April 25, 1956
Talk by Mao Zedong at an Enlarged Meeting of the
Chinese Communist Party Central Committee Politburo
(Excerpts)

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Summary:
Mao speaks to the Central Committee Politburo about the need to develop an atomic bomb to avoid being "bullied," but stresses that this can only happen if economic development increases simultaneously.

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Chinese

Contents:
- English Translation
- Chinese Transcription
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25 April 1956

We still don’t have the atomic bomb. But in the past we didn’t have airplanes or artillery either. We relied on millet and rifles to defeat the Japanese imperialists and Chiang Kai-shek. Now we're already stronger than we were in the past, and in the future we’ll be even stronger than now. Not only are we going to have more airplanes and artillery, but also the atomic bomb. In today’s world, if we don't want to be bullied, we have to have this thing. What should we do? The reliable way would be to cut military expenditures by an appropriate amount and increase economic development spending. Only if the pace of economic development increases can there be greater strides in defense construction.

In 1950, at the Third Plenum of the Seventh Party Congress, we already raised the issue of retrenching state organizations and cutting military expenditures, believing that this is one of the three conditions [necessary] to achieve a fundamental turnaround in our country’s financial and economic condition. During the first five year plan, military spending constituted thirty percent of our total state budget. This proportion is too large. During the second five year plan, we need to reduce this to about twenty percent, so we can squeeze out more funds, open more factories, and produce more machinery. In time, not only will we have more airplanes and artillery, but we'll also probably have our own atomic bomb.

This leads to a question. Do you really want an atomic bomb, are you totally committed to wanting it, or are you only partially committed to wanting it, and not totally committed to wanting it? If you really want it, if you are totally committed to wanting it, you’ll cut the proportion of military expenditures and concentrate more on economic development. If you really don’t want it, if you are not totally committed to wanting it, you’ll just continue along the same path, doing things as usual. This is an issue of strategic policy. I hope the [Central] Military Commission will discuss it.
1956年4月25日

我有原子弹。但是，去我也有机和大炮，我是用小米加步打，了日本主和介石的。我在已比去强，以后要更强，不但要有更多的机和大炮，而且要有原子弹。在今天的世界上，我要不受人家欺，就不能有西。怎么呢？可靠的法就是把政用降到－适的比例，增加建用。只有建展得更快了，防建才能有更大的步。

一九五○年，我在党的七中全上，已提出精家机构，少政用的，是取我政情根本好的三件之一。第一五年划期，政用占家算全部支出的百分之三十，比重太大了。第二五年划期，要使它降到百分之二十左右，以便抽出更多的金，多些工厂，多造些机器。一段，我就不但有很多的机和大炮，而且可能有自己的原子弹。

里也生么一，你原子弹是真正想要、十分想要，是只有几分想，有十分想呢？你是真正想要，十分想要，你就降低政用的比重，多搞建。你不是真正想要，十分想要，你就按老章程事。是略方的，希望委一下。