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ROSTER OF PRESIDUM OF FIRST CONGRESS

Peking, Chinese Home Service, in Mandarin, Sept. 15, 1954, 1510 GMT--W

(Text)

Peking--Following is the roster of the Presidium of the first session of the First National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China: (The Presidium consists of 97 persons and they are listed in order of the number of strokes in Chinese characters representing each surname--Peking)

Mao Tse-tung, Wang Tsung-lun, Ssutu Mei-tang, Chu Te, Chu Te-hai, Ho Hsiang-ning, Wu Yu-chang, Wu Yao-tsung, Soong Ching-ling, Li Ssu-kuang, Li Hsien-nien, Li Shun-ta, Li Te-chuan, Li Chi-shen, Li Chu-chen, Shen Yen-ping, Shen Chun-ju, Chou Wen-chiang, Chou En-lai, Lin Chiao-chih, Lin Po-chu, Lin Piao, Lin Feng, K'o-chi-mu-ku, Chu Ko-chen, Liu Ya-tzu, Hu Tzu-ang, Hu Yao-pang, Fan Yung, Wei Kuo-ching, Hsu Hsiang-chien, Hsu Te-li;

Hsiang-chi-yueh-hsi, Ulanfu, Panchen Ngoerhtehni Lozong Chinglie Lhundrub Chujijiatsan, Ma Hsu-lun, Ma Yin-chu, Kao Chung-min, Tsui Chien-kung, Chang Chih-chung, Chang Hsi-jo, Chang Wen-tien, Chang Nan-hsien, Chang Lan, Liang Hsi, Mei Lan-fang, Chang Po-chun, Hsi Chung-hsun, Hsu Kuang-ping, Hsu Te-heng, Ko Mo-jo, Chen Shao-min, Chen Shu-tung, Chen Shao-kuan, Chen Yun, Chen Ching-yu, Chen Chia-keng, Chen I, Fu Tso-i, Chi Wen-fu, Peng Chen, Peng Te-huai, Peng Tse-min, Sheng Pei-hua, Cheng Chien, Hua Lo-keng;

Ho Lung, Huang Chang-shui, Huang Yen-pei, Yang Ming-hsien, Yeh Chien-ying, Tung Pi-wu, Dalai Lama Ngawang Lozong Dantzem Jiatso, Yung I-jen, Hsiung Ko-wu, Liu Shao-chi, Liu Po-cheng, Liu Ko-ping, Liu Hung-sheng, Liu Lan-tao, Ou Pai-chuan, Tsai Ting-kai, Tsai Chang, Teng Tzu-hui, Teng Fang-chin, Teng Pao-shan, Kung Tien-min, Lai Jo-yu, Lung Yun, Po I-po, Hsieh Chueh-tsai, Sai Fu-ting, Han En, Han Wang-chen, Nieh Jung-chen, Lo Jung-huan, and An Ping-shan.

The secretary general of the first session is Li Wei-han.

LIU SHAO-CHI DRAFT CONSTITUTION REPORT

Peking, NCNA, in English Morse to Southeast Asia, Europe, and North America, Sept. 15, 1954, 1420 GMT--W

(Text)

Peking, Sept. 15--Page one--The National People's Congress today heard a report on the Draft Constitution of the People's Republic of China by Liu Shao-chi, speaking for the Committee for Drafting the Constitution of the People's Republic of China.

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This system of People's Congresses, which has brought the people of the whole country closely together, is the greatest guarantee for the building of a prosperous and happy Socialist State.

The development of a People's democratic rule in China during the past 5 years is prominently featured in today's press. Many articles on the functions of People's Congresses and People's Government in urban and rural areas are carried. A sketch in the PEOPLE'S DAILY shows that 85.88 percent of China's population took part in elections at the lowest level. Interviews with individual deputies to the National People's Congress cover two entire pages of the supplement in today's Peking DAILY.

The PEOPLE'S DAILY brings news of victory in the battle against the highest water level in 100 years along the middle reaches of the Yangtze River. In a message to the Central People's Government, the river fighters guarding the 133-kilometer-long dangerous section along the Yangtze River above the Tungting Lake, report that the industrial city of Wuhan and the life and property of millions of people living in this low-lying area are now safe.

The Peking DAILY WORKER reports that the No. 1 Steel Smelting Plant of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company is being reconstructed. When completed it will become a modern plant equipped with automatic devices, and the output of steel is expected to increase considerably.

A dispatch from the Northeast mining center of Penki says that a new coal pit is due to be opened around Oct. 1.

The Peking DAILY WORKER also runs a column describing China's biggest department store, the No. 1 State-owned Department Store in Shanghai. Its daily customers add up to around 100,000 the paper reports, but many more turn up on Sundays and holidays. Total sales this year have quadrupled those of last.

In another editorial on foreign news, the PEOPLE'S DAILY says that the Soviet proposal of Sept. 10 calling for a four-power conference to discuss the German question and the establishment of a system of collective security in Europe is in the interests of the people of Europe. It declares that the rejection by the French National Assembly of the EDC Treaty is a heavy blow to the American aggressive bloc.

This paper also carries an article on some of Albania's achievements in the past 10 years, in her industry, agriculture, and cultural and other fields.

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Liu Shao-chi described the adoption of the Constitution as the primary task of the present session of the Congress and a great historic event in the life of the Nation. The Draft Constitution would become the fundamental law of the State after adoption by the present session, he said.

The Committee for the Drafting of the Constitution, headed by Comrade Mao Tse-tung, had been formed in January 1953 by the Central People's Government Council. In March this year the Committee had received a Draft Constitution from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. After thorough discussion for 2 months by 8,000 representatives of democratic parties, popular organizations, and others, a draft had been published for public discussion on July 14.

The present amended draft now before the session of the Congress was the result of more than 2 months of keen Nationwide discussion in which 150 million people participated and took into consideration the numerous proposals and amendments that had been sent in and had been approved by the Central People's Government Council on Sept. 9. Liu Shao-chi first outlined the historic significance of the Draft Constitution.

The Draft Constitution, he said, rested on the foundation of the complete victory won by the Chinese people in their prolonged struggle against imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucratic capitalism. It rested on the firm establishment of the People's democratic State led by the working class and based on the worker-peasant alliance. It rested on the powerful Socialist economy which is playing a leading role in China's economic life, and the fact that the process of transformation has begun in the gradual transition toward Socialism. Based on these facts, Liu Shao-chi went on, China's Constitution was a Socialist, not a bourgeois type of constitution.

The present Draft Constitution embodied the historical experience both of the Chinese people's revolutionary struggle and the constitutional movement of China in the modern period. It embodied the interests and will of the Chinese people and of the great changes in the country. It also drew from the experience of other countries, especially from that of the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies.

The struggle between revolution and counterrevolution had never ceased during the past 100 years or more. It was reflected, on the question of the State system, in three different constitutional forms demanded by three different social forces.

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Page 2--First, there had been the bogus constitutions drawn up by the rulers of the Manchu Dynasty, the northern warlords and the Chiang Kai-shek Kuomintang, who were opposed even to bourgeois democracy and never really wanted a constitution. When these were on their last legs, they schemed to save themselves with the help of such bogus constitutions. They failed and all their "constitutions" became mere scraps of paper.

Secondly, as regards the constitution of a bourgeois democratic republic which the Chinese national bourgeoisie in past years used to yearn for, Liu Shao-chi said that no such constitution had ever been established in China except for the provisional constitution that arose out of the 1911 revolution. This was immediately scrapped by warlord Yuan Shih-kai. Many nations did become bourgeois republics after throwing off feudalism, Liu Shao-chi pointed out. However, this was a mere illusion in semicolonial and semifeudal China because the Chinese bourgeoisie was unable to lead the people to defeat the combined forces of foreign imperialism and domestic reactionaries.

Thirdly, there is the constitution of a people's republic, led by the working class and based on the worker-peasant alliance, which the present session of the National People's Congress had before it for enactment. This democratic and Socialist constitution conformed to the interests of the overwhelming majority of the Chinese people. It would be the only genuine constitution China had ever had, Liu Shao-chi stated.

The Draft Constitution also summed up the new historical experiences since the founding of the People's Republic of China 5 years ago, during which period the common program adopted by the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in 1949 acted as a provisional constitution.

In these 5 years, China had ended her former position as a colony or vassal state under the rule of foreign imperialism, and because an independent State. She had emerged as a great power in the world. Together with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, she had become a bulwark in the defense of world peace. She had put an end to feudalism and long years of chaos and had achieved unprecedented unification over the entire mainland and unity among the nationalities.

Where before the people had no political power, now in the main democracy had been built up. In 5 years, China had rehabilitated a national economy ruined by the imperialists and the Kuomintang reactionaries and started Socialist construction, thanks to the enthusiasm and initiative of the people and to the assistance of her great ally, the Soviet Union.

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Page 3--The great changes during the past 5 years provided a vivid answer to a fundamental and repeatedly debated question in modern China--which way to go, capitalism or Socialism? The past 5 years had provided that the only correct road forward for China was to attain Socialism--in which the economy is single and unified--from the present society, in which the economic structure was complicated, Liu Shao-chi stated.

In fact, China had entered on the road to Socialism and as from 1953 had entered into planned economic construction, with Socialism as the objective. Therefore it was necessary to take a step forward, on the basis of the common program, and make a constitution to affirm in legal form the central task of the State during the transitional period, which called for the step-by-step Socialist industrialization of the country, the gradual Socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts, and capitalist industry and commerce.

Liu Shao-chi then gave some explanation of the basic content of the Draft Constitution.

On the character of the State in China, Liu Shao-chi said the fact that it was led by the working class and based on the worker-peasant alliance indicated that China was a country of people's democracy in which the overwhelming majority were the true masters of the State, in sharp contrast with capitalist countries, in which the ruling bourgeoisie formed only a minority.

He described the broad people's democratic united front in China, and stressed the continuous strengthening of the worker-peasant alliance which also included the alliance with individual handicraftsmen and other individuals engaged in nonagricultural labor. This was the basic guarantee for the successful leadership of the working class, he said.

The People's Democratic United Front, he added, led by the working class and composed of all democratic classes, democratic parties and people's organizations--based on and broader than the worker-peasant alliance--was playing an important role in China's transition period to Socialism.

Liu Shao-chi said that a national bourgeoisie continued to exist in China during the transition period. But due to the specific historical conditions of China's oppression by foreign imperialism, there had been not only struggle but also alliance between the working class and the national bourgeoisie. The State also united patriotic people of all other class forms in society, especially those of the various national minorities.

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The great revolutionary unity of the entire Chinese people, led by the working class, Liu Shao-chi pointed out, was necessary not only to the Chinese People's Revolution, but also to the realization of Socialism since imperialism still existed. Our Constitution must therefore be one for the great unity of the people of the entire country in building a Socialist society, Liu Shao-chi declared.

Dealing with the problem of building a Socialist society in a peaceful manner, Liu Shao-chi enumerated the forms through which Socialist transformation would be carried out. The cooperatives--a partial collective ownership by the working people--was the main **form** of Socialist transformation of agriculture and handicrafts, while capitalist industry and commerce were being transformed through State capitalism.

Liu Shao-chi pointed out that as distinct from the capitalist countries, in China Socialist revolution could be achieved not through the overthrow of the capitalist State system but through step-by-step Socialist transformation. This was because China was a people's democratic country led by the working class, because the Socialist economy owned by the State had already become the leading force and the capitalist sector was not dominant in the national economy.

Liu Shao-chi particularly referred to the Socialist transformation of capitalist industry and commerce that would take place step by step over a considerable period through the various forms of State capitalism. Any member of the national bourgeoisie would have appropriate work, and the livelihood and work of any member of the national bourgeoisie who was willing to accept the Socialist transformation, observe the laws, and not undermine the people's property would be appropriately arranged by the State. They would not be deprived of their political rights.

Our policy and methods in building Socialism were perfectly correct, Liu Shao-chi said, referring to the clamor by China's enemies, who had a great dislike for her Socialist principles, and the disappointment of sections of the foreign capitalist press that China had taken the road traversed by the Soviet Union--the **road** that all human societies would inevitably take according to the laws of historical development.

Liu Shao-chi next spoke on the Chinese people's democratic political system and the rights and duties of the people.

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The people's congress system was the political system which conformed to the nature of the State. The Draft Constitution stipulated that all State organs, from the State Council to the Local People's Councils at the lowest level, were established, supervised, or removed from office where necessary by the National People's Congress or the Local People's Congresses elected by the people.

The Standing Committee elected by the National People's Congress and the chairman of the People's Republic of China would jointly . . . perform the function and exercise the power of the head of the State, but neither of them had powers above those of the National People's Congress.

Important State affairs were not decided by a single individual or a few individuals. Important affairs affecting the whole Nation had to be discussed and decided upon by the National People's Congress, or its Standing Committee, and important local affairs had to be discussed and decided upon by the Local People's Congresses.

China's political system had a high degree of centralization, Liu Shao-chi stated, but it was based on a high degree of democracy.

Criticizing some foreign bourgeois press comments on the Draft Constitution, he said these people measured China's political system by bourgeois standards and missed the biggest and most fundamental point-- the fact that the Chinese people, led by the working class, had become the masters in their country.

Liu Shao-chi enumerated freedom of speech, the press, assembly, association, procession, and demonstration, enjoyed by the Chinese people and materially facilitated by the State as established in the Draft Constitution, in addition to a number of other rights including the freedom of religious belief. The broad masses of the people in any capitalist countries, he said, had not enjoyed and could not enjoy such broad individual freedom as the Chinese people enjoy.

Our State gives every consideration to individual interests, he went on; the public interests of our State and society cannot diverge from individual interests. The State also gave every protection to the public interests of the country and society, which were the very foundation on which to satisfy the individual interests of the masses of the people.

On the duties of the people, he said that the Chinese people have both full democratic power and full obligations toward the State.

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Page 5--Liu Shao-chi then noted that the age-old system of national oppression had been abolished. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, China had become a great family of free and equal nationalities, he declared.

The Draft Constitution reflected the common interests of all the nationalities in China. It stated that China was a unified, multinational State and that all the areas of national autonomy were inseparable parts of the People's Republic of China.

The Draft Constitution also insured that all the national minorities were genuinely able to exercise their right of autonomy wherever they live in numbers.

Liu Shao-chi emphatically pointed out that the Han nationality, who were more advanced than the other nationalities in political, economic, and cultural development, had the special obligation of helping the development of the fraternal nationalities.

Building a Socialist society was the common objective of all nationalities of China, he went on. In view of the different historical conditions of the nationalities, the question of when and how the Socialist transformation would be carried out would vary. The people of the various nationalities must be free to follow their own desires in making their decisions, he stressed.

The Constitution, reflecting the experience and aspirations of the people would be a great, active factor in the life of the Chinese state, Liu Shao-chi stated. It would be an inspiration to the mass of the people in their struggle to safeguard and develop the fruits of China's victory, to smash all schemes of enemies who attempted to undermine China's social and State systems, and to strive for making China's construction more perfect and quickening its tempo.

Liu Shao-chi said that the passage of the Constitution would bring joy to the Chinese people and to China's friends throughout the world. The Constitution established China's fundamental policy in international affairs as that of working for the cause of world peace and the progress of humanity.

What China had achieved and would achieve would be helpful to the common cause for peace and progress of the people of the world, Liu Shao-chi said, and to strive for lasting world peace was a necessary condition for China's Socialist construction.