

Race For Control of Manchuria

by Ah Xiang

[*Excerpts from "Civil Wars: 1945-1950"*]

On Aug 9th 1945, Mao Tse-tung, who had engaged in over four year long political purge movements in Yenan, i.e., Rectification Movement (1942-1945), quickly gave a speech entitled "The Final Battle Against Japanese". On Aug 10th, Zhu De, communist commander-in-chief for Eight Route Army, issued No. 1 Order, calling on Eight Route armies, New Fourth armies, communist militia, and communist guerrillas to attack Japanese and the puppets and to recover territories. On 11th, Zhu De issued Order No. 2, with instructions that Luu Zhengcao attack Cha-ha-er and Re-he from Shanxi and Suiyuan, that Zhang Xuesi (i.e., Zhang Xueliang's brother) attack Re-he and Liaoning from Hebei and Cha-ha-e, that Wan Yi attack Liaoning from Shandong and Hebei, and that Li Yunchang relocate to Liaoning and Jilin from Re-he and Liaoning. (Note that Luu Zhengcao, Zhang Xuesi and Wan Yi were all former Manchurian army generals. Should Chiang Kai-shek not commit the personal blunder in putting Zhang Xueliang under house arrest, CCP would not easily win over former Manchurian militarymen. Though, Zhang Xueliang recalled that his brother had already fallen into communist sympathizers prior to Xi'an Coup. Per ZZR, CCP Central's 2nd order to Luu Zhengcao, Zhang Xuesi and Wan Yi, though published on CCP's "Liberation Daily" on 12th, were all fakes to deceive the nation. Internal communist order was that Li Yunchang's loyal communist troops immediately depart for Manchuria. Wan Yi would not board ship at Huangxian of Shandong Peninsula for Manchuria till Sept 24th 1945.)

On Aug 13th, communist party committee for Hebei-Rehe-Liaoning regions sorted out the following for Manchuria dispatch: 8 regiments, 1 battalion, and two contingents, totaling 13,000 men or 2/3rd of the regional force, to be commanded by four commanders for military sub-district, four CCP regional secretaries and 2500 cadres. The first echelon, comprising of 14th, 15th & 16th military sub-districts, and second echelon, comprising of Hebei-Rehe-Liaoning main military district, exited the Great Wall and entered Rehe and Manchuria in late Aug of 1945. 16th military sub-district, at Shanhaiguan Pass [aka Mountain & Sea Pass], fought Japanese who were under order to surrender to Allied Army & Nationalist Government Army. Note that on Aug 15th 1945, Japanese emperor already decreed an end of war via radio, agreeing to unconditional surrender and that surrender ceremony was held on battleship Missouri on Sept 2nd. Communists, per the wording Mao Tse-tung used in his accusation of Chiang Kai-shek, were merely hastening up for the "peach", i.e., the fruits of war success. Per ZZR, Zeng Kelin & Tang Kai of 16th military sub-district of Ji-Re-Liao [Hebei-Rehe-Liaoning] Military District arrived in Shenyang, & Benxi in early Sept, while Li Yunchang's troops arrived in Shanhaiguan Pass, JJinzhou & Shenyang. 16th military sub-district, within two months, developed into over 100,000 forces on basis of the original 13,000 army.

On Sept 7th, Liu Shaoqi ordered that communist cadres in Hua-zhong [Central China] Bureau sort out staff of Manchurian origin for Manchuria. On Sept 11th, Liu Shaoqi ordered that communist Shandong Prov Sub-bureau sort out 30,000 people or 12 regiments for crossing the sea to Manchuria under Xiao Hua's command. (Per ZZR's citation of PLA Archive Bureau document, CCP Central's order was for

Shandong to sort out 4 divisions after Shandong Sub-bureau reported findings from spies sent to Manchuria.) In Yen-an, top cadres like Zhang Qilong, Cheng Shicai, and Wu Jinnan, who were originally destined for New Fourth Army in the south and guerrilla forces in Guangdong, changed course for Manchuria. On Sept 14th, a rep of Russian commander at Changchun (i.e., Ma-li-nuo-fu-si-ji) arrived in Yen-an with Zeng Kelin the head of CCP contingent dispatched to Manchuria in August 1945. CCP Central held a whole night meeting, with a decision to prepare 100 regiments worth of communist cadres for Manchuria. On Sept 17th, Liu Shaoqi wired to Mao Tse-tung who was still in Chongqing, proposing his policy of "pushing northward and defending southward". Liu Shaoqi proposed that CCP's New Fourth Army in Zhe-dong, Su-nan & Wan-nan cross the Yangtze back to north bank, CCP's New Fourth Army in Wan-bei & Su-bei enter Shandong, and 100,000 New Fourth Army & Eight Route Army in Shandong-Hebei relocate to eastern Hebei Prov and Manchuria. Alternatively, Liu Shaoqi proposed to have CCP's New Fourth Army fill the vacancy of Shandong while Shandong communist forces relocate 100,000 men to eastern Hebei Prov and Jehol [Rehe] Prov. Mao Tse-tung, in subsequent wires, concurred with Liu Shaoqi. Liu Shaoqi officially drafted the "pushing northward and defending southward" document on 19th, which was a reverse of communist direction in a matter of 40 days Per ZZR.

Per ZZR, after the announcement of Sino-Russian friendship treaty on Aug 26th 1945, CCP Central studied the intricacies and then decided to send a cadre corps to Manchuria, consisting of 145 people led by Lin Feng. On Oct 1st (?), 300 communist cadres, including "Rectification Movement" offenders, walked their way towards Manchuria. Among them, immediately dispatched to Manchuria would be about 100 "serious offenders" of Yen-an Rectification Movement that Chen Gang [aka Liu Zuohu] and Chen Long brought along on their barefoot trip to Manchuria on Nov 9th 1945 [??? arrival date or departure date]. (The remainder of "serious offenders" of Yen-an Rectification Movement, about hundred, including Wang Shiwei, were executed on the way of fleeing KMT attack in 1947. Another 300-400 captives, deemed "less-than-serious offenders", were freed in 1946 and re-assigned jobs.)

In Chaoyang, communist guerrilla had been dispatched from Jinzhou city for capturing and executing KMT's county leader who opened up competing office against the communist elements the second day after Russian arrival. Zhang Shouyu took charge of the county affairs till being ordered to yield the town to KMT on Jan 14th 1946 [i.e., after Truce took effect on Jan 13th]. After the Nationalist Army came, Zhang Shouyu went into guerrilla warfare till the communists' victory in the bloody Jinzhou Campaign on Oct 15th 1948. Certainly, Chaoyang town was recovered earlier, i.e., in the spring of 1947, when communists acquired the control over the vast countryside and isolated KMT armies in three major cities of Jinzhou, Changchun and Shenyang. New round of land reform and eliminating "class enemies" [i.e., landlords who either organized local gentry force or collaborated with the Nationalist army] were conducted for sake of assuring the peasants that those landlords would not become "huan-xiang-tuan", i.e., the landlord gentry-organized brigand who returned to home village for retaliation against peasants who ate the grains from landlords' barn. One such landlord, by the name of Jin Tingquan, was executed via burning alive at Liujiazi Village in Chaoyang county; however, large scale over-killing was halted with the advent of communist notice in Feb 1948.

Collusion With Russian Red Army In Manchuria

On Sept 5th, soldiers from 16th military sub-district, consisting of 12th regiment and 2000 men ethnic Korean contingent, arrived in Shenyang city where they were first forbidden from leaving train by Russian commander Ka-fu-dong. After CCP cadre Zeng Kelin negotiated with Russian three times, communist forces were allowed to station in Sujiatun, about 15 kilometers away from Shenyang. While communist forces were marching on the streets of Shenyang with two Russian armored vehicles leading the way, hundreds of thousands of Chinese citizens swamped onto the streets to show their

welcome. Daunted by Chinese fervor, Russian commander changed order to allow communist forces stay at Xiaohe district, next to the former Manchurian palaces in the center of the city. On the afternoon of Sept 7th, Ke-la-fu-qin-ke (i.e., Russian commander for Hind Lake Baikal Flank Army & 6th Tank Group Army) invited CCP over for a talk after receiving instructions from Stalin and Molotov. Thereafter, communists set up "Shenyang Garrison Command Center", with Zeng Kelin as commander and Tang Kai as commissar. Feng Zhijun, in "Mao Tse-tung & Liu Shaoqi" (Huangfu International Publishing House, HK, April 1998 Edition), pointed out that Zeng Kelin's contingent lost contact with CCP's Yen'an headquarter as a result of low power of the telegraph set.

On Sept 14th, Russian commander at Changchun, Ma-li-nuo-fu-si-ji, wished to contact CCP. Hence, Russian dispatched a representative for flying to Yen'an together with Zeng Kelin. The Russian colonel told Zhu De that Russian Red Army wished that CCP forces exit the cities occupied by Russians and that CCP could resolve their internal disputes with KMT after the Russian Red Army vacate Manchuria. To appease Russians, Liu Shaoqi instructed that CCP forces evacuate from big cities like Shenyang, Changchun, Shanhaiguan, Yingkou and Dalian nominally, fake evacuation by leaving cities noisily and re-entering cities noiselessly, and uphold a banner other than Eighth Route Army.

CCP, with the absence of Mao Tse-tung who earlier flew to Chongqing for peace talk with Chiang Kai-shek under Hurley's personal escort and protection, decided to establish CCP Northeastern Bureau, comprising of senior leaders like Peng Zhen, Chen Yun, Lin Pei, Cheng Zihua, Wu Xiuquan and Ye Jizhuang. CCP leader Liu Shaoqi struck a deal with Russian rep in having CCP forces take over the Jinzhou prefecture of 14 counties in western Liaoning Prov as well as Rehe Prov from Russian custody. CCP also made a strategy of dispatching reinforcements to Manchuria. On the night of Sept 15th, Liu Shaoqi also ordered that CCP enclaves of Hua-zhong [central China], Shandong, Jin-cha-ji [Shanxi-Chahaer-Hebei], Jin-cha-lu [Shanxi-Chahaer-Shandong] surrender officers from platoon chief to regiment chief who would be enough to command 100 regiments.

With Russian acquiesce, CCP second echelon entered Shenyang train station on Sept 16th, encountering a welcome party of 300 Russians. CCP received Japanese weapons from Russians, i.e., about 100,000 guns and thousands of cannons in Shenyang weapon depots. On Sept 17th, CCP Northeastern Bureau commissars flew back to Manchuria with Zeng Kelin on the same Russian plane. On 19th, CCP Northeastern Bureau stipulated plans for establishing 'democratic' government at various levels as well as launching rent reduction movements in the Manchurian countryside.

Liu Shaoqi ordered a blockade of Zhangjiakou [Kalgan] and Shanhaiguan for sake of stopping KMT forces from entry into Manchuria. Liu Shaoqi additionally instructed that 50,000 communist forces control coastal Manchuria, from Yingkou to Dalian and Luushun, in the attempt of preventing KMT forces from amphibious landing. Liu Shaoqi called for a total of 150,000 personnel to be relocated to Manchuria as well as 200,000 soldiers to be recruited inside of Manchuria. In his wire to Mao, Liu stated i) that Jin-cha-ji [Shanxi-Chahaer-Hebei] and Jin-Sui [Shanxi-Suiyuan] possessed enough forces against Fu Zuoyi & Ma Zhanshan; ii) that Shandong would dispatch 30000 for clearing eastern Hebei, Rehe and Jinzhou of Liaoning Prov; iii) that Shandong dispatch another 30000 to Manchuria; iv) that New Fourth Army in eastern China district dispatch 80000 to Shandong & eastern Hebei; v) that CCP forces in eastern Zhejiang relocate to southern Jiangsu and CCP forces in southern Jiangsu and southern Anhui cross the Yangtze, with an aim of 30-35,000 men; vi) that seven divisions in central and southern Anhui Prov could dispatch 20000 men for avoiding the incoming KMT Gui-xi occupation forces; and vii) that Jin-Ji-Lu-Yu [Shanxi-Hebei-Shandong-Henan] encumber the northbound KMT forces and dispatch 30000 for eastern Hebei and Manchuria by Nov. Liu further stated i) that he had established CCP Ji-Re-Liao [Hebei-Rehe-Liaoning] Bureau, with Li Fuchun acting as secretary and Lin

Biao acting as commander; ii) that CCP Shandong Bureau renamed to Hua-dong [eastern China] Bureau, with Chen Yi & Rao Shushi in charge; and iii) that CCP Hua-zhong [central China] Bureau be downgraded to sub-bureau to be under Hua-dong [eastern China] Bureau. Hua-dong [eastern China] Bureau would take charge of 5 military districts. CCP Hua-zhong [central China] Bureau would be under Zhang Dingcheng, Deng Zihui and Zeng Shan. On Sept 20th, Liu Shaoqi pressed on Shandong Bureau in organizing 200-300,000 men for Manchuria within 2.5 months and another 50-100,000 men for placement in between Hebei and Manchuria. On Sept 29th, Liu Shaoqi changed order to have Shandong troops cross the Bohai Sea against American warship patrolling. Wu Xiuquan was dispatched to Luushun for negotiations with Russian Red Army, while Wan Yi, Wu Kehua, Wu Dapeng and Xiao Hua were ordered to cross sea immediately for logistics. Liu Shaoqi, after finding out that Americans had landed in Tianjin, would order that communist forces cross sea at nights.

Per ZZR, communists did not disclose the destination of Manchuria but to regiment level. Along the way to Manchuria, innumerable communist soldiers and officers deserted the army. Other than communist Ji-dong [eastern Hebei] district, most of the army were blindfolded till half way or boarding ships at coastline. At Linyi of Shandong, Chen Yi assembled company level officers and relayed a Mao Tse-tung notice that the place they were going would be a "colorful" world where there were light bulbs, storey houses, gold and silver but he added that "Chairman Mao did not tell him [Chen Yi] where that place was". On Sept 25th, Lin Biao & Xiao Jingguang, in a wire to Luo Ronghuan, emphasized the importance of preventing the 100,000 Shandong Prov communist army from desertion. An example of the extent of desertion would be Zhang Zhenglong's citation of Huang Kecheng's Nov 15th 1945 telegraph in which Huang disclosed that 3rd Div of Northern Jiangsu Prov army had retained about 28,000 soldiers out of the original size of 32500 upon arrival at eastern Hebei Prov. Zhang Zhenglong cited the CCP Central order of secrecy dated Sept 2nd as another cause, which was to avoid divulgence of scheme to the Nationalist government.

On Oct 1st, 300 communist cadres, including "Rectification Movement" offenders, walked their way towards Manchuria. On Oct 7th, Liu Shaoqi ordered that Lin Biao, who was originally dispatched to eastern Hebei Prov, depart for Manchuria immediately. Prof Chen Yongfa produced a photo showing that Lin Biao, wearing a parachute, had flown to the east on board American advisers' airplanes.

Mao Tse-tung returned to Yanan on Oct 11th. Zhang Zhenglong pointed out that by early Oct, Xiao Hua, with administrative staff of communist Shandong Military District, arrived at Adong [Dandong], i.e., Yalu River mouth; that Sha Ke's 31st regiment of Ji-zhong [Central Hebei Prov] arrived in Jinzhou; Wan Yi, with Northeast Penetration Contingent of about 3500 soldiers, came to Panshi, Hailong, Dongfeng & Xifeng; and Luu Zhengcao arrived at Shenyang with a regiment of about 600 soldiers. Further, Per ZZR, by late Oct, Wu Kehua & Peng Jiaqing, with two regiments of 6th & 5th Division of communist Shandong Military District, arrived in Yingkou with 8000 soldiers; Yang Guofu's Shandong 7th Div or 6000 soldiers, arrived at Shanhaiguan Pass; Liu Qiren's 6000 soldiers arrived at Gubeikou Pass; Liu Zhuanlian & Yan Fusheng's 359th brigade or 3000 soldiers arrived at Benxi & Hushun; Deng Keming's regiment from Ji-Lu-Yu [Hebei-Shandong-Henan] arrived in Shenyang; Wen Niansheng's constabulary brigade from Shaan-Gan [Shenxi-Gansu] came to Jinzhou with 3000 soldiers.

On Oct 30th, at the suggestion of Liu Shaoqi, CCP established "Northeastern People's Autonomous Army", with Lin Biao conferred the post of commander-in-chief the next day and Luu Zhengcao, Li Yunchang, Zhou Baozhong and Xiao Jingguang as deputy commanders. Peng Zhen, Luo Ronghuan and

Cheng Zihua acted as CCP Bureau Commissars. Ten military districts were set up in Manchuria. Lin Biao, who returned to China from Moscow on Oct 20th, was recorded to have picked communist cadres for Manchuria. The reason that communists had to dispatch large number of cadres to Manchuria was that Manchurian people, who were under 15 years of Japanese colonial rule, had straightforward longing & loyalty for KMT government without knowing any Nationalist evil while communists had basically perished under stringent Japanese crackdown.

Per ZZR, in early Nov, Luo Ronghuan led 4000 Shandong district army to Andong; and Luo Huasheng led 7500 soldiers from Shandong 2nd Division to Shenyang. In mid-Nov, Liang Xingchu's Shandong 1st Div, about 7500 soldiers, came to Jinzhou, and Tian Song's 1000 soldier contingent arrived at Mudanjiang. By mid-late Nov, Huang Kecheng led 3rd Division of New Fourth Army, about 32,000 soldiers, to Jinzhou. In late Nov, Huang Yongsheng, with 3000 teaching brigade soldiers from Yanan, arrived at Rehe. In early Dec, Luo Shunchu's Shandong 3rd Div, and police 3rd brigade from Lu-zhong [central Shandong Prov], about 9000 soldiers, came to Shenyang & Anshan. 1000 students from Yanan's "Resistance Military & Political University" and 1000 students from Yanan Cannons Institute came to southern Manchuria. Feng Zhijun stated that CCP possessed 110,000 troops in Manchuria, comprising of Luo Ronghuan's 60,000 Shandong army and Huang Kecheng's New Fourth Army 3rd Division of 35000 army. Zhang Zhenglong estimated the number at about 107000. In addition, over 20000 cadres entered Manchuria.