

1954

Meetings

Dates of Meeting:

31-03-1954

Type of Meeting:

Enlarged PB meeting

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

Zhou Enlai

Major Agenda Items:

Geneva conference.

Speeches/Reports:

Zhou Enlai report on Geneva conference

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

Report is accepted

Remarks:

Zhou Enlai and Ho Chih minh fly to Moscow on April 1, 1954 to discuss with the Russians on how to achieve success at the Geneva Conference. During their three meetings with Zhou, both Khrushchev and Molotov expressed low expectations of the Geneva Conference. Zhou, however, argued differently: 'That China, [North] Korea, and Vietnam can jointly participate in this international conference is in itself an unexpected event and one of our [diplomatic] victories. It will be a bigger success if we can take this opportunity to express our positions and principles on all the issues and offer explanations on certain questions so as to resolve some disputes. Zhang Shu Guang (2007). Constructing 'Peaceful Coexistence': China's diplomacy toward the Geneva and Bandung conferences, 1954–55. *Cold War History*, 7, (4), Page 514

On one occasion, Zhou and Nikita Khrushchev held a private conversation, and later Khrushchev recalled that Zhou had become apprehensive about the implications of the Indo-Chinese War. Zhou seems to have suggested, according to Khrushchev's account, that he was told by Ho Chi Minh that the Vietminh leaders had decided that they could not win a military victory in Indo-China, and that he was asked for help in securing an armistice. In Zhou's view, the situation in Indo-China was extremely serious, and a negotiated settlement of the Indo-Chinese War was preferable to further military escalation.

Shao Kuo-kang (1986). Zhou Enlai's diplomacy and the neutralization of Indo-China, 1954-55, *The China Quarterly*, 107, Page 490