

Dates of Meeting:

28-03-1951 – 09-04-1951

Type of Meeting:

1st national organizational work conference

Attendance:

Liu Shaoqi (An Ziwen) presided over this meeting. 490 delegates coming from the provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions, departments directly under the central authorities, organs of the civilian organizations in the nation, and the People's Liberation Army.

The Presidium comprised twenty-one people, namely, Liu Shaoqi, Zhou Enlai, Chen Yun, Peng Zhen, Wang Jiaxiang, Lu Dingyi, Li Lisan, Cai Chang, Wang Congwu, Li Weihai, Feng Wenbin, Xiao Hua, Ma Wenrui, Liu Xiufeng, Yu Jiangzhen, Hu Lijiao, Qian Ying, Chen Bocun, Zeng San, Jia Zhen, and An Ziwen.

Organized by CC

Major Agenda Items:

Party rectification

Speeches and Reports:

Liu Shaoqi: "Report to the Chinese Communist Party's First National Organization Work Conference" March 28, 1951:

The Chinese revolution has been led by the proletariat and the semi proletariat; the xian party committee should dispatch people to the villages twice a year if there is not time to do so, they may go to the cities.

"The urban working class and the rural semi-working class, through the Communist Party and under its leadership, staged the revolution, overthrowing Chiang Kai-shek and completing agrarian reform."

"the Organization Department's draft plan on the cadre management system calls for cadres filling the most important positions to be managed by the Central Committee, which should also consult local party organs. Management of second ranking positions should be shared by the central bureaus, the central branch bureaus, and provincial and prefectural party committees, in consultation with local party organs. Lesser positions should be managed by county and city party committees."

" Strive to set higher requirement for communist party members" "firmly establish the new-democratic social order"

Socialism referred to the abolition of private ownership; however, private ownership should not be abolished in most cases during the New Democratic stage. He maintained that to "firmly solidify the New Democratic order" was the immediate task. This policy line was then written up in the resolution passed at the Conference

Liu Shaoqi: "[Strive to Set Higher Requirement for Communist Party Members.](#)", April, 1951:

expounding in detail on and proving the ruling party's need to raise the requirements for party members, to enforce stricter party membership application procedures, to strengthen education in communism, and to purify party organizations. He personally drew up eight conditions for Communist Party members and made them definite requirements and contents of education for party members.

[Eight requirements for CCP membership](#) (March 1951)

Beijing RED FLAG No 24, 16 Dec 85 pp 3-4 [Article by Liu Shaoqi]

1. The CPC is a party of the Chinese working class and is also the advanced part of the working class. The Chinese revolution was led by the working class in the past, and will continue to need the leadership of the working class even more in the future. The working class will develop in the future and will become the majority in our country's population. Peasants will become workers after they use machines for plowing. Eventually, the entire Chinese people will become workers. (Our party has always relied on the proletariat and semi proletariat.) All our party members must admit this point.

2. The final aim of the CPC is to realize the communist system in China. At present the CPC is fighting to consolidate the new democracy system. In the future, the CPC will be fighting for the transformation to the socialist system. And finally, the CPC will fight for the realization of the communist system. (The main points concerning the new democracy system, socialist system, and communist system are to be explained in a separate article. The new democracy revolution, generally speaking, does not destroy the system of private ownership, whereas the socialist revolution will first destroy the system of private ownership in industry and then destroy the system of private ownership in agriculture. When organizing collective farms in rural areas, we can only depend on the working class and the poor peasants and farm laborers, not the ordinary peasants. We can only unite the peasants.)

All the party members must be determined to fight continuously for the realization of these goals of our party.

3. So, if one wants to become a CPC member, one must carry out the revolutionary struggle all of one's life. If one stops fighting while the revolutionary struggle is in progress, one can no longer be a party member. This kind of revolutionary struggle consists of political, economic, and ideological struggles, and it also requires us to carry out armed struggle against the armed intervention of imperialism. (However, this does not mean that we must be soldiers for all our lives.)

4. All CPC members must carry out revolutionary struggle under the unified leadership of the party. So all party members must carry out the policies and resolutions of the party, actively take part in the revolutionary movements led by the party, strictly observe the party's discipline, and struggle against all phenomena, inside and outside the party, which are harmful to the interests of the party; otherwise they cannot be CPC members.

5. All party members must first consider the public interests of the broad masses of the people and the interests of the party rather than their private interests. Those who are selfish and unwilling to sacrifice themselves for the people cannot be party members. (The mutual aid teams, mutual aid associations, and cooperatives in the rural areas are one of the forms of the socialist economy and belong to semi socialism. To dare to sacrifice one's own interests and work hard for the cooperatives is socialism. The production emulation drive among the state-owned factories belongs to socialism, too.)

6. In revolutionary struggle, all the party members must be courageous and resolute, must not flinch from any serious or difficult environment, must never surrender themselves to the enemy, and must never betray the party and communism; otherwise, they cannot be party members.

(Explanatory note: When the eight requirements for party membership were written into "The Resolution on Rectifying the Grass-Roots Party Organizations" passed by the first National Conference on CPC Organization Work, the contents of this item were written into item No 3 of the resolution. The contents of item No 3 of the resolution are; "Every party member must be determined to bravely carry out revolutionary struggle for all his life, must not flinch under any circumstances, must not betray the party, and must not surrender himself to the enemy. If a party member stops fighting while the revolutionary struggle is still in progress, he can no longer be a party member. The contents of item No 6 of the resolution were changed to: "Every party member should often examine the mistakes and shortcomings in his own work through criticism and self-criticism and correct them in time. If a party member has made serious mistakes but is still unwilling to correct them, still wants to claim credit for himself, continues to be arrogant and self-important, and still sticks to his mistakes, he cannot be a party member.")

7. All party members must serve the people, help to establish a good relationship between the party and the people, do one more piece of social service work assigned by the party organizations or party branches. Those failing to do this cannot be party members.

8. In order to meet the above-mentioned requirements, all the party members must study hard so as to know more about Marxism, Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought and raise their own consciousness. One who does not study hard cannot become a good party member.

(This manuscript is part of the report outline that was prepared for the first National Conference on CPC Organization Work. On 28 March, Liu Shaoqi

Chen Yun: "[Main points for financial and economic work in 1951](#)," April 4, 1951:

discusses exchanges between urban and rural areas; increase agricultural production; economic accounting; implement measures to suit local conditions under the principle of unified management; rectify the ranks of financial and economic workers.

"Why we should put the interchange in the first place? Because we received a tattered old China, an economy mainly agricultural. The so-called interchange of urban and rural products is, first, to take the agricultural and local products from farmers, then sell urban industrial products to farmers. The interchange benefits to farmers, urban industry and commerce, and also the state ... taking the total grain yield last year as 240 billion catties, the revenue of local products is about 24 billion catties of grain. Last year the tax grain was about 22 billion catties. If we help farmers to sell their local products, their income will be the same as the tax grain. If the local products cannot be sold while they pay the tax grain, farmers will be in trouble. We must make effort to help farmers to sell their local products."

"The most important thing for local product sales promotion is transportation. Under present conditions, transportation should fully use the backward tool. Because there are too few cars in China, motor transport

cannot meet the requirement for interchange between urban and rural products. In the North, transportation by large carts surpasses transportation by cars, and in the South transportation by wooden boats surpasses that by steamboats ... so we should still pay attention to and organize transportation by backward tools."

"the majority of our cadres worked in rural areas for a long time and they have very little economic knowledge." "We are politicians, strategists, but not entrepreneurs." "Our economic cadres are still layman, compared with ordinary capitalists," He gave an example saying that when it was snowing, the cargo actually sent was a shirt, and that to choose a location for building warehouses in the same way as constructing a defence position in war, made the warehouses collapse after rain. "We depend upon the state institution to manage the economy. If according to true economic principles, we will lose money in every business." Therefore, because of lacking knowledge and experience in economic management, they managed the economy still depending upon military theory and practice which they were used to in the protracted war and which was correct and suitable for the Chinese condition and successful proved by the long-term war

April 6, An Ziwen delivered a speech at the meeting titled "*On the Issues of Cadre Education, Training, and Promotion.*" He elaborated on the education, training, and promotion of existing cadres; the active and large-scale training and promotion of industrial worker cadres; the active cultivation and promotion of female cadres; the re-education and transformation of unemployed intellectuals from the old society; the specialization of cadres; and the importance of addressing the difficulties faced by cadres.

April 9, the conference concluded, and Liu Shaoqi delivered the closing summary report titled "*Strive for Higher Standards for Communist Party Members.*" In this report, Liu discussed the issue of strengthening the ruling party and pointed out that the Communist Party of China had always upheld high standards for party membership since its founding. Going forward, efforts must continue to raise the standards for Communist Party members. Now that the Chinese revolution has achieved victory and new, greater, and more arduous revolutionary tasks have emerged, **Liu Shaoqi gave this summary report at the closing session of the National Party Organization Work Conference**, emphasizing that Communist Party members must meet higher standards than in the past.

At present, party membership requirements should be raised. Only those with a sound class background, clear political history, loyalty to the Party, practical class consciousness, active behavior, understanding of communism and the Party's cause, and a willingness to abide by the Party Program and Constitution should be admitted as members. Every party member, aside from their social occupation, must take on a task assigned by a Party organization. Those who fail to meet these conditions should be dealt with accordingly during the Party reorganization. In the work of reorganizing and building the Party, it is first necessary to distinguish between enemies and ourselves, and second, to differentiate between Party members and the masses, and between the vanguard and the broader class.

The meeting passed the "*Resolution on Rectifying the Party's Grassroots Organizations*" and the "*Resolution on the Development of New Party Members.*" It was decided that the task of reorganizing grassroots Party organizations would be completed over a three-year period. In 1951, preparations for Party reorganization would be carried out, and the reorganization of grassroots Party organizations would be completed in the following two years.

3. On the Issue of Developing New Party Members

Due to the victory of the Chinese revolution, our Party has become publicly recognized and holds the highest prestige among the people nationwide. Millions of working people have participated in democratic reform movements, the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea, and economic development efforts under the leadership of our Party. Hundreds of thousands of activists among the people have joined campaigns to study our Party's theory and policies. Undoubtedly, many outstanding individuals have emerged from these masses, and many more will continue to emerge and request to join our Party organization. That is one aspect. On the other hand, in order to expand and strengthen our Party's connection with the working masses and to enhance our leadership role among the people, the Party also needs to develop its organization in cities, new regions, and many places where there are no existing Party branches. This has already become an important political and organizational task for our Party.

At present, the focus should be on establishing Party organizations and developing Party members among industrial workers. In the rural areas of new regions, Party-building efforts should generally be carried out only after land reform is completed. In the next two years, rural branches should generally not exceed ten members. In the old revolutionary base areas, where many Party members already exist, the emphasis should be on educating the existing members and reorganizing the organization.

Given the serious shortcomings in Party member admissions that have occurred in many places in the past, a cautious approach must be adopted in future Party-building and member recruitment efforts. In order to

systematically, deliberately, and under solid leadership implement Party-building in cities and new regions, Party committees at all levels must select and train a large number of reliable organizational cadres and establish capable institutions at all levels to manage Party members. This will ensure that member recruitment and management become regular, important responsibilities of Party organizations at all levels. Previously, due to the lack of such dedicated personnel and institutions, member recruitment often became a temporary mass effort, and once new members were admitted, ongoing management and education were lacking. These are issues we must avoid in the future.

Going forward, in all areas where Party member recruitment is needed, municipal, prefectural, and county Party committees must prepare a plan based on the local situation and report to the provincial Party committee and the Central Bureau for approval before implementation. In the future, lower-level Party organizations must not arbitrarily recruit members or establish branches without prior approval. To ensure that Party member recruitment becomes a prepared and well-led process, all local Party admissions must involve a responsible Party representative from the county or municipal committee conducting an interview with the candidate before they can be accepted. To implement this system, county and city Party committees should designate specific times for member recruitment in factories, government offices, schools, and rural areas. For example, twice annually for rural areas, and three or four times annually for urban workplaces and schools. Prior to these recruitment periods, all preparation work must be completed, and a report submitted for approval. Only after review, interviews, and approval by higher authorities can new members complete the joining procedures. Therefore, higher-level Party committees must regularly inspect and supervise the preparatory work for member recruitment in all relevant organizations. Any area lacking preparation or with inadequate preparations may not proceed with member recruitment.

The task of recruiting Party members must not be seen as merely technical or organizational. It is, in fact, the result of sustained and effective ideological education and assessment of activists from among the working masses. Party members are recruited from the most active elements among workers and other working people. The Party organization should maintain a general list of non-Party activists in each factory, office, school, and village. Besides raising their class consciousness through mass struggles, we must systematically educate them in communism, the Communist Party, and what it means to be a Party member. Party members should individually and thoroughly understand and educate these activists before those who truly meet the criteria are admitted upon their voluntary application. Henceforth, all member recruitment must go through this kind of thorough preparation. Those who have not undergone sufficient and in-depth preparatory work must not be admitted. Those who admit members without proper procedures should be criticized or even disciplined.

To achieve good results in Party-building in cities and new regions, Party organizations must not only raise class consciousness through general mass struggles, but also assign all Party members to conduct detailed, persistent educational and evaluative work among activists. Where this work is done poorly or inadequately, Party-building and recruitment will not succeed and may lead to long-term, difficult-to-correct problems. To carry out such preparatory work effectively, the Party should send large numbers of competent cadres to workplaces, offices, schools, and rural areas to conduct open, systematic education among all those willing to learn about the Party. All Party members working in these areas—whether factory directors, engineers, trade union officials, or staff of other organizations, including land reform teams or administrative offices—must, under the direction of local Party branches, engage earnestly and consistently in this preparatory work.

Mass organizations led by the Party—such as the New Democratic Youth League, trade unions, peasant associations, cooperatives, women’s federations, and cultural workers’ groups—are important links between the Party and the people and venues for communist education. Wherever such groups exist, all Party members must join and take on exemplary, active roles while promoting communist education. In areas where such groups are active, Party membership applicants from the working masses must generally be members of these organizations. Those unwilling or unable to join such groups should generally not be admitted to the Party.

When members of these organizations apply to join the Party, the organization’s Party group or responsible Party cadres must provide formal opinions to the Party about their eligibility. This means that Party groups and responsible Party cadres within these organizations must also take on the task of developing new Party members. To prevent counterrevolutionaries from infiltrating the Party, without approval from the Central Committee, no local Party organizations (including those in the military) may admit the following individuals into the Party:

1. Active members and officials at or above the district level in reactionary political parties or groups.
2. Agents of reactionary espionage organizations.
3. Landlords, semi-landlords, and traditional rich peasants whose land and property were confiscated during land reform.
4. Senior officials of the Kuomintang government and officers above the battalion level in non-defecting Kuomintang military forces.

5. Members of backward secret societies and religious sects who have not renounced their organizations and beliefs.
6. Individuals deprived of civil rights or currently under surveillance.

Regardless of their current location or occupation, none of these individuals may be admitted to the Party by lower-level organizations.

New Party members must honestly and thoroughly document their past history and political background. No concealment or exaggeration is permitted. Sponsors must thoroughly investigate and verify the history of those they recommend.

Comrade Mao Zedong said: "Strictness within the Party, leniency outside the Party." In the process of Party rectification and Party-building, we must implement Mao's instruction by strictly applying what is realistically feasible. We must ensure that all future Party members are the best elements among workers and the laboring masses—individuals who have been examined, educated, are of good background, politically conscious, historically clear, loyal to the Party, active in mass struggle and productive work or study, understand the Party's cause, are committed to lifelong service to it, and can abide by Party discipline. These are the requirements for Party membership as defined in the Party Constitution. We must strictly and faithfully adhere to them. On the one hand, we must never lower the standards for Party membership; rather, they should be appropriately raised. On the other hand, we must still broadly develop Party organizations and recruit new members among workers, peasants, and laboring people in factories, mines, rural areas, offices, schools, and elsewhere. This means that while standards and procedures should remain strict, we must still expand Party membership and build organizations. This is not an easy task. The success of this effort depends on whether we can widely and consistently carry out deep, sustained propaganda, education, and organizational work among the working masses. That is where our efforts in developing new Party members must focus.

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

- Passed "Resolution on the Rearrangement of the primary Organizations of the Party" on tidying up the party's basic-level organization. The conference drew up plans for a three-year campaign, to be conducted in rural areas mainly during the slack farming seasons, and set as a goal the removal of some 10 percent of the Party's more backward members.
- posed eight criteria for party membership to tighten the standards set in the 1945 Party constitution
- the resolution passed at the Conference was in line with Liu's views on new democracy
- [Resolution of the First National Organizational Work Conference of the Communist Party of China on the development of new party members](#)
- [Resolution of the First National Organization Work Conference of the Communist Party of China on Rectifying the Party.](#)

Remarks:

1. Both resolution and eight criteria were written by Liu Shaoqi
2. This conference played a key role in launching a rectification of basic-level party units, especially in the countryside, during the following three years
3. Liu said the party at this time consisted of 5.8 million members and 250,000 basic organs