

**Dates of Meeting:**

24-12-1953

**Type of Meeting:**

Politburo meeting

**Place of Meeting:**

Beijing

**Major Agenda Items:**

Purge of Gao Gang and Rao Shushi

**Speeches and Reports:**

**Mao Zedong:** makes a proposal on party unity.

There are two party headquarters in Beijing: one stirs an open wind and lights an open fire, the other stirs a sinister wind, lights a sinister fire, and operates underground. In front of No. 8 of Dongjiao Mingxiang [Gao's residence], there has been busy traffic of horses and chariot, while in front of Xinhuaamen [Mao's and CCP headquarters], it has been so quiet that one can catch sparrows there.

Mao did not name Gao

**Documents passed:**

- the Politburo unanimously endorsed Mao's proposal for "strengthening Party unity," and formulated a draft resolution on the subject for discussion by the Fourth Plenum.  
"Resolution on Strengthening Party Unity (Draft)"
- Liu will be in charge during Mao's absence

**Remarks:**

1. The February 6-10, 1954, Enlarged Fourth Plenum of the Seventh CC CCP [Meeting](#) formally adopted the "Resolution on Strengthening Party Unity."
2. Gao Gang's attempts to become secretary-general or vice-chairman of the party at this meeting led Mao to criticize him and propose strengthening party unity
3. Mao Zedong goes on holiday because of health problems, mourning over the loss of his son and thinking about the new constitution. Gao Gang proposes a rotation in leadership during absence of Mao Zedong. Mao criticizes Gao severely. Liu Shaoqi is put in charge and has to organize the February 1954 CC Meeting. *The Politics of China: The Eras of Mao and Deng. Ed. Roderick MacFarquhar 1998*
4. Throughout the latter half of 1953 Mao performed a variety of public roles until December 15 when he received the new Soviet ambassador. For the next three months, until March 23, 1954, Mao made no public appearances and was even absent from the crucial Fourth Plenum.
5. December 27 Mao Zedong arrived in Hangzhou. He was supposed to stay there for one month but he did not leave the city until March 1954. His major assistants, Hu Qiumu, Chen Bodai, and Tian Jiaying accompanied him to the city and they would work there to draft the first PRC constitution for Mao's review
6. Only in early December was Mao alerted by Gao's activities. The Conference of the High-Ranking Party Cadres in the Military was convened on December 7, 1953. Mao paid much attention to this conference, for its agenda was how to transform the PLA from a revolutionary force into a regular army under the Party's command.<sup>164</sup> Yet Gao's theory of "the army's party" became such a hot topic at the conference that, as an attendee recalled, the conference could not focus on its predesigned agenda.

**Dates of Meeting:**

1953

**Type of Meeting:**

CENTRAL MEETING

**Major Agenda Items:**

Purge of Gao Gang and Rao Shushi

**Remarks:**

The party center headed by Mao Zedong waged a determined struggle against Gao Gang and Rao Shushi at this meeting. Tao Zhu originally supported Gao and Rao but then changed his stance when he saw how things were going at this meeting.

All information on this meeting comes from the single Red Guard source.

This meeting is very likely identical with the December 24, 1953, Politburo Meeting, in which case the latter was in fact an enlarged meeting of the Politburo.