

Dates of Meeting:

24-09-1952

Type of Meeting:

Secretariat

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

Mao, Liu Shaoqi, Zhou Enlai (just back from SU), Chen Yun, Deng Xiaoping, Peng Dehuai, Peng Zhen, Chen Yi,

Bo Yibo, Luo Ruiqing, Su Yu, An Ziwen, Yang Shangkun, Rao Shushi, Xi Zhongxun and Nie Rongzhen.

Major Agenda Items:

Transition period

Speeches/Reports:

Mao initiated a "general line" for the transition period: "to accomplish the country's industrialization and socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts and capitalist industry, and commerce in ten to fifteen years.

The "transition to socialism" referred to the ratio expansion of the socialist sector against the private sector. Mao said, "we now start to spend 10 to 15 years to basically complete the transition to socialism In industrial sector, the private sector [now] accounts for 32.7% [of the total output]; the state sector 67.3%. In retail sector, the private sector accounts for 60% [of the total turnover]; the state sector 40%. After five years, the proportion of the private sector would further reduce, albeit it would increase in absolute value. It is none other than socialism... After 15 years, the nature of the private industry and commerce will have changed, being a new type of capitalism –JPPEs,(joint private-public enterprises) producing for state contracts, under workers' supervision.... They cannot get rid of the Communist Party"²²

²²Bo Yibo, *Ruogan zhongdajuece yu shijian huigu* [Reflection on Certain Major Policy Decisions and Events], vol.1 (Beijing: Zhonggong zhongyang dangshi chubanshe, 1991), 212-4.

Mao reported on the progress that the party had made in expanding the state's presence in industry and commerce. And he believed that when the state-owned sector reached a dominant position, it was time to eliminate the capitalist residue in the economy.

Other Decisions and/or Actions:**Remarks:**

Before that date, the CCP's consensus on the long-term strategic goal was based on the formula Mao articulated in "On New Democracy" of 1940, "On Coalition Government" of 1945, and "On People's Democratic Dictatorship" of 1949.

Because Mao thought that this was a major change, he wanted to consult Stalin for advice. He asked Liu Shaoqi to write a letter while he was in Moscow in October 1952. In accordance to Mao's thoughts, Liu delivered a letter to Stalin on October 20, detailing the rationale for pursuing the transition to socialism. In the letter, it also was stated that this was not an official position of the Party yet; it was still in the discussion stage within the top leadership. Stalin agreed with the CCP's thinking on this transition issue. 75

Even with Stalin's support, Mao remained cautious and he did not intend to make it widely known before an official resolution was made. Thus, when he learned that Luo Ruiqing talked to some cadres outside the leadership group, Mao was so upset that Luo asked for disciplinary actions against himself.

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This general line was formally adopted at the enlarged Politburo conference on [June 15, 1953](#)