

Central Telegraph to Peng Dehuai (October 23, 1949) and to the Northwest Bureau:

(1) Comrade Dehuai, and to the Northwest Bureau:

(1) Representatives of the Xinjiang Autonomous Region attending the People's Political Consultative Conference, Saifuding (Uyghur), Alimujiang (Uzbek), and Tu Zhi (Han), flew to Jiuquan today for discussions with you and will return to Xinjiang after the meeting.

(2) The leader of the Autonomous Region, Ahmaitijiang, and five others who were the first batch of delegates to attend the Political Consultative Conference, unfortunately lost their lives in a plane crash in Siberia. Saifuding and three others are the second batch of delegates. Saifuding, replacing Ahmaitijiang as the leading figure, studied in Moscow and served as the Education Department Director of the Xinjiang Provincial Government. From our understanding, he is a good person and has been elected as a member of the Central People's Government. He has now applied to join the Party, and we believe this is acceptable. Regarding the establishment of the Communist Party and the promotion of peripheral organizations among various ethnic groups in Xinjiang, please be informed by separate telegram.

(3) Regarding the coordination between the Ethnic Army (14,000 troops) and the People's Liberation Army, we have already discussed with Saifuding. We believe that the Ethnic Army consists of trained Uyghur people's troops, who have played a significant role in the Chinese revolution by restraining the Kuomintang reactionary army of one hundred thousand over the past few years through their revolutionary actions. With a population of over three million, the Uyghurs are the main ethnic group in Xinjiang. In the past, the reactionaries oppressed the people of Xinjiang, mainly the Uyghurs. Now that the People's Liberation Army has entered Xinjiang, the Uyghur people and people of all ethnic groups have expressed warm welcome. The People's Liberation Army can only build a fraternal relationship with the Uyghurs (as well as other ethnic groups) to construct a people's democratic Xinjiang. Therefore, the Ethnic Army of 14,000 should be distributed throughout the region along with the People's Liberation Army, serving as a bridge between the People's Liberation Army and Uyghurs, Kyrgyz, Mongols, and other ethnic groups, carrying out mass work, establishing people's power, setting up local armed forces, and establishing party organizations. Please have preliminary discussions with Saifuding on how to proceed with this matter. Subsequently, the sub-bureaus will gradually resolve it.

Central Committee

Notes:

[1] Peng Dehuai, then served as the First Secretary of the Northwest Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Commander-in-Chief and Political Commissar of the First Field Army of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

[2] Saifuding, then served as the Acting Chairman of the Central Committee of the Xinjiang Peace and Democracy Alliance. Alimujiang, then served as the Chairman of the Tacheng District Branch of the Xinjiang Peace and Democracy Alliance. Tu Zhi, then served as the Vice President of Xinjiang College.

[3] Ahmaitijiang, before his death, was the leader of the Xinjiang Northern Ili, Tacheng, and Altay regions' autonomous areas, and the Chairman of the Central Committee of the Xinjiang Peace and Democracy Alliance.