

Dates of Meeting:

1st National United Front Work Conference

Type of Meeting:

16-3-1950 – 04-05-1950

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

93 people, North East 9 persons, North-China Bureau 8, Sanmin 3, East Bureau 13, Central China 17; Southwest Bureau 5, Northwest Bureau 6, central party and government union, Youth League Women federation and other mass organisations 29

Major Agenda Items:**Speeches/Reports:**

Mao Zedong said that what Engels meant here was that the proletariat must not only emancipate itself but also must emancipate all mankind. Only by emancipating all mankind can the proletariat achieve its own final emancipation. This is a fundamental theoretical basis for the united front. He emphatically pointed out: "The targets of our current struggle are imperialism and feudalism and their running dogs, the KMT reactionary remnants, rather than the national bourgeoisie. We should struggle against the national bourgeoisie on the one hand and unite with them on the other. The policy of unity as well as struggle should be adopted to unite with the national bourgeoisie and jointly develop the national economy." We should "restrict and reject the industry and commerce disadvantageous to the national economy and the people's livelihood, namely speculative commerce and the industry and commerce related to luxuries and superstitious goods, rather than the proper industry and commerce. That are advantageous to the national economy and the people's livelihood. We should give them a hand when they have difficulties so as to ensure their development " He also urged the state owned commerce not to monopolize everything. Besides salt, the state-owned commerce should only exercise control over a certain amount of the major commodities (grain, cloth, edible oil, and coal) and its range of business should be divided with the private sector.

Li Weihan: "The united front the new situation and new tasks," 21 march 1950 laid out the united front's role in the consolidation of CCP rule: it would assist in eliminating enemies, help revive and develop a new economy and culture and help establish the conditions needed to enter the socialist stage. The UFD needed to stabilize the middle elements' support for Party rule and begin the transformation of their middle and right wings. Li acknowledged that in the early-1930s Soviet period the failure to unite with "bourgeois' middle elements in order to pursue a leftist "overthrowing everything" policy, which had left the CCP fatally isolated.

Li did not want to repeat the mistakes of the 1930s. The UFD would get the Party's united front allies take the Common Program to heart and then convince their constituencies to do likewise

Li Weihan detailed the tasks of the new united front. In addition to uniting with the bourgeoisie to combat imperialist and reactionary enemies, they were necessary because there was an urgent need to revive the economy and culture as a pre-condition for socialism. Private capital was still required to industrialize backward agriculture.

... although the middle and petit bourgeoisie were still regarded as the "middle force", and the author affirmed the importance of winning them over, they were classified into three groupings – "middle-left", "middle", and "middle-right", according to their potential attitudes towards the Common Program.

Moreover, it stressed that some feudal reactionaries and reactionary compradors among the national bourgeoisie, and those who had engaged in economic sabotage or conspired politically with reactionary groups both at home and abroad "should be given a necessary blow at the right time".

Zhou Enlai "Speech", 13-04-1950 Zhou Enlai "We have united democratic personages from religious groups just because they are democratic personages. Giving the permission to the freedom of religious belief is different from inviting the democratic personages from religious groups to participate in CPPCC or other representative meetings. The latter is done purely out of political consideration no matter they are priests or monks"

He pointed out, fifty percent of the 2,400,000 government personnel at the district level and above were non-Party people and the many intellectuals among them contained MPG elements. Relations with these groups therefore needed to be well handled. "We let the democratic parties exist and develop precisely to help organize these classes.... It is because we have democratic parties that we can use them to influence the unorganized bourgeois, petty bourgeois, the intellectuals and professionals and through the democratic parties' political activities temper and test this group." He

defined that the UFWD was a comprehensive functional department that played the roles of the party's staff office, political office, organization office, and also administrative office.

"We could not think that democratic parties are of no use in the party relations at the present stage. The people's democratic dictatorship task is not completed yet today. Even in socialism, democratic parties will go with us. We cooperate with the democratic parties in order to be more close to the masses. "

"Due to the long-term war conditions in the past, we have developed a habit of often issuing orders in the name of the Party. It was especially so in the army. Now that we have entered a peaceful period and established our national regime, we should change this habit."

"There are connections, but also differences between the Party and the government. The principles and policies of the Party must be carried out through the government and the Party organization should guarantee the implementation."

cadres want to merchandise all goods themselves and leave no room for private department stores. Can this be called a booming economy? With both large and small businesses closed down and many jobless people around, we are getting ourselves into trouble. While these businesses remain shut down, our taxes are gone as well. Who will benefit from this?

Xu Bing: (Beijing's deputy head of the Central UFD) presents the Party's proposals for the re-organisation of the MPGs. The MPGs were to be limited in number rather than abolished or amalgamated. Nor was the Democratic League to become an "alliance of the working People"

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

Li Weihai: [Briefing report on the First National United Front Work Conference May 4, 1950

Remarks:

many delegates advocated struggle against the bourgeoisie. With regard to capitalists' requests to divide up the business domain between the state and the private sectors lest both compete with each other, they neglected to do so. They also suggested to step up the development of the state-run economy "boundlessly" and left the depressed private businesses in the lurch so as to cut the Gordian knot by expelling the private sector completely from the economic sphere.

CC approved and circulated MPS report "Report on the National Public Security Conference" 28 December 1950

MPG leaders held during this conference meetings, hosted receptions and discussed issues of establishment, funding, study for MPG cadres, and the problems of unemployment amongst their members