question of elections of the ACPC and the local people's congresses. After hearing Teng Hsiao-p'ing's explanation, the session unanimously adopted a resolution calling for postponement of the ACPC and the local people's congresses, and postponement of the date of completion of basic-level elections throughout the country generally to the end of January, 1954, and, in the case of some provinces and municipalities experiencing difficulties, to the end of March, 1954, according to local work conditions. Convocation of hsien people's congresses should be completed generally before the end of February, 1954, and, in the case of some provinces experiencing difficulties, by the end of April, 1954. The time for convening provincial and municipal people's congress should be determined in accordance with the date to be fixed for convening the ACPC.