

**Dates of Meeting:**

21-12-1954 – 25-12-1954

**Type of Meeting:**

1<sup>st</sup> session of the national committee of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CPPCC

**Place of Meeting:**

Beijing

**Attendance:**

Honorary chairman: Mao, Chairman Zhou, vice chairmen: Soong Ching Ling (f), Dong Biwu, Li Jishen, Zhang Lan, Guo Moruo, Peng Zhen, Shen Junru, Huang Yanpei, He Xiangning (f), Li Weihan, Li Siguang, Chen Shutong, Zhang Bojun, Chen Jiageng, Bainqen Erdini Qoigyi Gyaincain (Tibetan), Burhan Shahidi (Uygur)

In the 10000 strong body of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the China Democratic League, the Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang and the China Democratic National Construction Association each has 40 seats; the China Association for Promoting Democracy, the Chinese Peasants' and Workers' Democratic Party and the Chiu San Society each holds 20 seats; and the China Zhikong dang and the Taiwan Democratic Self-Government League each has eight seats.6 Chairman Shen Chun-ju of the China Democratic League, Chairman Ho Hsiang-ning of the Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang and Chairman Huang Yen-p'ei of the China Democratic National Construction Association are among the 14 Vice-Chairmen of the National Committee of the Conference. Mao Tse-tung is the Honorary Chairman; and Chou En-lai, the Chairman

**Speeches and Reports:**

**Zhou Enlai:** " Political Report," December 21, 1954 He envisaged the formation of the "area of peace" composed of all non-aligned states in South Asia, including Burma, Ceylon, Nepal and India

**Chen Shutong:** " Work Report of the First CPPCC," December 21, 1954

**Zhang Bojun:** " Explanation of the (Draft) Charter of the CPPCC," December 21, 1954

**Documents passed:**

- " Charter of the CPPCC," December 25, 1954.
- The Regulations of the Conference, adopted in December 1954 by the Second National Committee, defines its tasks as follows:

1 ) to solve, in co-operation with the Government, social problems arising from the inter-relationships between different classes;

2) to keep in close touch with the people and bring their opinions and suggestions to the attention of the governmental bodies;

3) to solve, by way of consultation, problems affecting co-operation within the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and between any of the different parties, groups and organizations affiliated to it;

4) to exchange views on the nomination of candidates to the National People's Congress and local people's congresses, and the Political Consultative Conferences at all levels;

5) to make arrangements for members to study Marxism-Leninism and remould their way of thinking; and

6) to exchange views on international affairs.

- " Proclamation of the First Session of the Second CPPCC," December 25, 1954
- Declaration on Taiwan [Text](#)

**Remarks:**

and formally abandons legislative powers (from 1949) in favour of National People's Congress (NPC), but reaffirms its role in organizing and maintaining the people's democratic united work.

The replacement of the *Common Program* by the new Chinese constitution of 1954 had left the CPPCC as the ultimate expression of the united front while the locus of power was now nominally vested in the NPC. However, the seven tasks of the CPPCC, as laid out by Zhou Enlai in December 1954, had left little room for input by the allies represented within it.

*Managing Transitions: The Chinese Communist Party, United Front Work, Corporatism, and Hegemony.* Gerry Groot : Routledge. New York. 2004. Page 97.

the leaders of the minor parties were still expressing much the same sentiments individually. Li Chi-shell, Chairman of the Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang, for example, promised: "We will

still more closely rally around the Communist Party and march forward under the banner of the great leader Mao Tse-tung."

*Communist China Today. : Peter S. H. Tang Research Institute on the Sino-Soviet Bloc.: Washington, DC. 1961. Page 148.*

Among the 333 members of the National Committee elected at the Second Plenary Session of the CPPCC in December, 1954, according to the *People's Daily* of December 11, 1954, 40 were delegates of the CPC, while the delegations of the non-Communist parties ranged from 6 to 25 each. Under the standard Communist principle of hierarchical organization, the National Committee is empowered to set up local committees as organs of consultation in the major cities, important areas, and provincial capitals.

The *People's Daily*, on December 22, 1954, at the time of the meeting of the Second National Committee. Its editorial comment well summarizes, in the language of Communism, the essential nature of the CPPCC and its usefulness to the regime:

. . . The present CPPCC does not have to and should not exercise the functions and authority of an organ of state power any longer. But it remains a people's democratic united-front organization for uniting all nationalities, democratic classes, democratic parties and groups, people's bodies, overseas Chinese and other patriotic democrats of our country. It is not an organization with the character of political power or semi-political power: it is an organization of party character. Its task consists in continuously consolidating and developing the democratic united front of our people under the leadership of the CPC and in uniting more extensively, through the unity of democratic parties and groups and people's bodies, the people of all nationalities of our country to oppose in common the enemy at home and abroad in their struggle for peace, democracy, and the great Socialist cause.

In his talk to representatives of democratic parties and non-party personalities on December 19, 1954, Mao said, "Let us not use the phrase of Mao Zedong Thought. If we use the phrase of Mao Zedong Thought along with Marxism-Leninism, they would be mistaken as two different things; in order to avoid misunderstandings, we will not use Mao Zedong Thought."