

SOME DOCUMENTS OF CPSU AND USSR

2-5 March 1953 SOME DOCUMENTS OF CPSU AND USSR 15 March 1953-8 August 1953

Minutes No. 9 of the meeting of the Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee (March 2, 1953, 12:00) P. 744

Chaired by: Malenkov.

Members of the Bureau of the Presidium: Beria, Bulganin, Voroshilov, Kaganovich, Malenkov, Pervukhin, Saburov, Khrushchev.

Members of the Presidium: Mikoyan, Molotov, Shvernik, Shkiryatov.

Head of the Kremlin Medical and Sanitary Department I.I. Kuprin and Professor R.A. Tkachev

Meeting agenda:

Conclusion of the medical council regarding the cerebral hemorrhage that occurred on March 2 in Comrade J.V. Stalin and the serious state of his health in connection with it.

Minutes No. 10 of the meeting of the Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee (March 2, 1953, 8:00 p.m.) P. 745

Chaired by: Malenkov.

Members of the Bureau of the Presidium: Beria, Bulganin, Voroshilov, Kaganovich, Pervukhin, Saburov, Khrushchev.

Members of the Presidium: Mikoyan, Molotov, Shvernik, Shkiryatov.

USSR Minister of Health Tretyakov, head of the Kremlin Medical and Sanitary Department Kuperin.

Meeting agenda:

On the state of health of Comrade J.V. Stalin on the evening of March 2.

Minutes No. 11 of the meeting of the Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee (March 3, 1953, 12:00 p.m.) P. 745

Chaired by: Malenkov.

Members of the Bureau of the Presidium: Beria, Bulganin, Voroshilov, Kaganovich, Pervukhin, Saburov, Khrushchev. Members

Presidium: Mikoyan, Molotov, Suslov, Shvernik, Shkiryatov.

Meeting agenda:

About the treatment of Comrade Stalin I.V.

On notification to members and candidates of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

About the draft press release.

On convening a plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

Protocol No. 12 of the meeting of the Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee (March 3, 1953, 12:00 p.m.)

Chaired by: Malenkov.

Members of the Bureau of the Presidium: Beria, Bulganin, Voroshilov, Kaganovich, Pervukhin, Saburov, Khrushchev.

Members of the Presidium: Mikoyan, Molotov, Suslov, Shvernik, Shkiryatov.

Meeting agenda:

About the treatment of Comrade Stalin I.V.

On a closed message to members and candidates of the Central Committee of the CPSU, first secretaries of the Central Committees of the Communist Parties of the Union Republics, territorial and regional party committees.

On the government announcement about Comrade Stalin's illness.

About the bulletin on the health of Comrade Stalin.

Protocol No. 13 of the meeting of the Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee (March 4-5, 1953)

P. 746

Chaired by: Malenkov.

Members of the Bureau of the Presidium: Beria, Bulganin, Voroshilov, Kaganovich, Pervukhin, Saburov, Khrushchev.

Members of the Presidium: Mikoyan, Molotov, Shvernik.

Meeting agenda:

On the joint meeting of the plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR[□].

I. On the Chairman and First Deputy Chairmen of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

II. On the Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

III. On the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. On the Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

IV. On the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR. On the Minister of Internal Affairs of the USSR.

V. On the Minister and Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

VI. On the USSR Minister of War and the First Deputy Ministers of War.

VII. On the Ministry of Domestic and Foreign Trade. On the Minister and Deputy Ministers of Domestic and Foreign Trade of the USSR.

VIII. On the Ministry of Mechanical Engineering.

About the Minister of Mechanical Engineering.

About the Ministry of Transport and Heavy Engineering.

[□] See document No. 103.

About the Minister of Transport and Heavy Engineering.
About the Ministry of Power Plants and Electrical Industry.
About the Minister of Power Plants and Electrical Industry.

IX. On the Chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee.

X. About the Chairman of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions.

XI. On the Presidium of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Secretaries of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

XII. On the convening of the fourth session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

XIII. On the documents and papers of Comrade Stalin I.V.

No. 103 From the minutes of the joint meeting of the plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on March 5, 1953
P. 221

The meeting began at 8:00 pm and ended at 8:40 pm.[...]¹

Comrade Khrushchev presides.

Comrade Khrushchev gives the floor to the USSR Minister of Health, Comrade Tretyakov, for an informational report on the health of Comrade J.V. Stalin.

Mr. Tretyakov's message is taken into account.

Comrade Khrushchev reports that from the very beginning of Comrade Stalin's illness Members of the Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee are constantly at his bedside. Comrade Bulganin is currently on duty, so he is not present at the meeting.

The floor is given to Comrade Malenkov.

Comrade Malenkov says:

Everyone understands the enormous responsibility for leading the country that now falls on all of us.

It is clear to everyone that the country cannot tolerate even a single hour of disruption in leadership.

That is why the Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Party convened this joint meeting of the highest organs of our country—the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party, the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

The Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee has instructed me to report to you a series of measures to organize party and state leadership in order to adopt them as a joint decision of the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party, the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR².

¹ All members of the top Soviet leadership, as well as a large group of members and candidate members of the CPSU Central Committee, ministers, and representatives of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, were present at the meeting. A full list of those present is not published. As indicated by the notes on the document, no transcript of the meeting was kept.

² The issues submitted for consideration at the joint meeting were preliminarily approved at the meeting of the Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the CPSU on March 4-5 (minutes no. 13) (see section 4). (see "Protocol no 13" in this document. Mn)

The Bureau of the Presidium instructed me to report that in developing these organisational measures we proceeded from the fact that in this difficult time for our party and country, the most important task of the party and government is to ensure uninterrupted and correct leadership of the entire life of the country, which in turn requires the greatest unity of leadership, preventing any kind of confusion and panic, so as to thus unconditionally ensure the successful implementation of the policy developed by our party and government both in the internal affairs of our country and in international affairs.

Then the floor is given to Comrade Beria.

Comrade Beria states that the Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee has thoroughly discussed the current situation in our country, due to Comrade Stalin's absence from the leadership of the Party and the country. The Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee considers it necessary to immediately appoint a Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The Bureau proposes appointing Comrade G. M. Malenkov as Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Comrade Malenkov's candidacy is nominated unanimously by the members of the Bureau. We are confident that you will share our opinion that, in these difficult times our Party and country are experiencing, we can have only one candidate for the post of Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers—Comrade Malenkov. (Numerous shouts from the audience: "Correct! Approved.")

Then Comrade Khrushchev gives the floor to Comrade Malenkov.

Comrade Malenkov, on behalf of the Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the CPSU, submits the following proposals:

1. On the appointment of Comrades L.P. Beria, V.M. Molotov, N.A. Bulganin, and L.M. Kaganovich as First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. (Numerous shouts from the audience: "Correct! Approved.")

The proposal to appoint Comrades Beria, Molotov, Bulganin, and Kaganovich as First Deputy Chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers, says Comrade Malenkov, is put forward by the members of the Bureau unanimously and unanimously.

2. To have in the Council of Ministers of the USSR, instead of two bodies—the Presidium and the Bureau of the Presidium, one body—the Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

To establish that the Presidium of the Council of Ministers shall include the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Deputy Chairmen of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, who are members of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

3. To recommend Comrade K.E. Voroshilov as Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, relieving Comrade N.M. Shvernik of these duties.

To appoint Comrade N.M. Pegov as Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, relieving him of his duties as Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. To appoint the current Secretary of the Presidium

of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Comrade A.F. Gorkin, as Deputy Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

4. To merge the Ministry of State Security of the USSR and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR into one Ministry—the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR.

Appoint Comrade L.P. Beria as Minister of Internal Affairs of the USSR.

5. Appoint Comrade V.M. Molotov as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

To appoint Comrades A. Ya. Vyshinsky and Ya. A. Malik as First Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, and Comrade V. V. Kuznetsov as Deputy Minister.

Appoint Comrade A. Ya. Vyshinsky as permanent representative of the USSR to the UN.

It is recognized as necessary to have in China, as Ambassador and Representative of the Central Committee of the CPSU, member of the Central Committee of the CPSU and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, Comrade V.V. Kuznetsov.

6. To appoint Marshal of the Soviet Union Comrade N.A. Bulganin as Minister of War of the USSR and First Deputy Ministers of War of the USSR—Marshal of the Soviet Union Comrade A.M. Vasilevsky and Marshal of the Soviet Union Comrade G.K. Zhukov.

7. To merge the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Trade of the USSR into one Ministry—the Ministry of Domestic and Foreign Trade of the USSR.

Appoint Comrade Mikoyan A.I. as Minister of Domestic and Foreign Trade, Mr. Kabanov I.G. as First Deputy Minister, and Comrades Kумыкин P.N. and Zhavoronkov V.G. as Deputy Ministers.

8. Combine the Ministry of Automobile and Tractor Industry, the Ministry of Mechanical Engineering and Instrument Making, the Ministry of Agricultural Machinery and the Ministry of Machine Tool Building into one Ministry—the Ministry of Mechanical Engineering.

Appoint Comrade Saburov M.Z. as Minister of Mechanical Engineering, relieving him of his duties as Chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee.

9. Combine the Ministry of Transport Engineering, the Ministry of Shipbuilding Industry, the Ministry of Heavy Engineering and the Ministry of Construction and Road Engineering into one Ministry—the Ministry of Transport and Heavy Engineering.

Appoint Comrade V.A. Malyshev as Minister of Transport and Heavy Engineering.

10. Combine the Ministry of Power Plants, the Ministry of Electrical Industry and the Ministry of Communications Industry into one Ministry—the Ministry of Power Plants and Electrical Industry.

Appoint Comrade M.G. Pervukhin as Minister of Power Plants and Electrical Industry.

11. Appoint Comrade G.P. Kosyachenko as Chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee.

12. To recommend Comrade Shvernik N.M. as Chairman of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, relieving Comrade Kuznetsov V.V. of these duties.

13. The Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee proposes that instead of two organs of the Central Committee—the Presidium and the Bureau of the Presidium—the Central Committee of the CPSU should have one organ—the Presidium of the Central Committee of the CPSU, as defined by the Party Charter.

In order to ensure greater efficiency in management, the composition of the Presidium shall be determined to consist of 11 members and 4 candidates.

To approve the following composition of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the CPSU:

Members of the Presidium of the Central Committee—t.t. Stalin I.V., Malenkov G.M., Beria L.P., Molotov V.M., Voroshilov K.E., Khrushchev N.S., Bulganin N.A., Kaganovich L.M., Mikoyan A.I., Saburov M.Z., Pervukhin M.G.

Candidates for membership in the Presidium of the Central Committee of the CPSU—Comrades Shvernik N.M., Ponomarenko P.K., Melnikov L.G., Bagirov M.D.

14. In connection with the adopted decision on the Presidium of the CPSU Central Committee and the Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, liquidate the standing Commissions under the Presidium of the CPSU Central Committee on Foreign Affairs and on Defense Issues.

15. Elect comrades Ignatiev S.D., Pospelov P.N., Shatalin N.N. as secretaries of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

16. It is recognized as necessary for Comrade N.S. Khrushchev to concentrate on his work in the Central Committee of the CPSU and, in connection with this, to relieve him of his duties as First Secretary of the Moscow Committee of the CPSU.

To approve the Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Comrade N.A. Mikhailov, as the First Secretary of the Moscow Committee of the CPSU.

17. To relieve comrades P.K. Ponomarenko and N.G. Ignatov of their duties as Secretaries of the Central Committee of the CPSU in connection with their transfer to leadership positions in the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and comrade L.I. Brezhnev in connection with his transfer to work as the head of the Political Directorate of the Naval Ministry.

Comrade Malenkov reports that the proposals he reported to this meeting are put forward by all members of the Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee unanimously and unanimously.

To consider the decisions of this joint meeting of the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, subject to approval by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the Bureau proposes, says Comrade Malenkov, to convene a session of the Supreme Soviet. (see: SOME DOCUMENTS OF CPSU AND USSR 15 March 1953-8 August 1953-mn http://www.directdemocracy4u.uk/dd4en-resources/questions_of_restoration/SOMEDOCUMENTS_USSR_1953.pdf)

Then Comrade Malenkov reports that the Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee has instructed Comrades Malenkov, Beria, and Khrushchev to take measures to ensure that Comrade Stalin's documents and papers, both current and archival, are brought into proper order.

In conclusion, Comrade Malenkov expressed confidence that, in this difficult time for the Party and the country, the Party's Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR will ensure uninterrupted and proper leadership of the entire life of the country.

Comrade Khrushchev asks whether the comrades have any questions or comments regarding the proposals of the Bureau of the Presidium of the CPSU Central Committee, or whether there are any other or additional proposals. (Unanimous shouts from the audience: "Accept and approve the proposals of the Bureau.")

Comrade Khrushchev puts the submitted proposals to a vote.

The joint meeting of the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR unanimously approves the proposals submitted by the Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee on measures to organize party and state leadership (see Appendix)³.

Comrade Khrushchev declares the joint meeting closed.

Chairman of the Joint Meeting of the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union,
Council of Ministers of the USSR and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR

N.

Khrushchev.

Source. 1994. No. 1. P. 107-111⁴.

Source:

Politburo of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) and the Council of Ministers of the USSR. 1945-1953 / Faculty of State Administration of the Moscow State University

³ Not published. The resolution briefly reflected the decisions recorded in the minutes.

⁴ Publication by A. Chernev on the AP of the Russian Federation.