

Dates of Meeting:

October 26 - November 5, 1953

Type of Meeting:.

3rd mutual aid and cooperation work conference

Major Agenda Items:

Transition to socialism in agriculture

Speeches and Reports:

Mao Zedong: Speech "[TWO TALKS ON MUTUAL AID AND COOPERATION WORK](#)"

: if socialism does not occupy a leading position in agriculture, then capitalism will; one cannot straddle the middle between socialism and capitalism in agriculture; correct the Right opportunist thinking in guiding the movement for agricultural cooperativization.

Bo Yibo: Reviewing the history of agricultural producers' cooperatives in north China, he concluded that except for a very few cooperatives, agricultural producers' cooperatives had produced more than individual farmers and mutual aid teams. The excesses had been exaggerated in the rectification movement causing good cooperatives to suffer unnecessarily. Of all cooperatives under rectification, only 20 percent truly needed to be "corrected," the remaining 80 percent were good. Bo said, "There was some rash tendency in accumulating the public assets in cooperatives. But now situations have changed." "The overall tendency now is to collectivize livestock and farming implements, which will bring about more and more accumulation." Bo commented that on the issue of developing agricultural producers' cooperatives, cadres he had contacted were not brave enough. They should be braver. To substantially encourage building new cooperatives, Bo promised to grant each agricultural producers' cooperative that consisted of over 30 households state loans ranging from 10 million yuan to 15 million yuan. This loan was to be repaid in eight years, a much longer duration than for other loans. All in all, "the investment is necessary," "10 to 15 million yuan for each cooperative of 30 households is appropriate." Then Bo advocated doubling the number of agricultural producers' cooperatives in north China in 1954. Pages 195-196

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

"[Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on the Development of Agricultural Production Cooperatives](#)", The content was mainly based on Mao's earlier talks on the subject, later crystallized in his report "On the Problem of Agricultural Collectivization", July 31, 1955

Before the conference the planned number of APCs was about 35,800, however, after the conference, the number increased to 45,000, about 10,000 up

Remarks:

On October 15 and November 4 Mao Zedong discussed these issues with cadres from the party's Rural Work Department. He said that rural work departments at all levels should regard mutual assistance and cooperation as an extremely important matter. If socialism does not occupy the rural positions, capitalism will inevitably occupy them.

To orient this conference, Mao held a conversation with Chen Boda and Liao Luyan, vice ministers of Rural Work Department. With full faith in the high productivity of agricultural producers' cooperatives, Mao said, "the room for individual farmers to increase productivity is very limited. (We) must rely on mutual aid teams and cooperatives." In the face of a grain procurement crisis, Mao attributed the shortage of grain supply to the contradiction of private ownership and production forces and insisted that "the private ownership must be converted to collective ownership in the transition to socialism." Agricultural producers' cooperatives must be built, the more, the better. 68

Mao's evaluation of the rectification of spring 1953 was rather low. To him, it certainly had hampered the progress of mutual aid and cooperation movement. Mao condemned Rural Work Department for not talking about socialism and for overvaluing the small peasant economy. Page 194

Liao Luyan faithfully conveyed Mao's orientation to the attendees. Aware of Mao's intention, attendees unanimously agreed that the rectification in the spring was of some value, but it had been too prudent. After the rectification, to "let peasants take their course" was viewed as a main deviation that should be now curbed. The political atmosphere was once again altered. Page 195 Hou Xiaojia

Jumping the gun: Local agency and early experiments in the socialist Transformation of rural society in revolutionary China