

The Thirtieth Annual

Virginia Model United Nations Conference

Presents...

Chinese Politburo

Colin Custer

Brett Levinson

*Undersecretary- General
for Committees*

Chair

Table of Contents

Introduction 3

History of the Committee 4

Topics..... 6

Political 6

Military 8

Economic..... 9

International 9

Conclusion..... 9

Bibliography..... 10

To the Delegates of Chinese Politburo 1945- of VAMUN XXX-

I want to welcome all of you to VAMUN XXX at the University of Virginia and thank you for choosing to attend this conference! You picked a conference and committee where you can think use the knowledge you have gained in a setting where critical thinking and cooperation are key to success. I enjoy participating in these simulations on the college Model UN circuit, and so I am very exciting to be chairing at VAMUN this year.

A little bit about myself; I am a third-year student double-majoring in Foreign Affairs and Economics. I grew up in Manalapan, New Jersey-just twenty minutes from the infamous Jersey Shore and the area where one of the greatest rock-and-roll musicians of all time also hails from-Bruce Springsteen. I am also an ardent Yankee and Giant fan, so allusions to how great those teams are may come up from time to time in the committee. I have been a part of the International Relations Organization since the fall of my first year and am currently on the Executive Board as a member-at-large. I have been to away conferences and have served as a staffer/vice-chair for VAMUN XXVIII, VAMUN XXIX, and VICS XIV. I served on the Secretariat for VICS XV as the under secretary-general of logistics. My interest in international relations found a great home in IRO.

My area of focus for foreign affairs is on East Asia; consequently, I chose a committee topic that is garnered towards my interests. There can be much discussion on the Chinese Politburo of 1945 and also a lot of “what-ifs?” It is your job, as delegates, to perhaps change the course of history, or leave it the way it was, and I am sure this weekend will be both an educational and fun experience as you enjoy the great city of Charlottesville and the awesome school that is UVA.

Sincerely,

Brett Levinson

Introduction

The Chinese Politburo Committee is a joint-crisis committee that coincides with the Guomindang crisis committee. The Guomindang, for your information, is the Nationalist Party. The Politburo is the governing body of the Chinese Communist Party that dictates the party's actions. The Guomindang are meeting in a similar type of organization. The two committees have a multitude of options to take that narrow down to two main choices-cooperation or aggrandizement. Both parties are trying to maintain their self-interest in the power vacuum that occurs in 1945

There are four main topics that you will have to delve into as a member of the Politburo. These topics/tracks are the issues that the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) has to debate about in relation to the GMD (Guomindang) and to the CCP's own well being and goals.

The first is a political track; will you decide to try to unite with GMD to create a unified China after World War II? Or will you choose to try to win the hearts and minds of the people, so that the CCP

winds up on top, And by doing so, unite China in a communist image?

The second is a military track; how to reorganize the Red Army after World War II and, if war is chosen as the most optimal track, how to wage this war against the GMD.

The third is an economic track-the CCP has to try to spread their economic reforms throughout their base of operations in the north. Another goal is to enlarge the Yanan programs into something that the whole nation can utilize. The Yanan programs concern peasant power, and that the economy will be driven by peasant power (agriculture) and not totally by industry like the capitalist nations.

The fourth is an international track-how to deal with international countries such as the United States and the Soviet Union, and in what regards would the Politburo want to cooperate with such states.

The Politburo is the body that oversees the CCP. It is your responsibility as a delegate to argue for what you think the future path is for the party.

History of the Committee

The seeds of the CCP were planted during the May 4th Movement of 1919, when the “intellectual attractiveness of Marxism-Lenninism” began to sway intellectuals during a calls of reform of the fledgling Chinese republic. Combined with the success of the Bolshevik Revolution and the founding of the Comintern, China was seen as a potential battleground for Marxist expansion. Communist cell groups were established in cities such as Shanghai, Beijing, and Canton, and students were sent to France to be introduced to socialist ideals, such as labor strikes. Chinese communist cells in Europe were being established, and men such as Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, and Deng Xiaoping participated in these programs.

The Chinese Communist party was officially founded in July, 1921 when the first Congress was held in Shanghai. The intellectual Chen Duxiu, who was in charge of the communist journal *New Youth* was chosen as the secretary-general of the party. The Soviet Union was very interested in the path of the CCP, and so through its agents, guided the CCP in its early years. One of the things that the Soviets wanted the CCP to do was to join

the Guomindang. Due to pressure from Moscow, in July of 1922, the CCP decided to participate in a United Front with the GMD. The two main goals of this front was to get rid of the warlords and the imperialists. (aka Europeans) However, the basic structure of the united front favored the GMD; individual CCP members would join the GMD, rather than there being an alliance between two parties. This “bloc within” system gave the GMD, led by Sun Yat-Sen, the primary authority to run the united front, while the CCP had to oblige this arrangement due to its dependence on the Soviet Union.

During the mid to late 1920s, the CCP had the opportunity to mobilize workers, farmers, and other peasantry. The CCP created institutions, such as the Farmers Movement Training Institute and the National General Labor Union. These associations were key in creating popular support for the Communist movement.

The CCP was put to the test during the Northern Expedition of 1927. Were they powerful enough to help oust the warlord culture that developed after the abolition of the monarchy in 1911. Due to differing ideologies, Chiang Kai-Shek, the

leader of the Guomindang, had deemed the CCP to be too dangerous to keep in the alliance. All the labor groups and farmer movements were a threat to his and the conservative blocs power within the United Front. Beginning in April. Forces loyal to Chiang began a “red purge” of communists, communist sympathizers and anyone else whose loyalties to Chiang could be questioned. Chiang’s rationale was that “while members of the Guomindang have been laboring faithfully either on the field of battle or elsewhere, and while the militaristic of the country have been gradually eliminated, the Communists have seized important cities as their centers for propaganda and usurped the power of the Party.” Chiang decided on this purge to get rid of the threat to his power.

Though the communists led uprisings and fought back against the purge, the CCP was forced to retreat from its advances. The nationalists executed the former CCP co-founder Li Dazhao and Chen Duxiu was forced to resign as secretary-general. The remnants of the CCP fled to remote base areas, to continue their operations and their goals of establishing a people’s socialist republic.

New leadership began to arise, the so-called “second generation “ of communist leaders. The CCP was outlawed, and so the party reformers had to work in the countryside and underground in order to reform the party. Most of the new leaders studied abroad in France and the Soviet Union, consequently bringing new ideas fresh out of the European mold. Another shift in the party was the “large influx of peasants and the decline in the numbers of intellectuals and urban workers.” Leaders such as He Long and Mao Zedong retreated to remote bases where organization and mobilization could occur. These bases became the “home from which we carry on revolutionary struggles against the enemy,” according to Mao Zedong. These base areas were established on borders between provinces, and many different bases were set up. The two most significant ones were set up around the city of Yanan and a base at Jiangxi, which was on the border between Jiangxi and Fujian provinces. These base areas mobilized “peasant power” while the CCP leadership in Shanghai tilted more towards the urban factor.

The congresses during this time were dominated by the Soviets, who

wanted the march to communism to be an urban one. The party was led by men like Li Lisan and the 28 Bolsheviks; the revolution would be led by the mobilization of urban workers in cities and not by the peasants. However, Li Lisan was toppled when a rebellion in Changhsa fizzled and the 28 Bolsheviks gained control. The 28 Bolsheviks were trained in Moscow and so were in a pro-Soviet sphere. They tried to control the rural areas through “front committees,” but Mao especially thwarted these efforts. By 1931, the Party central Committee was nothing but “a liaison organization relaying instructions from the Comintern to the soviets.” In 1933, the Shanghai leaders moved out to the Jiangxi Soviet, where they stayed until the Long March.

Chiang Kai-Shek, in the meantime, had launched five extermination campaigns against the Jiangxi Soviet from late 1930 to late 1933. The last one, launched in October 1933, managed to force the Communists to embark on the “Long March,” the dreadful 368 day march that in the end was around 6,000 miles. 86,000 people left the Jiangxi Soviet. At a meeting in Zunyi in 1935, Mao solidified his power at the CCP top by putting the blame on all the mishaps on

the 28 Bolsheviks. After ninety percent of the people failed to survive, the remnant managed establish a base at Yunnan. Here, Mao ended the journey and his legend grew. Though many troops died, the experience “strengthened Mao’s faith that men with the proper will spirit, and revolutionary consciousness could conquer all material obstacles and mold historical reality.” Mao Zedong was ready to lead the CCP on his own revolutionary path.

Topics

Political

As stated above, one of the main problems facing China after World War II was how to unify the country and what government institutions need to be established to see a stable China. The CCP needs to make sure its own institutions are in order if it wants to maintain control of a future China.

The political foundations for this current Politburo can be found in the Xian Incident of 1936. Chiang-Kai Sheik was held hostage at the Communist town of Yanan during the Japanese invasion of the mainland. The so-called “conversion” of

Chiang-Ka Shek made him focus more on the Japanese threat than taking out the Communists stationed in North China. On July 7, 1937, Japanese troops and Chinese soldiers got into a skirmish on the Marco Polo Bridge near Beijing. Chiang had no choice but to ally himself with the Communists against the Japanese. But Chiang, though he should have been wholly preoccupied with the military efforts against Japan, focused on minimizing the CCP influence and still trying to destroy them politically.

In 1939, while the Communists were staging troops across the north, Chiang instituted a “military and economic blockade of one of the biggest CCP bases, Shaan-Gan-Ning, in an effort to halt its expansion. This is an example of how the Communists and Guomindang’s Second United Front did not cooperate well with each other. In October 1940, a bloody fight between CCP troops and GMD troops of the New 4th Army resulted in many deaths. Chiang ordered all the CCP troop in the 4th army to move north of the Yangtze River, and all communist troops in the 8th army, which was the main communist army, north of the Yellow River. On their march north, the nationalists shot at the communists,

resulting in three thousand deaths and thousands sent to prison camps. This was just one of the many instances of violence between the two sides throughout the war

The Sino-Japanese War was a period where the CCP shaped their party strategy. It became more focused on “identity, coherence, and purity.” Hundreds of thousands of immigrants migrated to Yanaan; consequently, a “party line” was needed to control all the newcomers and to make sure a communist mantra was followed. A civil and military bureaucracy was being create to control all the regions of CCP control in the north. Cadres lived with peasants and mass mobilization occurred to garner support against the Japanese. Different associations of organizations centered on women and worker groups were established for the war effort.

In early 1942, a rectification campaign was launched by Mao that centered to raising morale while the GMD blockaded Shaan-Gan-Ning and skirmishes continued between the two sides. Tens of thousands of new members joined the CCP, and these included “intellectuals and students who had come from coastal cities.” Mao also tried to

focus the CCP mantra on a more Chinese mode of thought, rather than a hard-line Marxist-Leninist approach that was supported by older party members. Mao spread his own ideas on literature, culture, part ideology throughout Yanan and the nineteen other Communist base areas that were spread throughout North China. Mao claimed that there were “1.2 million CCP members by the close of the war.” The defeat and withdrawal of Japan had buoyed the almost-dead communist movement into a legitimate voice of millions of Chinese people clamoring for stability after decades of conflict.

Some political goals are as follows: maintain the peasant support that was crafted out of World War II, change the institutions so that they match the changing circumstances, and make sure the party structure can adapt to anything that occurs. Two plans to be crafted—one for cooperation with the GMD and one for splitting with the GMD. The choice is yours.

Military

Throughout the war in China, the Red Army and the Nationalist army remained at odds, even though there was a Second

United Front. The CCP was able to expand its power in North China, and Chiang countered with a military and economic blockade of the CCP base. There were even skirmishes between the two camps; consequently, the directions of the war became different for each party. The CCP focused on its activities in northern China—the party became more focused on its “identity, coherence, and purity.”

At the end of the war, there were approximately one million Communist troops with around six hundred artillery pieces. Now the choice of what to do is up to the communists. Will they cooperate with the GMD and exchange weaponry in order to build a united China? Will the GMD announce their intentions or will there be uncertainty on both sides on what will happen in the near future?

The CCP has trained soldiers that fought both against Japan and the Nationalists. The issue is what to do with them. Will a quick demobilization be a sign of peace and rapprochement? Or will the decision be made to stay on high alert so that a first strike can be attained if things start to fall downhill? The tools are available for whatever occurs after 1945.

Economic

The problem that the Communists have to solve is how to build an economic base for the future. China is decimated due to the war with Japan. What sort of economic policies can the CCP bring to the bargaining table with the GMD in order for China to climb out of the economic quagmire? Will you decide to look at industrial infrastructure or try to spread the peasant programs nationwide? These will be all answered as the Politburo meets and discusses future actions.

International

As World War II drew to a close, the United States was entering the Cold war with the Soviet Union. The United States was worried about the USSR gaining a foothold in East Asia; consequently, a stable China was in America's best interest immediately following the end of World War II. There are plans to send an ambassador to China soon, so we will see what news he brings.

During the Sino-Japanese War, the United States sent almost no aid to the CCP. The United States only had a relationship with Chiang's government throughout the war. This can be

attributed to the Communists being bottled up in the north or the US's antipathy towards communist movements. Whatever the motivation, a working relationship with Mao Zedong was not fully in play by the time of the war's end.

Mao wants support from the international arena; the CCP needs to be recognized by the world community that it is a legitimate bloc within China that deserves a say in whatever government is fashioned after World War II. The CCP can look to the Soviet Union for help in growing their power or can cater more to the United States if the CCP feels that the US provides the best chance to gain materials for future solidification of the Chinese state.

Japan is reeling and so China has a chance to become a dominant power in the region. Both superpowers want to wield as much influence as possible in the region, so it is up to the CCP to decide which bloc to be on, if any at all.

Conclusion

With the power of the Red Army and the idea of a communistic revolution, it is

up to the Politburo to decide how the Communist Party of China will deal with the chaos of post-war China and if it wants to shape a post-war China with or without the cooperation of the Nationalists. Politically, is the CCP able to adapt to any change or any environment. What is more important, the communist ideology or the Chinese nationalism? Militarily, how should we use the armaments at your disposal to help attain your goals? The economic challenges might be the hardest; how to rebuilt an economy devastated by war. Lastly, the international challenges. What side to choose, if any, and how this affects your decisions with the GMD and with yourself. The race for a new Chinese state is on!

Bibliography

Cheng, Pei-Kai and Letz, Michael. The Search for Modern China. W.W. Norton and Company Inc., New York, NY. 1999.

Schoppa, R. Keith. Revolution and its Past. Pearson Education, Inc., Upper Saddle River, NJ. 2006.