

1952

Speeches/Documents

**Title: Report to the 43rd Meeting of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC (extracts)**

**Author: Zhou Enlai,**

**Date: December 24, 1952**

**Source:.** Text: NCNA, Peking, December 27, 1952

**Description:.** Decisions to call national elections in 1953, leading to the convocation of the First ACPC, and to begin the First 5-Year Plan in 1953, were evidently reached by the Chinese Communist Party during 1952, and were formally communicated to the CPPCC by Premier Chou En-lai in the report from which these extracts are taken. Interrelationships between the elections and the 5-Year Plan are brought out by Chou En-lai. The CPPCC formally took the action recommended in the concluding sentence of this report, thus providing a basis for the action of the CPGC on January 13, 1953)

According to the Common Program, the political system of our country is to be that of people's congresses, but during the early period after the establishment of the government—considering that the people's liberation war had not been concluded, that basic political and social reforms had not been carried out on a national scale, and that the economy still required a period of rehabilitation--conditions were not favorable for instituting at once the people's congress system.... This transitional period is now over, and our country is entering upon a new period of large-scale planned economic construction. In order to meet the tasks of this new period, it is necessary to convene the ACPC and local people's congresses in accordance with the Common Program.... Within the country, the campaign for clearing up the remnant prerogatives and influences of imperialism has been basically completed. The 3-Anti and 5-Anti campaigns, as well as the concurrent ideological reform movement, have consolidated the economic, political and ideological leadership of the working class. Simultaneously with winning great victories in these social reform and patriotic movements, we have also carried through great economic readjustments and restorations of production. Thanks to our correct measures, the financial and economic work of our State has been completely unified, the leadership position of the state-owned economy within the national economic system has been established, revenues and expenditures have been balanced", and commodity prices have been stabilized. Thanks to the democratic reform and production reform carried out in the factories and mines, and to the agrarian reform and development of mutual-aid and the cooperative movement in agriculture, our industrial and agricultural production has generally been restored to, or exceeds, the highest pre-war levels. All this has led to a fundamental turn for the better in our financial and economic situation, a turn for the better earlier than originally expected. The period of our economic rehabilitation has now been basically concluded, the period of large-scale planned economic construction is about to start, and the First 5-Year Plan of our country will begin as from 1953...

To meet the requirements of large-scale economic construction, national defence production, and the cultural-educational construction of the State during this new period, we must enforce the system of people's congresses laid down in the Common Program in order to consolidate the people's democracy still further and to bring into full play the initiative of the masses in participating in the construction work of the State. Today, when conditions are favorable for the convocation of the ACPC and local people's congresses, we should, in accordance with Articles 12, 13 and 14 of the Common Program, convene the ACPC and local people's congresses—to be brought into being by the people through popular election; and revise those provisions under which the Plenary Session of the CPPCC exercises the functions and powers of the ACPC and under which local All-Circles People's Representatives Conferences exercise the functions and powers of the local people's congresses. On this account, the CCP proposes that the CPPCC propose to the CPGC that it convene the ACPC and local people's congresses in 1953, in accordance with the functions and powers laid down in Article 7 (10) of the Organic Law of the CPG, and that it proceed with preparations for drafting the Election Law and Constitution.