

1949

Meetings

Dates of Meeting:

11-04-1949 – 18-04-1949

Type of Meeting:

1st National Youth League Conference

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

Ren Bishi, Zhou Enlai, 340 attends

Major Agenda Items:

NDYL founding

Speeches/Reports:

Zhou Enlai "[Unite with the broad mass to advance together](#)", April 12, 1949

Ren Bishi Speech, 13-04-1949 on the forthcoming advance of the "People's Liberation Army" south of the Yangtze River, "the cities will be reached first and the [revolutionary] work extended from the cities to the countryside" basic task is to unite the whole of the younger generation.

"...the leaders as well as all the members of the New Democratic Youth Corps must correctly and thoroughly recognize the absolute necessity of accepting the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, resolutely carrying out and obeying all decisions and policies adopted by the Chinese Communist Party, learning and studying the theories of Marxism and Leninism and the ways of the Communist Party and guaranteeing that all members of the Youth Corps, as well as the vast multitude of the masses of youth, will have complete faith in the Chinese Communist Party."

"The Youth Corps in factories, besides accepting the leadership of the Party Branches, should maintain a correct relationship with labor unions. Organizationally, both the Youth Corps and the labor unions should follow the leadership of the Communist Party, but the Youth Corps is to conduct its work among young workers so that these young workers will self-consciously and voluntarily obey and respond to various regulations and appeals of public enterprises and factories as well as the labor unions."

"Members of the Youth Corps in farm villages where land reforms have been introduced should become energetic elements in increasing production (including that of secondary enterprises) and in leading the vast multitude of young farmers to co-operate with adult farmers in labor exchanges. . . . They should moreover energetically participate in the co-operative movement in farm villages."

Zhu De speeches 11-04 and 18-04

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

- The Chinese New Democratic Youth League was established. In 1957 renamed CYL. Originally named Socialist Youth League it held its First National Congress in Guangzhou in 1922 when the birth of a national unified youth organization was proclaimed. Thereafter, the organization changed its name into Communist Youth League in 1925
- Ren Bishi elected honorary chairman, Feng Wenbin as the leading member of a 45-man executive committee containing such names as Liao Chengzhi, Jiang Nanxiang, Xiao Hua, Hu Qiaomu, Hu Yaobang (later to become Chairman), Huang Hua, and Jian Zhunrui

Remarks:

1. In keeping with the teachings of Marxism-Leninism, the Party thus recognized and pin-pointed the transition from one "phase" of the revolution to another. The new urban policy is only one identifiable aspect of a basic decision which has numerous political, administrative, social, economic and cultural ramifications.
2. Ren Bishi held a lengthy political report, who was physically overloaded. After he read the first part, he began to feel dizzy, heart palpitations, and asthma. The rest of the time, many comrades were concerned about his health, and recommended the draft report to be delivered by other comrades. Ren Bishi had to accept this proposal, but he insisted to stay on the podium until the end of the session.
3. The New Democratic Youth League: League branches were successfully established in a number of places in the "liberated areas" of the Northeast, the Northwest, North China, and East China during 1947-1948 In outlining the functions of the NDYL the resolution cites the following main points:
 - (a) The NDYL is a mass organisation of progressive youth fighting resolutely for New Democracy under the political leadership of the CCP.
 - (b) It is a nucleus through which the CCP can unite and lead the broad masses of youth.

- (c) It is a school through which the CCP educates youth in Marxism-Leninism.
 - (d) It should, in accordance with the spirit of Marxism-Leninism, organize the broad masses of Chinese youth to participate in various movements advocated by the CCP and the Central People's Government.
 - (e) It should lead the masses of youth to join the army, participate in the war, support the front and develop agricultural and industrial production, making this the central task of all league work.
 - (f) It should constantly serve and devote attention to the special interests and needs of the masses of youth while keeping in mind the greatest interests of the greatest number.
 - (g) It should guide the masses of youth to participate in the military, political, economic, and cultural construction work for the people's democratic state and the anti-imperialistic, democratic peace movement of international youth.
 - (h) It should widely and systematically promote, both among league members and non-league youth, ideological education on the unity of Marxist-Leninist theory with the practice of the Chinese Revolution, in order to enable them gradually to apply Marxist-Leninist dialectical materialism in understanding the process of social development and the laws of development of the Chinese Revolution. League members should acquire cultural, scientific, production, and military knowledge as well as professional knowledge and techniques. All league members should consider the dissemination of Marxist-Leninist ideology and various new democratic policies as their glorious responsibility. The league should also help governmental educational institutions to improve school and social education.
 - (i) It should guide juvenile and children's work, absorbing children between seven and twelve into the Children's Corps and those between thirteen and seventeen into the Young Pioneers, and selecting its very best cadres to supervise this work.
- The resolution further specified that joining the League was to be on a voluntary basis, with the establishment of certain focal centres in cities, factories, schools, the army, towns, and other areas of population concentration. Once these centres had taken root, universal expansion of the League was to proceed. Communist Party organisations were instructed to set up schools and training courses for the training of League cadres, and the Youth Work Committee of the CC of the Party was entrusted with the task of publishing a periodical to be called Chung-kuo Ch'ingnien {Chinese Youth). Finally the CC decided that the first National Representative Congress of the NDYL was to be held in the summer of 1949, in order to inaugurate formally the new organisation, pass its bylaws, and elect its officers.