

1951

Speeches/Documents

Title: GREAT VICTORIES IN THREE MASS MOVEMENTS

Author:

**Date: October 23,
1951**

Source:.

Description:. Opening address at the Third Session of the First National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Fellow Committee Members and Comrades,

The Third Session of the First National Committee of our People's Political Consultative Conference is now open. Besides members of the National Committee, there are present at this session specially invited representatives of the Chinese People's Volunteers and the People's Liberation Army, model workers in industry and agriculture, delegates from the old base areas, workers in education, literature and art, industrialists and businessmen, experts in various herds, representatives of religious circles, minority nationalities, overseas Chinese, women and youth, representatives from provincial and municipal consultative committees, etc., as well as many government personnel. The members attending this session and those invited to sit in include many publicly acclaimed combat heroes and model workers in industry, agriculture and other fields. The size and scope of this session amply indicate that the People's Republic of China has registered tremendous achievements and progress on every front.

Since last year we have unfolded three large-scale movements in the country, the movement to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea, the agrarian reform movement and the movement to suppress counter-revolutionaries, and we have won great victories. By and large, the remnant counter-revolutionaries on the mainland will soon be eliminated. Agrarian reform will be completed in 1952, except in some areas inhabited by minority nationalities. In the movement to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea, the Chinese people are more broadly united than ever before and are waging a determined struggle against the U.S. imperialist forces of aggression. Embodying the mighty will of the Chinese people, the Chinese People's Volunteers have joined forces with the Korean People's Army in smashing U.S. imperialism's mad scheme to overrun and occupy the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and then to invade China's mainland; thus the peace-loving people of Korea, China, Asia and the world have been inspired and made more confident in their defence of peace and resistance to aggression. We should extend our congratulations and pay tribute to the heroic Chinese People's Volunteers and Korean People's Army!

Thanks to victories in these three mass movements and to the joint efforts of the people's governments at all levels and of every section of the population, our country has achieved unprecedented unity. The question of Tibet has been solved by peaceful means. Our national defence has been strengthened. The people's democratic dictatorship has been consolidated. Our currency and commodity prices have remained stable, and our work of rehabilitation and development in the spheres of economic construction, culture and education has also taken a big stride forward.

On the industrial and agricultural fronts the growing patriotic movement to increase production is a new phenomenon in our country which calls for rejoicing. The agrarian reform

in the countryside and the democratic reform in factories and other enterprises enable our workers and peasants both to display tremendous enthusiasm in their patriotic efforts to increase production and to improve their material and cultural life. If we are good at uniting with the workers and peasants, educating and relying on them, there is bound to be a nationwide upsurge in the patriotic movement to increase production.

On our cultural and educational front and among all types of intellectuals, a movement for self-education and self-remoulding is unfolding on a broad scale in accordance with the principles laid down by the Central People's Government, and this too is a new phenomenon in our country which calls for rejoicing. At the close of the Second Session of the National Committee I suggested the use of criticism and self-criticism in self-education and self-remoulding. This suggestion is being steadily translated into action. Ideological remoulding, primarily that of all types of intellectuals, is an important condition for the completion of democratic reforms in all fields and the gradual industrialization of our country. We therefore wish still greater successes to the movement for self-education and self-remoulding as it goes steadily forward.

All facts prove that this system of ours, the people's democratic dictatorship, is vastly superior to the political systems of the capitalist countries. Under this system, the people of our country are able to tap their inexhaustible strength. And such strength is invincible before any enemy.

The great struggle to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea is going on and must go on until the U.S. government is willing to come to a peaceful settlement. We have no intention of encroaching on any country; it is aggression against our country by the imperialists that we oppose. As everyone knows, the Chinese people would not be fighting the U.S. forces if they had not occupied our Taiwan, invaded the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and pushed on to our northeastern borders. But since the U.S. aggressors have launched their attack against us, we cannot but raise the banner of resistance to aggression. This is absolutely necessary and perfectly just, and the whole nation understands that it is so. To press on with this struggle, which is as necessary as it is just, we must continue to stiffen our efforts in resisting U.S. aggression and aiding Korea and must increase production and practice economy to support the Chinese People's Volunteers. This is the central task of the Chinese people today and accordingly the central task of our present session.

We have long been on record as maintaining that the Korean question should be settled by peaceful means, and this is still our position. If the U.S. government is willing to settle the question on a fair and reasonable basis instead of undermining and obstructing the progress of the negotiations in various underhand ways as it has done in the past, it will be possible for the Korean armistice negotiations to be concluded successfully; otherwise it will be impossible.

In the two years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, we have won great victories in all fields of work. We have won these victories by relying on all the forces that can be united. Within the country, we have relied on the firm unity of all the nationalities, democratic classes, democratic parties, people's organizations and patriotic democrats under the leadership of the working class and the Communist Party. Internationally, we have relied on the firm unity of the camp of peace and democracy headed by the Soviet Union and on the profound sympathy of the peace loving people throughout the world. Hence our great victories in all spheres of work, which was not what our enemies had expected. Our enemies

thought that since the new-born People's Republic of China was faced with a lot of difficulties and since on top of that they were launching a war of aggression against us, we would not be able to overcome our difficulties or deal counter-blows to the aggressors. Contrary to their expectation, we have proved able to overcome our difficulties, deal counter-blows to the aggressors and win great victories. Our enemies are short-sighted, they fail to realize that our great domestic and international unity is strong and that the founding of the People's Republic of China has once and for all put an end to the days when the Chinese people could be bullied by foreign imperialists. Nor do they realize that the birth of the socialist Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and the People's Democracies, the firm unity between the two great countries of China and the Soviet Union anchored in the Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance, the firm unity of the entire camp of peace and democracy and the profound sympathy of the peace-loving people of the world for this great camp have ended for good the era in which imperialism could dominate the world. Our enemies fail to see all this and still want to bully the People's Republic of China and dominate the world. But, comrades, I can say with confidence that their design is futile, crazy, impossible of achievement. Contrary to their thinking, the People's Republic of China will brook no bullying, the great peace camp headed by the Soviet Union will brook no encroachment, and the peace-loving people of the world will not be deceived. Comrades, the victory of the great October Socialist Revolution has made it certain that the people of the world will win victory, and today this prospect becomes nearer and more certain with the birth of the People's Republic of China and the People's Democracies. It is true that, in the historical period following World War I and the October Revolution in Russia, three imperialist states -- Germany, Italy and Japan -- made attempts to dominate the world; this happened before the founding of the People's Republic of China and the People's Democracies. But what came of it? Didn't the attempts of the three imperialist states prove to be futile and crazy? Didn't the results turn out to be just the opposite of what they wanted? Didn't the imperialists who aimed at domination get struck down themselves? Today things are entirely different; the great People's Republic of China has been founded, the People's Democracies have been established, the level of political consciousness of the people of the world has been raised, the struggle for national liberation has been surging ahead all over Asia and in North Africa, the strength of the imperialist bloc as a whole has been profoundly weakened and, what is of vital importance, the strength of the Soviet Union, our closest ally, has been greatly enhanced. In these circumstances, isn't the outcome quite predictable if any imperialist country tries to follow in the footsteps of the three aggressors, Germany, Italy and Japan? In a word, the world from now on must be a world that belongs to the people, with the people of each country governing themselves, and definitely not a world where imperialism and its lackeys can continue to ride roughshod. I hope that the people of our country will closely unite, that they will closely unite with our ally the Soviet Union, with all the People's Democracies and with all nations and peoples of the world that sympathize with us, and march forward to victory in the struggle against aggression, to victory in building our great country, to victory in the defence of a lasting world peace. Comrades, I am confident that, so long as we do all this, victory will decidedly be ours.

Opening Speech of the Third Meeting of the First National Committee of the CPPCC
(October 23, 1951)

Source: RMRB (Oct 24, 1951), 1. Other Chinese Texts: XHYB, 11 (Nov 25, 1951), 4-6; Zhengxie san ci, pp. 1-5; RMSC (1952), pp. 163-164; Xuanji, V, pp. 48-52; XHBYK, 22 (Nov 1958), 2 (excerpt). Available English Translations: NCNA, Daily Bulletin, 395 (Oct 24, 1941), 1-2; CB, 130 (Oct 25 1951), 1-4; SW, V, pp. 59-63; K. Fan (1972), pp. 96-101; NCNA, Daily Bulletin, 442 (Jan. 2, 1952), 2 (excerpt).

The Third Meeting of the First National Committee of the CPPCC was held Oct. 23-Nov. 1, 1951 in Beijing. The main points on the agenda were (1) the movement to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea; (2) the land reform program, and (3) the suppression of counterrevolutionaries. For more on this meeting see K. Lieberthal (1976), pp. 55-56.
Committee members, comrades:

The Third Meeting of the First National Committee of our People's Political Consultative Conference is now in session. At this meeting, in addition to the members of the National Committee, we also have among us, by invitation, [members of] the Chinese People's Volunteers, 1 the People's Liberation Army, model laborers of industry, model workers of agriculture, representatives of the old [revolutionary] bases, 2 persons engaged in educational work and in literary and artistic work, industrialists and business people, experts in all fields, and representatives of the religious circles, of the minority nationalities, of the overseas Chinese, 3 of women, of youth, of the provincial and municipal consultative conferences, 4 and of [various] other circles. Besides all these, we also have with us many working personnel in the government. Among the participants and attendants there are many who have been recognized by the people as combat heroes, model laborers, and exemplary workers. The scale of our present meeting fully reflects the fact that the People's Republic of China has achieved great accomplishments and progress on every front.

In the past year, three large-scale movements were unfolded in our country --the Movement to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea, the land reform movement, and the movement to suppress counterrevolutionaries. Great victories have been achieved. The remnants of the counterrevolution on the mainland will soon be fundamentally eliminated. And as for land reform, it will be completed in 1952, except in the areas inhabited by minority nationalities. In the Movement to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea, the entire Chinese people are united on an unprecedentedly extensive scale to carry on a resolute struggle against the aggressive forces of American imperialism. The Chinese People's Volunteers, representative of the great determination of the Chinese people, have stood shoulder to shoulder with the People's Army of Korea and shattered the American imperialists' maniacal schemes of invading and occupying the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and thence invading the Chinese mainland. By doing so, they have encouraged the peace-loving people of Korea, China, Asia, and of all the world and have enhanced their confidence in defending peace and resisting aggression. We should express our congratulations and respect to the valiant Chinese People's Volunteers and the Korean People's Army.

As a result of the victories already achieved in these three aforementioned great movements and the concerted efforts at all levels of the People's Government and people of all walks of life, our country has now attained unprecedented unification. The Tibetan question has already been solved by peaceful measures, 5 and the national defense forces have been strengthened. The people's democratic dictatorship has been consolidated. Meanwhile our finances and the prices of commodities have continued to remain stable, and our work of restoring and developing our economic construction and our cultural and educational affairs has also taken a big step forward.

On the industrial and agricultural fronts, the patriotic movement for increasing production is in the process of developing. 6 This is a novel prospect in our country that is worth celebrating. Since land reform has been carried out in the rural areas and since democratic reforms have been implemented in industrial enterprises, workers and peasants have gained the opportunity to develop their tremendous initiative for a patriotic [movement to] increase production and to improve their material and cultural lives. As long as we are effective at uniting with the workers and the peasants and at educating and relying on them, our country is bound to witness a widespread and rising patriotic movement for increasing production.

On our country's cultural and educational front, and among all types of intellectuals, a movement of self-education and self-reform has been extensively developed in accordance with the policies of the Central People's Government. ⁷ This, too, is a novel prospect in our country that is worth celebrating. At the closing of the Second Meeting of the National Committee ⁸, I proposed carrying out self-education and self-reform by means of criticism and self-criticism. Today, this proposal has been transformed step by step into reality. Ideological transformation, first and foremost the ideological transformation of all types of intellectuals, is one of the major conditions for our country to thoroughly implement democratic reforms in all areas and to gradually carry out industrialization. Therefore, let us project into the future our best wishes for even greater successes in the self-education and self-reform movement as it steadily advances.

All the facts prove that our system of people's democratic dictatorship is far superior to the political system in capitalist countries. On the basis of this sort of system, our country's people are capable of exerting their limitless and inexhaustible energies; such strength cannot be overcome by any enemy.

The great Movement to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea is still going on and must continue until the government of the United States is willing to settle the matter peacefully. We do not want to invade any country; we are simply opposing imperialist aggression against our country. Everybody knows that if American forces had not invaded our Taiwan, attacked the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and fought their way to our northeastern frontiers, the people of China would not be fighting with American troops. Nevertheless, since the American invaders had already begun to assault us, we had no choice but to raise the banner of anti-aggression; this was absolutely necessary and entirely justified, and all the people of the country have understood this necessity and justification. In order to continue to persist in this necessary and justified struggle, we will have to continue to strengthen the work of the Movement to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea, to increase production, and to practice strict economy so as to support the Chinese People's Volunteers. This is the central task of the Chinese people today and is therefore also the central task of this meeting. We have expressed our opinion at an early stage that the problem of Korea should be settled by peaceful means. Our opinion now is still the same. As soon as the American government is willing to settle the problem on a just and reasonable basis, and does not employ all sorts of disgraceful means to destroy and obstruct the progress of negotiations as it has done in the past, the negotiations to stop hostilities in Korea can still be successful. Otherwise there can be no success.

In the two years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, we have achieved great victories in all areas of our work. We have secured these victories only by relying on all forces with which it was possible for us to unite. At home we relied on the consolidation and unity of all the nationalities, all the democratic classes, all the democratic parties, all the people's organizations, and all the patriotic democratic personages under the leadership of the working class and the Communist Party. ⁹ In the international sphere we relied on the consolidation and unity of the camp for peace and democracy led by the Soviet Union and on the profound sympathy of the peace-loving people of all the countries in the world. For these reasons we have secured great victories in all areas of our work. This is something that was not foreseen by our enemies. Our enemies believed that since numerous difficulties confronted the newborn People's Republic of China and since they had launched an aggressive war against us, we would not be able to overcome our own difficulties or to deal counterblows to the aggressors. That we were actually able to overcome our own difficulties, to make counterattacks against the aggressors, and moreover to achieve great victories was beyond their expectation. Our enemies are shortsighted and shallow. They cannot perceive the strength derived from our great domestic and international unity and fail to see that the

founding of the People's Republic of China proclaimed once and for all the end of the era of the Chinese people's subjugation by foreign imperialism. They also fail to see that the founding of the socialist Soviet Union, the founding of the People's Republic of China, the founding of all the People's Democracies, 10 the consolidation and unity of the two great countries, China and the Soviet Union, on the basis of the Treaty of Friendship, Mutual Assistance and Alliance, 11 the consolidation and unity of the entire camp for peace and democracy, and the profound sympathy that the broad masses of peaceful people of all countries in the world hold for this great camp have proclaimed once and for all the end of the era of imperialist hegemony over the world. Our enemies are unable to see these things; they still want to bully the People's Republic of China and to dominate the world. However, comrades, I can assure you that their ideas are fanatical, vain, and will not achieve their purpose. On the contrary, the People's Republic of China cannot be bullied, the great camp for peace led by the Soviet Union cannot be encroached upon, and the peaceful people of the world cannot be deceived. Comrades, ever since the victory of the great socialist October Revolution of the Soviet Union, [the stage has been] set for the triumph of the people in the world. Today, owing to the founding of the People's Republic of China and the founding of all the People's Democracies, this situation has been developed and consolidated. To be sure, during the historical period following the First World War and the Russian October Revolution, there was the fact that three imperialist countries, Germany, Italy and Japan, tried to establish hegemony over the world. This fact took place before the founding of the People's Republic of China and the founding of many People's Democracies. However, what were the consequences? Has it not already been proven that the designs of these three imperialist countries were maniacal and in vain? Were the results not precisely the reverse [of their designs]? [Were not] the imperialists who wished to establish a hegemony the ones who suffered the consequences of defeat? Now the situation is completely different; the great People's Republic of China has been established, and many People's Democracies have been established, the level of the consciousness of the people around the world has been raised, struggles for national liberation in the whole of Asia and North Africa are growing vigorously, and the forces of the entire imperialist system have been greatly weakened. Another crucial fact is that the strength of the Soviet Union, our closest ally, has greatly increased. At a time like this, if there are imperialist countries which attempt to tread again the old path taken by the three former aggressors, Germany, Italy and Japan, won't the consequences be absolutely predictable? In short, in one sentence, the world from now on must be a world of the people, the countries of the world must be governed by the people of the countries themselves, and it must no longer be a world tyrannized by imperialists and their running dogs. I hope that the people of our country will solidly unite among themselves as well as with our ally the Soviet Union, solidly unite with all the People's Democracies, with all the nations and peoples of the world that sympathize with us, and continue to march forward in the direction of victory in the struggle against aggression, victory in constructing our great country, and victory in the defense of lasting peace in the world. Comrades, if we do this, I believe our victory is ensured.

Notes

1. See text Oct. 8, 1950(2), note 1.
2. See text Aug. 5, 1951, source note.
3. Overseas Chinese (huaqiao) are people of Chinese ancestry who reside in countries other than China or Hong Kong or Macao. Overseas Chinese, regardless of their separate citizenship, were given a single bloc appointed representation in the CPPCC.

4. See text June 6, 1950(1), note 10.

5. See text May 24, 1951.

6. The Patriotic Movement to Increase Production was one of several "patriotic" movements (including the Patriotic Health Campaign, the Patriotic Ideological Education Campaign, the Patriotic Production Emulation and Competition Campaign) for which momentum had been gathering since the last quarter of 1950. These movements, and to some extent the campaign to suppress counterrevolutionaries, were all linked to the Movement to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea, since it was the fact of a war situation that placed the nation in a socially and economically vulnerable position. For much the same reason, the word patriotism also became the byword for all these campaigns. On December 29, 1951, following this meeting, the National Committee of the CPPCC issued a directive that linked the Increase Production campaign to the campaign against corruption and waste. This Increase Production campaign eventually became the model of other similar campaigns (often known as zengchan jieyao, or increase production and practice economy campaigns) in subsequent years

7. This was also known as the Patriotic Ideological Education Campaign and was the first massive ideological reform movement conducted among intellectuals in China since Liberation. The 'Thought Reform Campaign' was officially launched on that day 23-10-1951 by a Renmin Ribao commentary entitled 'Seriously carry out the thought reform and study campaign in higher education institutions'.

8. The second session of the National Committee of the CPPCC was held June 14-23, 1950, in Beijing. For Mao's speech at that conference, see text June 23, 1950.

9. See text Sept. 21, 1949, note 1, and text Oct. 1, 1949, note 3.

10. See text Sept. 21, 1949, note 4.

11. See text Jan. 2, 1950, note 1.