

1950

Meetings

Dates of Meeting:

07-01-1950

Type of Meeting

5th meeting CPGC

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

33 people including Zhu De, Liu Shaoqi, Li Jishen, and Zhang Lan attended the meeting. Vice Chairman Liu Shaoqi presided over the meeting

Major Agenda Items:

Finance

Speeches/Reports:

Peng Dehuai: On the work in the Northwest

Zhou Enlai: On diplomatic work

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

The meeting approved three agreements and two additional protocols on postal, telegraph and wire telephone communications between China and North Korea.

The meeting passed the "Outline of National Financial Revenue and Expenditure for the Year 1950," "Decision on Issuing the People's Victory Real Bond," "Provisional Rules for the Organization of People's Representative Conferences in Provinces," "Provisional Rules for the Organization of People's Representative Conferences in Cities," "Provisional Rules for the Organization of People's Representative Conferences in Counties," "Provisional Rules for the Organization of the State Council and Its Subordinate Organizations of the Central People's Government," and the "Resolution on the National Day of the People's Republic of China." The meeting also approved twenty-seven appointment lists.

Remarks:

The meeting analyzed the reasons [the government's massive fiscal deficit] and nature of the nationwide price increases in January, April, July, and October 1949, and specified concrete plans to stabilize prices.

Cheng Qian [then a member of the Central People's Government Committee, Vice Chairman of the People's Revolutionary Military Committee, Vice Chairman of the Central-South Military and Political Committee] returned to Hunan after the establishment of the People's Republic of China and was unable to attend the fourth meeting of the Central People's Government Committee held on December 2, 1949. Shortly after the meeting, Lin Boqu [then a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Secretary-General of the Central People's Government Committee] personally wrote to him, informing him of the decisions made at the meeting.

Chairman Mao Zedong pointed out a major issue with the national budget, which reflects the overall policies of the entire country because it determines the scope and direction of government activities. Chairman Mao cited the issue in the budget draft concerning the maintenance of all former army and civil service personnel, saying: "This is a policy issue."

The people's government should adopt a responsible attitude towards this issue, which is only beneficial to the people. Chairman Mao earnestly admonished everyone, saying, "Our situation can be summarized as: there are difficulties, there are solutions, and there is hope. Our financial situation is difficult, and we must explain our difficulties to the people, not conceal them. But at the same time, we must also explain to the people that we do have ways to overcome these difficulties. Since we have ways to overcome the difficulties, our cause is hopeful, and our future is bright. Our situation will improve year by year, and it is estimated that next year will be better than this year. Within three to five years, our economic cause can be completely restored; within eight to ten years, our economy can achieve tremendous development."

(December 4, 1949, "People's Daily")

The government should be a responsible and transparent government.

Chairman Mao's speech at the time has practical guiding significance. The people's government should be a responsible government. Only a responsible government can be trusted, and only a responsible government can be beneficial to the people. The government's sense of responsibility is particularly important for promoting economic development. If any matter relies solely on the market itself to regulate, the market will be uneconomical, and the government will be irresponsible, leading to massive waste of social resources. Therefore, it becomes increasingly prominent and necessary for the government to actively intervene in the market and guide it. The government should use this "visible hand" to control and regulate the market from a macro perspective. Once reasonable market values cannot be reflected, the market becomes abnormal, and the government becomes derelict in its duty. Correct and good guidance of the market is the most basic requirement for the government and the most concentrated manifestation of the government's responsibility to the people.

"Transparency" should be manifested in every aspect of the operation of government power. Chairman Mao earnestly admonished us: Our financial situation is difficult, and we must explain our difficulties to the people, not conceal them. But at the same time, we must also explain to the people that we do have ways to overcome these difficulties. Premier Wen Jiabao once pointed out that all government power comes from the people, and the people have the right to know what the government is thinking and doing, and have the right to supervise government activities. The people's right to know is the foundation of expression, participation, and supervision, as well as an important factor in promoting government decision-making, democratic decision-making, and scientific decision-making. Only a "transparent" government can follow the will of the people. Introducing transparency into government management activities is the right thing for modern government management and an inevitable requirement for the people of our country to be the masters of their own country.