

# **THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS**

**(June 1983)**

- **Report on Government Work**
- **Report on 1983 Plan for  
Development**
- **Report on 1982 Final State  
Accounts**
- **New Government Leadership**

THE FIRST SESSION  
OF THE SIXTH NATIONAL  
PEOPLE'S CONGRESS

(Main Documents)

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## **OPENING SPEECH**

**(Delivered at the First Session of the Sixth  
National People's Congress of the  
People's Republic of China on June 6, 1983)**

***Peng Zhen***



Fellow Deputies,

I hereby declare the First Session of the Sixth National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China now open.

The previous National People's Congress was convened following the fall of the gang of four and after ten years of domestic turmoil. Since then, especially since the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, the Party and the state have led the people of all our nationalities in thoroughly analysing our historical experience, firmly carrying out the policy of putting things to rights, and shifting the focus of work to socialist modernization. Political stability and unity have been attained and great achievements have been made in the economic, political and cultural fields, and in military and foreign affairs and other areas.

During its term of office, the Fifth National People's Congress did a lot of fruitful work in developing the economy, restoring and strengthening socialist democracy and improving the socialist legal system. The Constitution adopted at its Fifth Session in 1982 is a socialist constitution with distinctive Chinese characteristics and it is well suited to the needs of socialist modernization. Expressing the common desire of the people of all our nationalities and embodying the correct stand of the Chinese Communist Party, it will serve as a general guide for good administration and stability in China for a long time to come. The historic contribution of the Fifth

National People's Congress makes up a glorious page in the chronicles of China. The people will never forget the wise leadership and unflagging industry of Comrade Ye Jianying and his outstanding contributions to the cause of socialist construction during his tenure of office as Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Fifth National People's Congress. Nor will they ever forget the hard work done by all the deputies of the Fifth National People's Congress, and the Vice-Chairmen and members of the Standing Committee of the Congress and the contributions they made.

The Sixth National People's Congress is the first elected under the new Constitution. Its five-year term of office will be a period of crucial importance, since it spans the completion of the Sixth Five-Year Plan and the initial carrying out of the Seventh Five-Year Plan. We must do well in developing the economy and in other fields during this period in order to lay solid foundations for achieving the strategic objectives of socialist modernization by the turn of the century.

The current session has these main tasks: to examine and approve the Report on the Work of the Government; to examine and approve the Plan for Economic and Social Development and the Final State Accounts; to elect and appoint new leaders of the state; and to form a new administration.

The whole nation views the election and formation of a new administration in accordance with the provisions of the new Constitution as a matter of great moment. Being entrusted by the one billion Chinese people to exercise authority, we must give full play to democracy and, after careful consideration and repeated consultation, elect the citizens to leading government posts who have



proved, in the course of revolution and construction, to be capable of representing the fundamental interests of the people and serving them wholeheartedly and to be competent to lead the socialist modernization drive.

Accomplishing the tasks of this session will be of vital significance in leading and mobilizing the people of all our nationalities in strengthening and developing the lively political atmosphere of stability and unity and in guaranteeing correct application of the principles and policies of the country in all spheres and sound economic growth.

Fellow Deputies! Let us unite and work with one heart and one mind to carry out with honour the high tasks the people of all nationalities of our country have entrusted to us.



**REPORT ON THE WORK OF  
THE GOVERNMENT**

(Delivered at the First Session of the Sixth  
National People's Congress on June 6, 1983)

*Zhao Ziyang*

Premier of the State Council



Fellow Deputies,

On behalf of the State Council, I now submit a report on the work of the government for examination and approval by the present Congress.

## REVIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S WORK IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS

Under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, our country has won big successes, bringing about great changes in all fields of work during the period of the Fifth National People's Congress, thanks to concerted efforts by governments at all levels and the people of all our nationalities.

**We have achieved and enhanced political stability and unity throughout the country and made more efforts to improve socialist democracy and legality.** During the past five years, our political life has steadily returned to normal; the relations among all our nationalities, based on equality, solidarity, mutual assistance and fraternity, have been reinforced; the patriotic united front has been broadened; and the society as a whole has enjoyed increasing stability with each passing year. The National People's Congress and its Standing Committee adopted a number of laws, and the State Council promulgated a series of statutes, and all this has helped strengthen democratic management in economic, political and other

activities of the country and ensure public order and order in production and other work across the land. In particular, the promulgation of China's new Constitution marked a new stage in our effort to build up socialist democracy and legality. The organizational reforms made in the State Council and in the provincial, municipal and autonomous region governments have met with initial success, as illustrated by the closer contact between government and people and greater efficiency in administrative work. Because they have ease of mind, the people of all our nationalities show a growing enthusiasm in socialist construction. To win honour for the socialist motherland and contribute one's share to its socialist modernization has become the watchword of our time. We have in recent years properly solved a series of problems left over from the past. We re-examined large numbers of cases involving unjust, false and wrong charges and reversed the verdicts that had been passed on them. People who had been wrongly labelled bourgeois Rightists received redress, as did small tradespeople, pedlars and handicraftsmen who were wrongly classified as capitalists. Landlords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries and bad elements who have become law-abiding working people through remoulding have had their designations removed, and large numbers of former Kuomintang party, government and army personnel and special agents were released from prison in conformity with our policy of leniency. Our struggle against serious crimes in the economic and other fields has helped ensure the socialist character and orientation of our efforts in various spheres of national construction. Although some destabilizing factors still exist in our society, which we must make continued efforts to eliminate, people have every reason to believe

that the present situation of stability and unity is irreversible and that our great motherland will enjoy a long period of order and stability. No force on earth can hold back or undermine this historical trend.

**China's economy has freed itself from the instability caused by serious imbalance among its major branches and has gradually moved onto a path of sound growth.** The implementation of the principle of readjusting, restructuring, consolidating and improving the national economy over the past few years has led to a radical change in the long-standing high rate of accumulation and serious backwardness of agriculture and light industry. As a result of readjustment, by 1982 the accumulation rate had fallen to 29 per cent, as against 36.5 per cent in 1978, while funds for consumption showed a fairly big increase. The proportion that agriculture accounted for in the total value of industrial and agricultural production rose from 27.8 per cent in 1978 to 33.6 per cent in 1982 and light industry from 31.1 per cent to 33.4 per cent. In conjunction with readjustment of the ratios between accumulation and consumption and between agriculture and light industry on the one hand and heavy industry on the other, the State Council took firm steps to eliminate the rather serious financial deficit and strike a basic balance between state revenue and expenditure and between credit receipts and payments. We have maintained both an overall stability and a fairly high rate of economic growth during this period of readjustment. The total output value of industry and agriculture shot up to 829.1 billion yuan in 1982, 32.6 per cent over 1978, averaging an annual increase of 7.3 per cent. This confirms the correctness of the principle of economic readjustment, which has produced significant results.

**China's agriculture has extricated itself from protracted stagnation and achieved a sustained overall upsurge.** The State Council has implemented a series of rural policies in the past few years to stimulate labour enthusiasm of the peasants. We have raised the purchase prices of farm and sideline products by a wide margin, increased the import of grain and reduced the quotas of grain purchase by the state in some areas. All this has helped revitalize the countryside. Compared with 1978, the peasants' income rose by as much as 26 billion yuan in 1982 from the increased purchase prices of farm and sideline products alone. Meanwhile, we have readjusted crop patterns and the agricultural structure and promoted diversification of the rural economy without allowing grain production to fall off. Of particular importance is the fact that the peasants, under the leadership of the Party, have created varied forms of contracted responsibility system based on the household, with remuneration linked to output. This has enabled us to change the long-term practice of issuing arbitrary orders about production and of distributing the product in an equalitarian way. It combines small-scale management on the household basis with specialized and socialized production, preserving the advantages of the agricultural co-operative movement, and thus integrates the superiority of collective ownership with peasant initiative in household management of production, allowing both to develop fully. As a solution to a fundamental problem that has long plagued China's socialist agriculture, it represents a step forward which is of profound and far-reaching historic significance. Although much remains to be improved in our rural work, in the past few years we have, on the whole, reinforced the worker-peasant alliance under new historical conditions, fired the



enthusiasm of the hundreds of millions of Chinese peasants and provided a powerful stimulus to production. Compared with 1978, China's output of grain went up by 16 per cent in 1982; cotton, by 66 per cent; oil-bearing crops, by 126 per cent; sugar crops, by 83 per cent; and cured tobacco, mulberry silkworm cocoons, pork, beef, mutton, etc. by more than 50 per cent each. Everybody knows that there was no lack of natural calamities in the past few years. Nevertheless, the total value of agricultural output rose by an annual average of 7.5 per cent, which is 2.3 times the average annual increase during the 26 years preceding 1978. By and large, the overwhelming majority of the population in the more than 240 poor counties with low farm yields now have adequate food and clothing. Certain counties, notorious for their poverty, have improved by leaps and bounds and become new centres of commodity production. The steadily growing prosperity of the rural areas has opened the way for the improved economic and political situation.

**China's consumer goods industry has ended its long-term backwardness, heavy industry has gradually corrected its service orientation and industry as a whole has been expanding steadily in the course of readjustment.** We have attached importance in recent years to the production of consumer goods so that light industry has been able to expand more quickly than heavy industry. From 1979 through 1982, the average annual increase in the output value of light industry has been 11.8 per cent, as against 3.4 per cent for heavy industry. There has been considerable growth in the production of many commodities in short supply. As compared with 1978, the output of bicycles was up by 180 per cent in 1982; of sewing machines, by 160 per