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IN THE OPINION OF ~~THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE~~
ON THE COMMUNIST PARTY *of China*,

1. Statement made by the spokesman of the Communist C.E.C. in an interview on Jan. 18th. *141.*
2. Order issued by the Revolutionary Military Commission of the Communist C.E.C. on Jan. 20th.
3. Statement made by the spokesman of the Revolutionary Military Commission of the Communist C.E.C. in an interview made on Jan. 20th.
4. ~~Statement-by-~~ Telegraphic statement made by ~~the~~ Chen Yi, etc on the occasion of assumption of office on Jan. 23rd.
5. Leading article in the "Hsin Chung Hua", Yen-an on Jan. 19th.

I. Statement made by the spokesman of the Communist Central Executive Committee in an interview on the affair in South Anhwei.

A "Hsin Hua News Agency" telegram from Yen-an on Jan. 18th: *(to the North)*
During its withdrawal *in compliance* with orders received

the New Fourth Route Army was attacked by the authorities on the spot, giving rise to an affair *amounting to destruction* ~~for~~ the decimation of the said Army. The public both Chinese and foreigners were surprised at the news. In an interview granted to the representative of the "Hsin Hua News Agency" the spokesman of the Communist Central Executive Committee *issued* ~~gave~~ the following statement:

The matter ~~was~~ not an accidental one; *(a well-planned)* it was ~~an~~ attempt made on the part of the pro-Japanese and anti-communist reactionary elements. Since the war of resistance the various guerilla columns of the Red Army in the South were soon reorganised into the present New Fourth Route Army. For three years the said Army had been carrying out battles against the enemy on both sides of the Yangtze. They made many successes against the enemy - a fact not only known to the people of the country but also to the world. Such an army having made considerable successful attempts against the enemy should have won the admiration of the authorities. However, the authorities in face of a strong enemy and during the critical stage should have disregarded the principle of national resistance and carried out their attack.

Can we remember that in those anti-communist documents ~~is~~ issued last year there was a declaration that the Communist Army ~~is~~ ultimately belongs to the other Party? As a result insults, maltreatment, blockade and attacks against the Army were the order of the day. Of course, the attitude towards the New Fourth Route Army was no exception; its detachment under Lee ^① ~~Pin-nien~~ ^{Hsien} in the borders of Hupeh and Honan received much attention from Ching Yu-hwei's troops, the columns under Chen ^② Yi in South Kiangsu were often oppressed, those under Kwan ^③ Wen-huei in North Kiangsu ~~received~~ were occasionally attacked by Han ^④ Teh-chin, those under Lo ^④ Ping-huei in East Anhwei and those under Peng ^⑤ Shueh-feng in North of the Huei River received attention from Gen. Lee Pin-sin. In Hunan and North Honan the staffs engaged in communication work as well as the wounded were frequently searched and attacked, and killed, for instance the Pingkiang ^⑦ case and the Hohshan ^⑧ case, even the aged wife and young children of the Chief of General Staff, Mr. Chang Yun-yih had once been arrested. All these were ^{actual} facts and known to the public.

During the past few months the authorities in the north of Kiangsu, east ~~of~~ Anhwei and Hupeh were taking ^{intensive} measures against "Bandits" resulting in considerable troubles for the Army. In addition Gen. Pei Tsung-hsi and Gen. Ho Ying-ching in name of the General Staff telegraphed on Oct. 19th last year to ^{Commander in Chief} ~~Chief-of-Command~~ Chu Teh and Vice Chief Commander in Chief Peng Teh-huei as well as Commanders Yeh Ting and ~~Hong~~ ^{with an for} Ying ^{ordered} the New Fourth ~~Route~~ and Eighth Route armies to concentrate to the north of the Yellow River before the month, ignoring realities and strongly urging the observing ^{strict} of discipline. To meet the situation the four generals in command agreed to withdraw the columns in South Kiangsu to the north and same was telegraphed ^{as} in answer to the order. In December the commanders of the New Fourth ~~Army~~ ^{part} moved a portion of the troops and while continuing on the move the papers owned by the Kuomintang suddenly publicly announced the step thus ^{like} serving a notice to the enemy. At the same time it was reported that the authorities had instructed Gen. Ku Chu-tung and Gen. Shangkwun Yun-siang to secretly attack and arrest Generals Yeh Ting and ~~Hong~~ Ying while superficially orders were given to permit them to pass through. Gen. Yeh who had previously interviewed the authorities on the matter gave the order to

move on the ^{Jan} 4th of the month, the Headquarters of the New Fourth Route Army as well as some 10,000 men were involved.

As soon as the move began and without notice they were attacked. According to a report the attack was launched ^{on} when the Army at Mow Lin Village situated between Taiping and Chingsien. The 52nd., ^{Tungpei} 108th. ^(SOA) 79th., ^(SOA) 144th., ^(SOA) 40th., 7th. and 10th divisions under Generals Ku Chu-tung and Shangkwun Yun-siang totalling about 70,000 men surrounded and attacked them. While retreating and fighting a rearguard action Commander Yeh Ting wired to the authorities for explanation. For seven days and nights the New Fourth Route Army was fighting a bloody battle and the authorities did not give a clear explanation but only said they had wired Gen. Ku Chu-tung for a report, intimating that they had instructed the General to withdraw to grant a passage to ~~permit~~ the New Fourth Route Army. On the other hand they had secretly ordered an annihilation. On the 13th, after 9 days of fighting the New Fourth Route Army which had faithfully obeyed the order to move to ~~another~~ the north perished after having spent their ammunitions.

Having deliberated for 3 days the authorities issued on Jan. 17th an order in the name of the Military ^{Affairs} Commission of the National Government denouncing the New Fourth Route Army as traitors and admitting the annihilation of the Fourth Route Army columns in the south of Anhwei, the capture of Gen. Yeh Ting who was wounded, the ^{order} ~~search~~ for Gen. ~~Han~~ ^{arrest} Ying's the cancellation of the Fourth Route Army colours, as well as the handling over of Gen. Yeh Ting for trial by Court Martial. ^(before the eyes of the nation) The document betrayed "the intrigue of the authorities to annihilate an army which was ~~opposed to~~ resisting Japan ~~before the eyes of the nation~~. At the same time ~~the Domei~~ it was on that day the 17th ^(following) that the Japanese Domei Agency released a news item to the effect: ~~that~~ "The Chungking Government had ordered the communist forces in the Yangtze valley to evacuate to Hopei before the 26th of December. The High Command of the Third Fighting Area and his forces made an attack on the communist army while they were moving ^(on their way) to the north and surrounded them at a point near Tungliu. A part of the ^{on} communist forces retreated in disorder from ^{Dikang (Tikang)} ~~Tikang~~ to the north side of the river on the 10th. From the 14th a detachment of Japanese forces made their attacks on the communist forces in Hsuancheng and Kintan. The forces

|| under the Nanking regime co-operated."

The above ~~shows-conclusively~~ ^{account had} unveiled a plot to annihilate those ~~arm~~ anti-Japanese armed forces who ~~are~~ did not belong to the same party and to the satisfaction of the enemy, the inner truths being well-known to the world. The order to, ^{move} ~~evacuate~~ to the north was nothing but an attempt to induce the communist forces to get into the trap so as to co-operate with the enemy for ^{their} ~~the~~ annihilation. It was merely a pretext on the part of the authorities to take the step on the ground of law and discipline. That was also the usual ~~pretence~~ ^{pretence} to foster murders. The New Fourth Route Army moved in compliance with orders received. In spite of that they were surrounded and annihilated. Was that discipline? Was that law? It was the law maker who broke the law and it was ^{also} the order ^{maker} ~~giver~~ who ~~made~~ ^{ignored} the order. Truly there was no explanation. While the New Fourth Route Army was being attacked in the south of the Yangtze the authorities ordered the forces under Gens. Tang En-po¹, Lee Pin-sin, Lee Sin-chow, Wang Chung-lien and Han Teh-chin in all over 200,000 men to make simultaneous attack on them on the north side. It was quite apparent that the annihilation did not apply to the south alone. At the same time in the Northwest the forces surrounding the communists numbered also over 200,000 men. In Sian the Special Service Quarters took an oppressive attitude towards the 8th Route Army Office by placing obstructions of all kinds against them. They even made several arrests and afterwards forced ^{men} ~~them~~ to place poison in the drinking wells. The Army and Police ^{in Kweichow also} forced the 8th Route Army Office, ^{there} to evacuate. The authorities ^{made a} ~~also~~ listed the communists and the progressive elements with a view to ^{throughout the country} ~~swast~~ ^{netting} all of them, the order ^{will soon be forth coming} ~~being in course of preparation~~.

^{above} The ^{circumstances} point to a repetition of the terrible fate of civil war in the past. The annihilation of the New Fourth Route Army is an unexplainable crime and is but part of a plot which has been unveiled: it is the plan of the pro-Japanese and anti-communist reactionary elements to replace the war of resistance by a civil war and unity by split. The present was ^{just} the beginning. Such a crime can never be tolerated by the 600,000 members of the Communist Party ^{and} by the several tens of thousands of the 8th Route

5.

troops. Moreover, the army, the people, our brothers as well as friends of the world would not keep quiet. We call to the patriotic army, people, brothers and we call to those nations interested in the liberation of China to ~~unite with~~ ^{join} us for a united front struggling for the following objects:

1. To punish the ringleader responsible for the annihilation of the New Fourth Route Army.
2. To release those soldiers of the New Fourth Route Army who have been taken prisoners as well as to guarantee the safety of the commander Gen. Yeh Ting and all those members of the staff.
3. To compensate ^{similarly} those members of the New Fourth Route Army who have lost their lives.
4. To suspend the war against the communists in Central China by the employment of several hundreds of thousands of troops.
5. To discontinue the virtual blockade against the communists in the Northwest.
6. To stop the crime of murdering and arresting communists and patriotic persons and immediately release all political prisoners.
7. To clean up the pro-Japanese elements led by Gen. Ho Ying-ching.
8. To do away all intrigues and plots against the resistance war and the unity of the nation.
9. To intensify the anti-Japanese war and insist on continuing it to the end.

~~to~~ It is our firm conviction that the various political parties and factions, non-partisans, majority of other elements would place the interests of the nation in front by uniting with us to lodge a protest against the actions of the pro-Japanese elements and traitors who attempt to incite civil war, surrender and sell the country to our common enemy. China is now in the most critical stage of her history since the anti-Japanese war, and we the communists as well as the majority of the military and people being quite aware of the dangers confronting the nation must assume their responsibility and evolve a plan of salvation.

II. Order of the Revolutionary Military Affairs Commission of the C.E.C. of the Communist Party of China dated Jan. 20th, 1941.

The newly reorganised Fourth Route Army of the National Revolutionary Army has won a world-wide reputation in connection with the anti-Japanese war. Its commanders Gen. Yeh Ting, etc led the men successfully and stood brilliantly against odds. In complying with the order to move to the North they had been suddenly attacked through mischievous machination, were wounded and even captured. A joint telegraphic report of the occurrence has now been received from ~~Mr.~~ Chen Yi commander of a detachment and ~~Mr.~~ Chang Yun-yih chief of General Staff giving details of the attack and we hereby express our deep regret and concern over the incident. While we have already adopted effective measures to deal with those responsible for the violation against the anti-Japanese war, attack on the communist army and inciting to civil war we hereby also appoint ~~Mr.~~ Chen Yi provisional commander and ~~Mr.~~ Chang Yun-yih provisional vice commander respectively of the New Fourth Route Army, ~~Mr.~~ Liu Sin-chi political commissioner, Lei Chuan-chu chief of staff and ~~Teng~~ Tsze-huei head of political department. We trust commander Chen Yi and his colleagues will bring ^{a fine} the men up to standard and energetically fight against the enemy, uphold an internal unity, effect an understanding between the army and the people, carry out the Three People's Principles, observe the teachings of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, strengthen as well as extend the front against the Japanese. In order to prevent further attacks from the pro-Japanese elements the above persons are hereby commended to protect the nation, and insist on continuing the anti-Japanese war to the end.

III. Statement made by the spokesman of the Revolutionary Military Commission of the C.E.C. of the Communist Party of China in an interview granted to the correspondent of the "Hsin Hua Daily News" on Jan. 20th., 1941.

On Jan. 17th the Military Affairs Commission of the National Government issued an order relating the revolt of the New Fourth Route Army, cancelling the colours of the said army and commending that the captured commander Gen. Yeh Ting be tried by Court Martial. The affair being considered as one of the most important developments

in the anti-Japanese camps the correspondent of the "Hsin Hua News Agency" called on the Revolutionary Military Affairs Commission of the C.E.C. of the Communist Party of China for an interview which was granted and by whom the following account was given:

The present affair had been in course of planning for some time, the outbreak was merely one of the developments leading to a nation-wide catastrophe. Since our common enemy entered into a Pact with Germany and Italy she had been working to get the China ^{eventually} Affair closed and for a split inside the Chinese camps with the object of removing the anti-Japanese feeling through the Chinese themselves and strengthening her plan for a southward movement as well as assisting Hitler in his invasion of Britain. The pro-Japanese defeatist elements inside the party, political and military organisations of the Chungking government are considerable; they completed their plan at the end of last year. Although the order issued on Jan. 17th was concerned with the affair in South Anhuei it was only just the beginning and important developments will result later.

The plan of the Japanese and the pro-Japanese elements are

1. To utilize Gen. Ho Ying-ching and Gen. Pei Tsung-hsi to stir up the public opinion by the issuance of the two telegrams against the communists.
2. To stress the importance of discipline with a view to inciting civil war.
3. To dissolve the New Fourth Route Army in South Anhuei.
4. To declare that the New Fourth Route Army revolted and cancel their colours. All the above steps have been carried out.
5. To appoint Tang En-peh, Lee Pin-sin, Wang Chung-lien and Han Teh-chin as commanders of the punitive expeditions against the communists in Central China with Gen. Lee Tsung-jen as commander in chief, their object being to deal a death blow to the forces led by Peng Shueh-feng, Chang Yun yih, Lee Hsien-nien, etc. As soon as they have succeeded in exterminating these forces they will turn on the forces of the said army and the 8th Route Army on the borders between Shantung and Kiangsu and in conjunction with the Japanese. This step is now being taken.
6. To find a pretext so that the 8th Route Army may be declared as

having revolted and order the arrest of Gen. Chu Teh and Gen. Peng Teh-huei. This step is now being prepared.

7. To dissolve the offices of the 18th Route Army in Sian, Chungking, and Kweilin and order the arrest of Chow En-lei, Yeh Chien-ying, Tung Pi-wu, and Teng Ying-chao. These steps are being executed, the office of the 18th Route Army in Kweilin has been closed.
8. To close the "Hsin Hua Daily News".
9. To close in Shensi, Kansu and Ninghsia and seize Yen-an.
10. To arrest the anti-Japanese elements in Chungking and throughout the country, and suppress the anti-Japanese movement.
11. To destroy all communist organisations in the country and arrest their members.
12. The Japanese to withdraw from the Central and Southern China whereupon China to ~~declare~~ claim reoccupation and declare the necessity of an honourable peace.
13. The Japanese to move their forces from the Central and Southern parts of China to North China, mercilessly attack the 8th Route Army and destroy the said army as well as the New Fourth Route Army.
14. To deal a death blow to these two armies. During these operations China and Japan will maintain the same stalemate armistice condition as existing during last year so that it will result in official armistice and the signing of peace.
15. After peace is signed between China and Japan, the former will enter the Axis. All the aboves are in process of carrying out into execution.

The above is a general outline of the plan arrived at between Japan and the pro-Japanese elements. In a manifesto on July 7th 1940 the Communist Party of China pointed out the danger of the situation, declaring that anti-communism ~~is~~ preceeds surrender. In the manifesto issued on May 5th., 1940 they pointed out the unprecedented dangers ~~by~~ through surrender and civil war which were approaching. Generals Chu Teh, Peng Teh-huei and Yeh Ting in a statement issued on Nov. 9th last year specifically pointed out as follows:

"Some people have been engaged in a movement against the communists on a line along purging. Their object is to end the Sino-Japanese war by co-operation to eliminate

9.

the communists, replace the Anti-Japanese war by civil war, independence by surrender, unity by split, and light by darkness. It is well-known everywhere. We are surprised at this turn of the affair, the situation is thus most critical."

The order issued on Jan. 17th by the Military Affairs Commission of the Chungking government was merely ~~an attempt~~ the ^{political} beginning of the execution of the plan. It ~~even~~ had a special "meaning in it; those charged with the issuance of the document even dared to do an act of anti-revolution against the opinion of the nation so that they can be said to have reached their conviction of a split and surrender. We know the large land-owners in China can do nothing with support in the background. How could they dare to start such an important movement? Under the circumstance it is impossible for us to get those responsible for the order to change their mind. It is only the strength of the nation combined with diplomatic pressure that could save the situation. Presently, it is the duty of the nation mindful of the consequences to be aware.

As to the question of China's future it is quite apparent. Even if the Japanese and the pro-Japanese elements carry out their plot the Communist Party of China and the people possess the strength to face the situation and prevent the Japanese from running over the country. However critical is the situation, whatever price we have to pay the Japanese and the pro-Japanese elements will fail in their object, the reasons being as follows:

1. The Communist Party of China ~~unlike~~ can now hardly be deceived as in 1926 when they suffered considerable reverses; it is a strong political organisation which has stood circumstances.
2. The whole of the Communist Party as well as the majority of the Kuomintang being aware of the dangers confronting the nation would not surrender and engage in civil strife. Some of the Kuomintang members might have been misled, but when the position crystalizes they will awaken.
3. The same is true of the soldiers; their anti-communist attitude was nothing but forced on them.
4. The ~~nation~~ majority of the people would not agree to become slaves.

5. Imperialistic wars have developed to such a stage that those who rely on the imperialists are unable to take advantage of any situation like this, those at their back cannot be depended upon. One day when the big tree falls the monkeys will run away. The position will then change.
6. The outbreak of revolution in the world is a matter of time. China's revolution will synchronize with that of the world struggling for triumph. The Soviets' strength is marvellous; they will help China to victory.

The above should serve as a warning to those who dare to play fire and forget the true situation. We formally warn them: beware of the fire, it is not a playful thing, and beware of your own tricks. If they would use their heads calmly they should proceed at once with the following:

← (Here the 12 demands)

If they will carry out the above the whole situation will calm down. We the communists and the people of China will not press further otherwise the sorrow is not from outside but from inside. Further, they will move the stone to drop on their own feet; we can then be hardly of assistance. We observe co-operation, but must insist on co-operation from the other side. Frankly speaking, our concession has a limit; it has reached the last stage. They have stabbed us deeply. It is their duty to heal our wound: it is not too late to mend the pen ^{after} ~~when~~ a lamb has been stolen. At the same time they must devote their attention to the important questions on diplomacy; it is our warning. If they choose to continue the depredations they will surely be thrown into the dumps by the nation; it will then be too late.

The New Fourth Route Army will be reorganized according to the order issued by the Revolutionary Military Commission on Jan. 20th with appointments as previously mentioned. The said Army has still some 90,000 men in Central China and South Kiangsu. Though sandwiched between the Japanese and anti-communist forces they will survive the struggle for the sake of the nation; they will receive assistance from their brother the 8th Route Army. We are confident of this measure.

As to the statement issued by the spokesman of the Military Affairs Commission of Chungking it is so conflicting. In the order issued there they said the New Fourth Route Army revolted. But in the spokesman's conversation it stated that the object of the New Fourth Route Army was to reach a point on a triangle between Nanking, Shanghai and Hangchow for a base. Can this be considered as a revolt? Are not these territories in Japanese occupation? Why did you not proceed there and destroy them in South Anhwei? Ah! yes, those loyal to the Japanese should do like this, otherwise the Japanese will get angry. If they did not exterminate the New Fourth ~~Route~~ Army in south Anhwei the Japanese would get angry. The Japanese might have said thus: My son, you are so useless. So you mobilized 7 divisions for the attack planned, followed by the order of Jan. 17th for the Court Martial of Gen. Yeh Ting, etc. Yes, they are entitled to rewards from the Japanese. We must say the spokesman of Chungking is like a pig, he divulged the plan of his father as well as that of the Japanese.

IV. Telegraphic statement issued by officers of the New Fourth Route Army upon assumption of office.

"To the armies of the nation. We have received an order appointing us as commanders, chief of staff, political commissioner, etc of the New Fourth ~~Route~~ Army and in accordance therewith have assumed office. In view of the enemy overrunning our country and traitors rampant we in observation of the Three People's Principles and the Will left by our Leader do take the oath of continuing our fight with the enemy and his running dogs to the end. We trust that our brethren mindful of the dangers confronting the nation will not be misled. We must unite to defend our homes, our country. Your nation depends on you. We remain, etc. Dated Jan. 23rd., 1941.

V. Leading article on the "Hsin Hua Daily News" in Yen-an.

"A Protest against the greatest crime"

In our last issue ~~in which~~ we published the telegram sent by Gen. Chu Teh and Gen. Peng Teh-huei on Jan. 13th protesting against the encircling of the New Fourth Route Army with the following des-

cription: "Our New Fourth ~~Route~~ Army in southern Kiangsu ~~began to move to the North~~ comprising of 10,000 men led by Gen. Yeh, etc in compliance with order issued began to move to the North and while at Mow Lin near Chingsien were attacked by ~~the~~ 70,000 men of the National Army who made an encircling movement. ~~From~~ The fight lasted from the 6th to the 12th and there were many deaths and wounded. All ammunitions were spent and no food." The message was a great surprise to us. It was the greatest crime in recent years when we remember that it was the authorities who broke the law and the order and they would result in civil strife.

When the New Fourth Route Army was organized they had little weapons and very poorly clothed and yet they were immediately to the front against the strong enemy. They won battle after battle and should have enjoyed the confidence of the authorities, be supplied with ammunitions and equipments and given a better chance in their work. However, they not only did not receive any such encouragements but were often asked to move to the North. Gen. Chu Teh realizing the situation succeeded in counsëlling these units of the New Fourth ~~Route~~ Army in southern Anhwei to move to the North according to the order. The passage was laid by Gen. Ku Chu-tung, Commander in Chief of the Third Fighting Area. To our surprise the order to evacuate was a bait for the extermination of the Army.

According to the message from Gen. Chu Teh and Gen. Peng Teh-huei: During the battles we obtained information that the plot to exterminate the Army was well laid long in advance on orders from the highest authorities; it was even understood that the whole unit be destroyed and that Gen. Yeh Ting be captured. It was also at the same time planned to conduct wholesale murders and arrests of members of the 8th Route Army. They were also building a great wall to encircle the communitis in the Northwest. In Central China there were over 20 divisions ready to fight the communists with the object of a coup. On the one hand they gave order for a wholesale arrest and on the other they gathered plenty of forces to waylay the New Fourth ~~Route~~ Army during their move to the North.

i

It is one of the greast crimes ever committed. Where ~~was~~ humanity, where is law and order and what is faith? They stole the name of law to commit the crime.

It is clear that the law maker who has broken the law and the order maker who has broken the order. From now on"the country ~~will~~ listen to orders? They are mere gangsters, they having spoiled the law. They used discipline for their own ends. German, Italian and Japanese dictators criticised President Roosevelt's fire side chat as contrary to the International Law. But Roosevelt in his message to the 77th Congress pointed out that International Law as understood by the dictators is a one-sided and a weapon of op-
pression. We are now in a position to ^{apply} ~~use~~ Roosevelt's words to the our dictators and plotters. More than that we ~~give-them~~ may say as follows:

"The kind of law and discipline as mentioned by those people are ~~applicable as~~ tools for their use. They lack the spirit to observe law mutually and use it as their weapon to oppress others."

Their nature is to benefit from destroying others. The Chinese have an old saying: "Some people say the kindest words but do the worst things". One of the best-known modern Chinese authors Lu Shun once said: They did it contrary to Chinese ethics of life. We are concerned not because it is a question of ethics of life but because it is the destiny of the nation. Their intention is to split up the nation and replace the anti-Japanese war ~~with~~ by civil war. It is a traitor's act. Not only we representing the 8th and the New 4th ~~Route~~ Armies could not agree to this sort of thing but the soldiers and people of the country could not ^{keep quiet} ~~be-patient~~ with such developments. We call to the military, the people and the world for a struggle against the ringleaders of the plot, for the liberation of the New Fourth ~~Route~~ Army, for the lifting of blockade in the Northwest, for the wholesale murders and last but not the least for the salvation of China. We have the conviction that we will win just as light defeats darkness.