

Dates of Meeting:

9-9-1951 – 30-9-1951

Type of Meeting:

1st conference on mutual aid and cooperation

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

Chen Boda, Liu Shaoqi, Mao Zedong presided. representatives of provincial and central authorities
This conference was convened by the CC CCP.

Major Agenda Items:

Mutual aid

Speeches/Reports:

Liu Shaoqi: his speech was shelved

Documents passed:

- "[Draft Resolution on Mutual Aid and Cooperation in Agricultural Production](#)" set a target of having 40% of the rural population organized largely into mutual aid teams by the end 1952. Land and means of production were still owned by private peasants but used collectively.

Remarks:

1. This conference began the rapid development of the mutual aid and cooperation movement. By 1952, 40 percent of rural households belonged to mutual aid and cooperative organizations.
2. December 15, 1951, Central Committee distributes [TAKE MUTUAL AID AND CO-OPERATION IN AGRICULTURE](#) to party committees at various levels for trial implementation.
3. The keynote drafted by Liu Shaoqi for this conference was shelved. Instead, the "Resolution on Mutual Aid and Cooperativization in Agriculture (Draft)" drafted by Chen Boda, was passed. The Draft underscored peasants' aspiration for working collectively and joining mutual aid teams. It proposed a three-stage plan: starting from mutual aid teams, move up to the lower stage of agricultural producers' cooperatives modelled on Shanxi's prototypes, and end up with more advanced agricultural producers' cooperatives which should be a quasi-collective farms.⁸⁷ From then on, Liu Shaoqi ceased to actively write about the cooperatives. Indeed, at the time and in subsequent years, Liu made repeated self-criticisms for his "mistakes" on the issue of cooperatives.
4. "Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Mutual Aid and Co-operation in Agricultural Production (Draft)", September 1951. Mao Zedong, in fact, drafted this document as a firm response to the criticism raised by another CCP leader, Liu Shaoqi, who considered Mao's vision of socialist agricultural transformation an erroneous, dangerous and utopian notion of agrarian socialism. Compared to Mao, Liu was a more urban-rooted and professionally oriented communist who was in favor of large-scale industrial development rather than small-scale agricultural collectivization. This can be considered as the starting point of a split between the two divisions amongst top leaders on fundamental issues of Chinese socialism – the relations between agriculture and industry, between peasants (a majority of the mass) and the elite, between the countryside and the city, between goals and means, which inevitably led to a series of dramatic policy shifts and mass political campaigns in following years.

SOCIO-SPATIAL TRANSFORMATION IN MAO'S CHINA Settlement Planning and Dwelling
Architecture Revisited 1950s-1970s Chunlan ZHAO October 2007 page 118

The meeting criticized the two erroneous thinking of "Left" and Right on the issue of mutual assistance and cooperation in agriculture.