

1949

Meetings

Dates of Meeting:

15-11-1949 – 1-12-1949

Type of Meeting:

Trade Union Conference of Asian and Australasian Countries

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

117 delegates from 13 countries, including China, the Soviet Union, Mongolia, Korea, India, Viet-Nam, Burma, Siam, Indonesia, Ceylon, the Philippines, Malaya, and Iran. Cuban labor leader Lázaro Peña, Indian delegate, Shankar Shelwankar

Liu Shaoqi chairs the conference

Speeches and Reports:

Liu Shaoqi: [Opening Speech](#) 15-11-1949 Liu called attention to the " Mao Tse-tung road " and its relevance to armed struggle in colonial and semi-colonial area in his opening speech

Mao Zedong

Li lisan: [Report](#)

Shankar Shelwankar: CCP's victory has hastened CPI's victory in India

Decisions:

- Ultimately, however, the **WFTU** Conference—presumably in deference to Soviet views--in one of its resolutions urged the colonial and semi-colonial countries to take into account "local conditions and national characteristics " in choosing "the appropriate methods" to build a united front and defeat the imperialists, suggesting that armed struggle was now far from generally obligatory. All in all, the evidence suggests that while both Moscow and Peiping still endorsed armed struggle for many Asian countries, and both admitted the need for some present exceptions, the CPSU now saw the necessity for more exceptions from this policy than the CCP was yet willing to admit.
- Founding of a Trade Union Liaison Bureau, so that "the working people in this part of the world shall not remain unguided and unaided in their struggle for rights" and so that there would be "a nerve center from where contacts will be permanently and constantly maintained"

Remarks:

1. In an address to a mass rally in Peking Liu stated that the Chinese working class, besides having to lead in the internal economic struggle, also would need "to shoulder the grave responsibility of assisting the working class and working people of capitalist countries and especially of colonial and semi-colonial countries in Asia and Australia. The victorious Chinese working class cannot and must not evade this honourable international responsibility...."
2. Early in January 1950, during Mao's visit to Moscow, *Pravda* published Liu's speech, confirming Stalin's approval.
3. Conference held under the auspices of the World Federation of Trade Unions.