

Dates of Meeting:

September 15-28, 1954

Type of Meeting:

1st session of the 1st NPC

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

1226 deputies. Liu Shaoqi chairman

Present is Dalai Lama

Among its large membership of more than 1200 Deputies and Alternate Deputies, the China Democratic League claims 82 seats, and assumes a leading position among the minor parties. The League is followed by the China Democratic National Construction Association (63 seats), the Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang (59 seats), the Chiu San Society (24 seats), the Chinese Peasants' and Workers' Democratic Party (19 seats), the China Association for Promoting Democracy (16 seats), the China Chihkungtang (4 seats), and the Taiwan Democratic Self-Government League (2 seats).

Major Agenda Items:

Draw up constitution and several important laws; adopt government work report; elect new government leaders

Speeches and Reports:

Mao Zedong: Opening Speech, "[STRIVE TO BUILD A GREAT SOCIALIST COUNTRY](#)"

" September 15, 1954

Liu Shaoqi: September 15, 1954 [Report on the Draft Constitution of the People's Republic of China](#) .

Liu saw "a real danger of reactionary comeback." Meaning the US-ROC threat.

"the Chinese revolution has manifested a depth, thoroughness and a mass scale absolutely unparalleled in all previous revolutionary movements."

"In the transition period the national bourgeoisie still plays an important role in the national economy. It can still make a definite contribution to the State in such fields as expanding production, improving management of enterprises and production techniques and training skilled workers and technicians, as well as by accepting socialist transformation."

Zhou Enlai: "Government Work Report". September 23, 1954 [Text](#)

"The Government of the People's Republic of China has repeatedly stated that Taiwan is China's sacred and inviolable territory and that no United States infringement or occupation will be tolerated. Our compatriots on Taiwan...have always been members of the great Chinese family of nationalities and their enslavement by the United States will never be tolerated. The liberation of Taiwan is China's sovereign right and internal affair and no interference by any foreign country will be tolerated. Both the Cairo Declaration and the Potsdam Declaration, to which the United States is a signatory, affirm that Taiwan is Chinese territory; no perfidious violation of these solemn international agreements by the United States is permitted....all proposals to place Taiwan under United Nations trusteeship or under neutral mandate, or to 'neutralize' Taiwan or to create a so-called 'independent Taiwan state,' are attempts to carve up China's territory, enslave the Chinese people on Taiwan and legalize United States occupation of Taiwan. None of this will be tolerated by the Chinese people."

the United States aimed to "ensure that Asians would fight Asians." Zhou charged that the United States planned to intervene in revolutionary movements in Southeast Asia, grab strategic markets, and "legalize" its military action under the guise of "defending" these areas.

"But which is better: to bear certain temporary hardships and inconveniences for the sake of long-range prosperity and happiness; or to seek petty benefits now and never manage to shake off poverty and backwardness? We believe that everyone will think the first a good idea, the second bad."

"The more powerful our Constitution and laws, the more powerful our public security, procurators', and judicial organs, the greater the safeguard for the people's rights and interests, the heavier the blows that fall on the people's enemies."

He stated that the formulation of the first *Five Year Plan* was still not complete. However, he went on to give the estimated index of production for several industries in 1954, with 1949 as the base year

He reaffirmed the determination of the Chinese leadership to transform the country into "a socialist industrial country of prosperity." To achieve this goal, he stressed the urgent need for "a peaceful environment and a peaceful world" to develop China's internal economy. Zhou specifically mentioned that both Laos and Cambodia had committed themselves not to take part in any "military alliance" and this commitment would provide China with the "possibility" of establishing normal state-to-state

relations with these two Indo-Chinese states. He also added that it was essential for the Asian countries to strive jointly to defend "collective peace and security" throughout Asia.

Chen Yun: "[On Planned Procurement and Planned Supply](#)," September 23, 1954

'Grain sales began to rise abnormally both in urban and rural districts in September 1954" due to the flood in 1954.

Speeches by eighty-nine representatives concerning Liu Shaoqi's report

Speeches by seventy-five representatives concerning Zhou Enlai's report

Shao Lize, member of the Central Standing Committee of the KMT Revolutionary Committee : he related the need for birth control to the lack of educational facilities in China.

"The difficulties arising from too large a population are most marked on the side of culture and education. I will for the moment confine myself to our inability to send all our children of school age to schools...It is a good thing to have a large population but in an environment beset with difficulties, it appears that there should be a limit set."

(The first prominent governmental endorsement came in June 1956 when the Minister of Health in a speech to the National People's Congress 15-06-1956 emphasised the need for wider publicity and knowledge about birth control. Finally, at the Eighth Congress of the Communist Party in September 1956, Chou En-lai stated that "we agree that some measure of birth control is desirable.")

Other minor reports.

Jia Tuofu and **Li Xiannian**, did not talk about the sphere of the capitalist sector

Xu Dixin, who took charge of the Socialist Transformation of the capitalist sector, talked of the private economy.

Minister of Interior **Xie Juezai**, Speech, September 26, 1954 revealed the scope of the floods. More than 42,000 square miles (chiefly in the Yangtze and Huai River valleys) were inundated and more than 10,000,000 people had to be evacuated. The area involved was far greater than the record of 34,000 square miles set by the disastrous floods of 1931

Documents passed:

"[CONSTITUTION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA](#)"

"[ORGANIC LAW OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS](#)"

"[ORGANIC LAW OF THE STATE COUNCIL](#)"

"[ORGANIC LAW OF THE PEOPLE'S COURTS](#)"

"[Organic law](#)" for the Various Levels of the People's Congresses and People's Councils of the People's Republic of China".

Other minor resolutions and decisions.

<http://www.commonprogram.science/documents/118252.pdf>

39 bills proposed

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

- Made appointments to leading organs of the state
- NPC elects Mao as chairman of the PRC and Liu as chairman of NPC September, 27
- Among the fourteen Vice-Chairmen of the Standing Committee are Shen Chun-ju, the Chairman of the China Democratic League; Ho Hsiang-ning, the Chairman of the Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang; and Huang Yen-p'ei, the Chairman of the China Democratic National Construction Association. Chu Teh, a member of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party, is the Chair-man of the Standing Committee.
- The State Council replaced the Government Administrative Council as China's highest government executive organ. Chairman: Liu Shaoqi
- Vice chairman: Soong Ching Ling (f), Lin Boqu, Li Jishen, Zhang Lan, Luo Ronghuan, Shen Junru, Guo Moruo, Huang Yanpei, Peng Zhen, Li Wei-han, Chen Shutong, Dalai Lama Danzin Gyaco (Tibetan), Seypidin Azizi (Uygur), Chen Qian
- Peng Dehuai is elected minister of defence September, 28
- a new National Defense Commission (Guofang Weiyuanhui) was created under the Central Government, but it is described as having been intended "as a consultative [*zixunxing*] body, not as an armed forces leadership organ.
- The Ministry of Supervision was established as the People's Supervisory Commission in October 1949 after the founding of the People's Republic of China. It took on the present name Ministry of Supervision in September 1954 (closed in 1959.)
- It officially inaugurated the Central People's Government and abolished the six military-administrative regions into which the country had been divided since 1949

Remarks:

1. This meeting marked the formal end to the transition period in China.

2. Liu Shaoqi visited the Soviet Union twice and asked for advice of Stalin about adoption of constitution, and expressed the CPC Central Committee's initial idea that the Constitution would not be adopted temporarily at that stage. Liu Shaoqi conveyed the proposals of Stalin about making the Constitution which greatly contributed to the work of starting to adopt the Constitution of new China in advance. In the stage of drafting the Constitution of 1954, Liu Shaoqi chaired or attended the meeting of discussing on the draft of Constitution many times.
3. On the Dalai Lama's arrival at Beijing railway station they were met by Zhou Enlai and Zhu De, while Deng Xiaoping personally checked their living quarters and Mao Zedong received and hosted several dinner parties for them. The Dalai Lama, just nineteen, was made a Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and the Panchen Lama, even younger, nominated a Standing Committee member. The Dalai Lama stayed for 7 months in Beijing. After the NPC session, Chairman Mao met Dalai Lama separately, and told him that, under the 17-Article Agreement, a Military and Administrative Committee would be set up in Tibet. As similar ones had been disbanded throughout China, and many within the upper echelon of the ruling class in Tibet worried about the committee. the establishment of an autonomous region was proposed. 4-11-1954