

Dates of Meeting:

28-09-1954

Type of Meeting

Politburo

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:**Major Agenda Items:**

Reestablishment of CMC

Speeches/Reports:**Other Decisions and/or Actions:**

- The resolution decided the CMC was composed by Mao Zedong, Zhu De, Peng Dehuai, Lin Biao, Liu Bocheng, He Long, Chen Yi, Deng Xiaoping, Luo Ronghuan, Xu Xiangqian, Nie Rongzhen and Ye Jianying to “be responsible for leadership in military work” under the direction of the Politburo and Secretariat.
- At the same time, the first PRC constitution, adopted at the 1954 NPC session, stipulated that command of the PLA lay with the president of the PRC—Mao Zedong, until he ceded that position to Liu Shaoqi in April 1959.

Remarks:

1. In November 1949, the central government set up the People's Revolutionary Military Commission. With Mao as its chairman, this commission was to command all the military forces in China. Meanwhile, the Party CMC ceased to exist. In 1954, the first state constitution of the PRC established the National Defense Council (NDC) in place of the People's Revolutionary Military Commission. The newly installed state chairman of the PRC, who concurrently served as the chairman of the NDC, was to be in command of the Chinese military forces. The new constitutional arrangement seemed to promise the state's control of the army through the NDC, even though the state chairman of the PRC and chairman of the NDC was none other than Party Chairman Mao. As soon proved to be the case, however, the NDC assumed only an advisory role in military matters.
2. Between 1954-1959 CMC was composed of the chairman (Mao), several regular members, and a secretary-general and deputy secretary-general to manage day-to-day affairs. The original cast of members appointed in 1954 counted all 10 men awarded the rank of marshal in 1955, plus Party Secretary-General Deng Xiaoping.
3. At the 8th Congress in 1956, the number of regular members was increased to 21. These included the same group appointed in 1954, and added 10 new men evidently selected ex officio: the heads of the three general departments, the commanders of the Navy, Air Force, and Armor, and other major PLA components.