

**June 6, 1953**  
**SED CC Politburo Minutes Discussing Moscow's  
Directives for the New Course**

**Citation:**

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**Summary:**

Self-critical attitude of the Politburo, organizational reform of Politburo and Secretariat policy toward labor methods

**Original Language:**

German

**Contents:**

Translation - English

Minutes Nr. 33/53 of the Extraordinary Session of the Politburo of the Central Committee on 6 June 1953 Daily Order: Debate on the Report regarding the Trip  
Members present: Grotewohl, Ulbricht, Oelssner, Rau, Ebert, Zaisser  
Candidates present: Schmidt, Honecker, Jendretzky, Herrstadt, Mückenburger  
Invited to the Session: Semyonov  
Excused: Pieck convalescence Matern vacation Ackermann vacation  
Chair: Grotewohl Secretary [for minutes]: Oelssner  
Discussed: Decided: 1. Debate on the report 1) After extensive discussion by all comrades regarding the trip: present, a general consensus was announced on the submitted document. 2) A comprehensive document self-critical of the of the Politburo and the Secretariat should be drafted and presented to the Central Committee of the CPSU. 3) For the preparation of an organizational reform of Politburo and Secretariat policy toward labor methods, a commission will be appointed, comprised of Comrades: Ulbricht Zaisser Oelssner Herrstadt Jendretzky 4) Comrades Ebert and Jendretzky are charged with nominating a Berlin comrade to each of the committees appointed in the Politburo session of 5 June 1953. 5) All poster propaganda is to be immediately re-examined. 6) Comrade Grotewohl is authorized to negotiate with the Church leadership. In the negotiations the following comrades should participate: Wandel Zaisser Grötschel Mr. Nuschke 7) Comrades Zaisser, Maron, and the District Attorney are instructed not to introduce further measures against the so-called "Junge Gemeinde" and other church institutions in any way. Further regulation of the affairs of the "Junge Gemeinde" is henceforth to be carried out through the Bureau for Youth Issues and not the Ministry of the Interior. 8) Confiscated properties of an ecclesiastical nature are to be returned to their previous owners 9) Subsidies planned for the Church are to be paid. 10) The quarantine camps for returning refugees are to be immediately dissolved. A corresponding press report is to be released. On the regulation of all standing questions in connection with the repatriation of previous refugees, guidelines are to be drafted by the following commission: Zaisser Plenikowski Maron [Klaus] Sorgenicht Strampfer a colleague of Scholz 11) The planned summer camp for the physical training of SED members and candidates is to be aborted. The following press release is to be issued: "The Politburo of the Central Committee of the SED has examined the question of the implementation of summer camps for the physical training of Party members and candidates, and decided to dispense with these measures. All preparations taken for this purpose are to cease." 12) Comrades Ebert and Jendretzky are instructed to suggest concrete measures with regards to Berlin. [signed] W. Ulbricht O. Grotewohl