

Memorabilia of the People's Republic of China

(October 1949 – September 2009)

Party History Research Office of the Central Committee of
the Communist Party of China



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Editor's Note

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the Party History Research Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) compiled the *Memorabilia of the People's Republic of China*, which is published by the Xinhua Publishing House (Chinese edition) and the Foreign Languages Press (English edition). The *Memorabilia* gives a comprehensive and accurate account of the development process of the PRC since its founding 60 years ago from an objective point of view, with the focus on its major achievements.

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Memorabilia of the People's Republic of China

(October 1949 – September 2009)

1949

October 1

The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China took office. The First Plenary Session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) was convened September 21 to 30. Exercising the functions and powers of the National People's Congress (NPC), which had not yet been established, the session approved the CPPCC Common Program as the provisional constitution, CPPCC Organic Law, and Organic Law of the PRC Central People's Government. During the meeting it was decided to make Beiping the capital of the republic and rename it Beijing, adopt the Christian Era, designate the five-star red flag as the national flag, and declare the "March of the Volunteers" as the national anthem. During the session the Central People's Government Council was elected, with Mao Zedong as chairman, Zhu De, Liu Shaoqi, Soong Ching-ling, Li Jishen, Zhang Lan and Gao Gang as vice-chairpersons, and Chen Yi and 55 others as members. At 2 p.m. on October 1, the Central People's Government Council held its first meeting, and unanimously accepted the Common Program as the state administration policy, elected Lin Boqu secretary-

general of the council, and appointed Zhou Enlai premier of the Government Administration Council and concurrently Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mao Zedong chairman of the People's Revolutionary Military Commission, Zhu De commander-in-chief of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), Shen Junru president of the Supreme People's Court, and Luo Ronghuan procurator-general of the Supreme People's Procuratorate. At 3 p.m. on the same day 300,000 soldiers and civilians gathered in Tiananmen Square in China's capital Beijing and held the grand founding ceremony of the PRC. Mao Zedong read out the proclamation of the Central People's Government announcing its establishment. On December 2, the fourth meeting of the Central People's Government stipulated October 1, 1949 as the founding day of the PRC and thereafter every year's October 1 as the National Day of the PRC.

October 2

The Soviet Union decided to establish diplomatic relations with the PRC. The next day Zhou Enlai replied by telegram expressing China's cordial acceptance, and then the two countries exchanged ambassadors. From October 1949 to January 1950 the PRC established diplomatic ties with Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Czechoslovakia, Poland, Mongolia, the German Democratic Republic, Albania and Vietnam in succession. By the end of 1951 India, Myanmar, Pakistan, Indonesia, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Finland had also set up diplomatic ties with the PRC.

October 9

The first session of the First CPPCC National Committee convened, and elected Mao Zedong chairman and Zhou Enlai, Li Jishen, Shen Junru, Guo Moruo and Chen Shutong vice-chairmen of the First CPPCC National Committee.

October 13

The Central Committee of the New Democratic Youth League of China held an enlarged meeting of its Standing Committee, and passed a resolution creating the China Children and Teenagers Corps, which was renamed the Young Pioneers of China in August 1953.

October 21

The Administration Council of the Central People's Government was inaugurated. The Council was composed of the Political and Legal Committee, Financial and Economic Committee, Culture and Education Committee, People's Supervision Committee, and 30 ministries, commissions, departments, bureaus and offices.

October 25

The General Administration of Customs was formally established. The Chinese people recovered complete sovereignty over the country's customs.

November 1

The Chinese Academy of Sciences was founded, with Guo Moruo as the president.

November 9

The CPC Central Committee decided to create the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, with Zhu De as the secretary, and discipline inspection commissions at local levels of the CPC.

November 11

The PLA Air Command was set up, with Liu Yalou as the commander and Xiao Hua as the political commissar.

November 21

The second Beijing municipal conference of people's represen-

tatives from all circles approved a resolution closing down all houses of prostitution. Hereafter, other places nationwide began to take the same action.

December 2

The Central People's Government Council held its fourth meeting, and decided to issue People's Victory Parity Bonds. It also adopted the General Organic Regulations on Local Conferences of People's Representatives from All Circles at the Provincial, Municipal and County Levels. Henceforth, local conferences of people's representatives at all levels were held by corresponding local people's governments, and exercised the functions and powers of local people's congresses. These were transitional institutions before local people's congresses were established.

On the same day, the Central People's Government changed the name of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Government, established in May 1947, into the People's Government of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, and appointed the chairman, vice-chairmen and members for it. The capital of the region was moved from Ulanhot to Zhangjiakou, and later to Guisui (today's Hohhot).

December 6

The Culture and Education Committee of the Government Administration Council established the Committee for Returned Students Affairs to handle affairs related to students and scholars returning from overseas studies. From August 1949 to November 1955 a total of 1,536 senior intellectuals returned from overseas to participate in the construction of their homeland.

December 16

Mao Zedong arrived in Moscow for a two-month visit to

the Soviet Union. On February 14, 1950 Zhou Enlai and Andrey Y. Vyshinsky, on behalf of the Chinese and Soviet governments, respectively, signed the Sino-Soviet treaty of friendship, alliance and mutual assistance, the Sino-Soviet agreement concerning the Changchun Railway, Lushun (Port Arthur) and Dalian (Dairen), and the agreement on Soviet loans to the PRC.

December 23-31

The Ministry of Education held the First National Education Working Conference. The conference defined the policies and steps for reform of the old education system, set the direction for development of a new education system, and put forth the concept that education must serve the needs of national construction and schools must be open to workers and farmers.

1950

January 6

The Beijing Military Control Commission issued a public notice, reclaiming the landed property previously occupied by foreign military in Beijing, and confiscating the military barracks and other buildings. In January and April the Commission reclaimed and confiscated land occupied by US, French, Dutch and British military garrisons; In June and September, the Military Control Commissions of Tianjin and Shanghai reclaimed and confiscated land occupied by French military garrisons. The garrison right of imperialist countries was thus abolished on the mainland of China.

February 24

The Government Administration Council promulgated the Decree on the Prohibition of Opium Smoking.

March 3

The Government Administration Council enacted the Decision on Unifying National Financial and Economic Work to curb inflation and stabilize the prices of commodities so that the national fiscal balance was achieved.

April 14

The leading organ of the PLA Navy was founded, with Xiao Jinguang as the commander.

May 1

The Marriage Law came into effect, becoming the first law of the PRC. It stipulated that the feudal marriage system based on arbitrary and compulsory arrangements and the supremacy of man over woman, and in disregard of the interests of the children, was abolished and that a new democratic marriage system based on the free choice of partners, monogamy, equal rights for both sexes and the protection of the lawful interests of women and children was put into effect.

On the same day, the PLA liberated Hainan Island. After the founding of the PRC, the PLA started annihilating the remnants of the troops of the Kuomintang in southern and southwestern China and the coastal islands. Kuomintang, also known as the Chinese Nationalist Party, was the founding and ruling party of the Republic of China (1912-1949). By June 1950 the PLA had liberated all of China except Tibet, Taiwan and a few small islands.

June 6-9

The Third Plenum of the Seventh Central Committee of the CPC was convened. Mao Zedong presented his report "Striving for a Basic Upturn of National Finance and Economy" and gave a speech titled "Don't Hit Out in All Directions."

June 25

The Korean War broke out. The US engaged in armed intervention in the Korean War and sent the Seventh Fleet of its navy to patrol China's Taiwan Straits. On June 28 the Chinese government made a statement denouncing and protesting the US invasions.

June 29

The Trade Union Law of the PRC went into force.

June 30

The Land Reform Law of the PRC was put into effect, and land reform was widely implemented in the newly liberated areas. By the spring of 1953 land reform had been basically completed on the mainland of China, apart from in some ethnic-minority regions. Over 300 million landless farmers in the liberated areas acquired free land totaling 47 million ha, and other means of production. The feudal land tenure system was thus smashed.

July 28

Forty leading Protestant figures jointly published the "Three-Self Declaration," titled "The Way in Which Chinese Protestantism Works for New China's Construction." In the declaration they expressed their support for the Common Program, and their determination to cast off imperialist influence and achieve the "Three Selfs" (self-administration, self-support and self-propagation) of Chinese churches. The Three-Self Patriotic Movement spread nationwide. In November, Chinese Catholics published a similar declaration and joined the movement.

August 7-19

The First National Public Health Conference was convened, and set "serving the workers, farmers and soldiers," "putting prevention first," and "uniting traditional Chinese medicine with

Western medicine” as the three guidelines for health work in the PRC.

September 22

The leading organ of the Public Security Forces was founded, with Luo Ruiqing as the commander and political commissar.

September 20-29

The First National Education Conference for Workers and Farmers was convened and set the goal of popularizing literacy education to reduce illiteracy step by step. On November 15, 1952 the Illiteracy Elimination Work Committee of the Central People's Government was established and launched a nationwide campaign to promote literacy.

September 25-October 2

The National Conference of Representatives of Combat Heroes and National Conference of Representatives of Model Workers, Farmers and Soldiers were convened. Mao Zedong, on behalf of the CPC Central Committee, gave congratulatory speeches at the conferences.

Early October

The CPC Central Committee formed the strategic policy of resisting US aggression and aiding Korea, and protecting the motherland and defending the country. On October 8 Mao Zedong issued an order to transform the frontier defense forces of northeast China into the Chinese People's Volunteer Army, with Peng Dehuai as the commander-in-chief and political commissar. On October 19 the Chinese People's Volunteer Army entered Korea, and joined the war. A campaign to Resist US aggression and Aid Korea was staged across China. On July 27, 1953 the Korean War Armistice Agreement was signed at Panmunjom, Korea. By October 1958 the

Chinese People's Volunteer Army had completely withdrawn from Korea in three batches and returned to China.

October 10

The CPC Central Committee issued the Instructions on Cracking Down on Counter-Revolutionary Activities. The campaign came to an end in October 1952.

October 14

The Government Administration Council issued the Decision on Harnessing the Huaihe River. In 1951 Mao Zedong wrote an instruction for the project: "We must bring the Huaihe River under control." On July 20, the first phase of the project of harnessing the Huaihe River was completed. In the winter of 1957 the project achieved initial success.

November 24

The 60th Meeting of the Government Administration Council approved the Pilot Program for Training Ethnic-Minority Cadres and the Pilot Program for Organizing the Central Institute for Nationalities. On June 11, 1951 the Central Institute for Nationalities held its opening ceremony.

December 19

The Beijing Municipal People's Government issued an edict banning the I-Kuan Tao and all other superstitious sects and secret societies, initiating a nationwide struggle against such sects and societies.

1951

February 23

The Government Administration Council adopted the Labor

Insurance Regulations, which came into force on March 1 the same year.

May 23

The authorized deputies of the Central People's Government and Tibet local government signed the Agreement on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet, also known as the "17-Article Agreement," declaring the peaceful liberation of Tibet. On October 26, PLA troops entered Lhasa and were stationed there.

September 20-30

The CPC Central Committee held the First National Conference on Mutual Aid and Cooperation in Agriculture, and adopted the Draft Resolution on Mutual Aid and Cooperation in Agricultural Production. Then the movement for mutual aid and cooperation in agricultural production was soon in full bloom. After over a year of experimentation the CPC Central Committee passed the formal resolution on this work on February 15, 1953.

October 12

Volume I of the *Selected Works of Mao Zedong* was published. Volumes II, III and IV came off the press in April 1952, April 1953 and September 1960, respectively.

December 1

The CPC Central Committee issued the Decision on Streamlining Administration, Increasing Production and Practicing Economy, and Combating Corruption, Waste and Bureaucracy. The Three-anti's Campaign was started nationwide, and ended in October 1952.

December 26

The Culture and Education Committee of the Government Administration Council held its 31st meeting, and decided to estab-

lish the Research Committee for Reforming the Chinese Written Language.

1952

January 26

The CPC Central Committee issued the Instructions on Launching the Five-anti's Campaign First in Large and Medium-sized Cities. This campaign targeted lawless capitalists in large and medium-sized cities, and struggled against bribery, tax evasion, theft of state property, cheating on government contracts and stealing state economic information. The campaign ended in October 1952.

Mid-June-Late September

Institutions of higher learning nationwide were readjusted.

June 20

The Jingjiang Flood Diversion Project was completed, with a water storage capacity of 6 billion cu m.

June 20-24

The All-China Sports Federation held its inauguration ceremony, for which Mao Zedong wrote the inscription: "Develop sports and build up the people's physiques."

July 1

The 505-km Chengdu-Chongqing Railway opened to traffic. It was the first trunk railway built after the founding of the PRC.

August 9

The Program for the Implementation of Regional Ethnic Autonomy of the PRC was promulgated and put into force. It included clear provisions on such important issues as the establishment