

1954

Meetings

Dates of Meeting:

02-04-1954 – 18-04-1954

Type of Meeting:

2nd National Rural Work Conference

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

This meeting was convened by the Rural Work Department. Deng Zihui

Major Agenda Items:**Speeches/Reports:**

Deng Zihui Closing speech 17 april 1954 'The movement for co-operatives will not be a very peaceful one; it will be a deeply rooted and extensive class struggle.' He admitted that in some areas an overzealous implementation had produced rash retreat. Both left and right deviations required rectification.

"impetuosity and rash advance took place in every big region" last year. However, "rash advance was not equally serious in all places. In some places it was not [serious]." Therefore, in rectifying a tendency we should proceed from the practical situation. Wherever there is leftism, we should rectify it accordingly; wherever there is rightism, we should also rectify it. In dealing with the main deviation we should not neglect the minor one either. "We should carry out our struggle on two fronts by rejecting both leftism and rightism." [This] avoided allowing the other [opposite] tendency to evolve when attempting to get rid of the main deviation. These experiences were highly valuable not only for the growth of agricultural production, but also for work in any other field.

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

The following conclusions were reached: With the progress of national socialist industrialization, a continuously increasing population in urban industries and mining, the continuous rise in urban and rural living standards, and natural population growth (increasing by 10 million annually), and in order to meet the needs of industrial construction for the export of agricultural products, it was necessary to increase by large amounts the annual production of grain, cotton, oil crops, and other crops for industrial raw materials. That is to say, with developing industries, agriculture should be developed proportionally. If agricultural development fell behind the needs of industrial development, a balance between industrial and agricultural production could not be kept, the whole construction plan of the country would be consequently upset and the needs created by the people's continuously rising living standards would not be met. It would arouse popular discontent and cause severe difficulties. According to data collected from various areas, the existing APCs could raise production by 20 to 30 percent within the first or second year after their establishment and maintain a certain growth rate in production during the coming years. These growth rates were higher than those of mutual aid teams and much higher than those of the private peasant economy. Therefore, the cooperativization movement should be the focus of not only rural work, but also of the production movement. The boost in agricultural production and the development of mutual aid and cooperation should be seen as integrated and should not be separated from each other.

The development of APCs was revised. In 1955 300.000 or 350.000 APCs should be formed.

- Revision of the plan made on December 16, 1953 and doubled the old number to build 700 thousand APCs in 1957. "In 1957 we will build 1.35 million or 1.5 million APCs with a share of about 35 percent in total national farmer households and a share of above 40 percent in national total farming land ... In the second five-year plan period (around 1960), we will strive for the cooperativization nationwide"
- Further clarified the guiding principles of the cooperativization movement;
- reviewed the situation in the countryside (peasant attitudes, party's work and policies)

Remarks:

Between spring and fall, 130,405 new producer cooperatives were established, bringing the total to 225,405

"Instruction to authorize 'the report of the second national rural work conference' made by the rural working department of the CPC," 3 June 1954