

1951

Meetings

Dates of Meeting:

18-8-1951

Type of Meeting:

CMC

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

Mao, Zhou, Nie

Major Agenda Items:

Korea, mobilization order for the sixth campaign

Speeches/Reports:

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

Instructions to Chinese commanders in Korea, instructing them to reconsider campaign plans. The telegram began with an analysis of the situation in Korea and Washington's intentions to cope with it. The cmc believed that the American objection to setting up the 38th parallel as the demarcation line was based more on political considerations than on military ones: on the one hand, sustained tension in Korea would help maintain the unity between the United States and its allies; on the other, Washington did not want to solve the Korean problem before the signing of a peace treaty with Japan. Therefore, the cmc predicted that, although it was unlikely for Washington to break off negotiations completely or to expand the war to China (since this would cause serious problems between Washington, London, and Paris), it was possible that the armistice negotiations would be drawn out. In line with these observations and speculations, the cmc instructed the cpv commanders to reconsider the necessity of waging a sixth campaign. The cmc particularly emphasized that unless Chinese commanders in Korea were certain that the sixth campaign would lead to the destruction of two enemy divisions and that it would not result in another Chinese/North Korean military setback, the campaign should be called off.

Remarks: