

1949

Meetings

Dates of Meeting:

27-08-1949

Type of Meeting:

4th plenary meeting of the preparatory meeting for the new PCC

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

Zhou Enlai Mao Zedong

Major Agenda Items:

Centralization

Speeches/Reports:

Mao Zedong:

The long-standing issue of centralization versus decentralization can only be explained by us. For matters that must be centralized, we should centralize as much as possible and maintain a firm grip, such as on the diplomatic issues concerning [U.S. ambassador] John Leighton Stuart (Si-Tu Lei-Deng). Some people say we only deal with policy and not with specific affairs. It is impossible to manage every single affair, but policy issues affect the political and economic lives of hundreds of thousands or even millions of people. We focus on major appointments and key policies. Our approach combines some centralization and some decentralization to achieve effective governance. Therefore, in some areas, local authorities should be given supervisory powers. In contrast to Chiang Kai-shek's centralization, our approach is both centralized and decentralized, with centralization applied where it is necessary.

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

Remarks: