

Dates of Meeting:

2-10-1953

Type of Meeting:

Enlarged PB

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

Deng Xiaoping presides, members of Ministry of Grain and the Central Financial Committee. last time Gao appeared in Beijing

Major Agenda Items:

State monopoly for the purchasing and marketing of grain.

Speeches/Reports:

Mao "This is a war on food producers [i.e., farmers] as well as on food consumers [the urban population]"

Chen Yun: Analysis " Even in 1951, the government had to use every coercive means to acquire grain." He wants everybody to accept his policy that the government would decide how much grain peasants should sell to the state and how much food an urban dweller could consume. This policy, known as the UGPM, enabled the state take complete control of the acquisition and sale of grain.

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

1. On 1 October 1953, (the national day of the PRC), most communist leaders gathered at Tiananmen Square to watch the holiday fireworks. Chen Yun took the opportunity to inform Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai of the proposal for compulsory procurement. Chen was glad to have Mao's approval and Zhou's support. Mao asked Chen to call an enlarged meeting of the CCP Politburo and assigned Deng Xiaoping to preside over the meeting to discuss this policy scenario

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2. For the first week, the whole discussion did not touch on the general line or on cooperativization plan. Aware that the party would take away all the peasants' surplus grain from the current year plus their savings of the past, 115 the CCP leaders foresaw that peasants would resist the policy. There would be bloodshed. It was very clear to them that this was a political movement. However, to the party's dismay, the objections first came from within the party. On the provincial level, there were already complaints about abuses even before the final decision was made. At county and district levels, discontent was stronger and deeper. This was a serious matter. The cadres opposing the new policy were regarded as the backbone of the party. Li Jingquan, who took charge of the trial introduction of the nationalized grain market in Sichuan province and who was known for his loyalty to Mao Zedong, suggested combining the nationalization of the grain market with the propaganda for the general line in order to persuade those old cadres. Shifting attention to the bright future, it would be easier to overcome the present difficulties, Li Jingquan reasoned. Mao agreed. By adding the grain policy to the general line, it was possible that the whole party would embrace it and implement it. In propaganda, peasants should be told about socialism, about industrialization, and their Soviet future. 117 So in November, the propaganda for the unified purchase and sale of the grain market was placed in the context of studying the general line. Now, to express the discontent with the nationalization of the grain market had a much more serious implication: "Are you questioning the Chairman's line?" During the study of the general line, two major points were emphasized, first, to urge peasants to sell more grain to the state; second, to draw a line between capitalism and socialism, thereby leaving cooperativization as the only correct path to follow. The nationalization of the grain market paved way for cooperativization. As in the Soviet Union, the state grain monopoly was designed to siphon off whatever surplus there was and use it for industrialization. Producers' collectives could be used to enforce the purchasing program. Toward the end of 1953, the agricultural cooperativization movement, heading toward collectivization, was formally launched in China.

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