

## Decision of the Military Commission on the Establishment of the Military Commission Railway Department

(January 10, 1949)

Lin Biao, Liu Tan, and transferred to the Northeast Railway Corps, Northeast Bureau, North China Bureau, East China Bureau, Central Plains Bureau, Northwest Bureau, Jin Sui Sub-Bureau, Yu Wan Su Sub-Bureau, Huazhong Commission, and Peng Zhang Zhao, Deng Zhang, Su Tan, Xu Zhou, Yang Luo, Yang Li, Men Da, and Pingluo City Committees.

(林 裴 刘 谭 · 并转东北铁道纵队 · 东北局 · 华北局 · 华东

局, 中原局, 西北局, 晋绥分局 · 豫皖苏分局 · 华中工

委及彭张赵 · 邓张 · 粟谭 · 徐周 · 杨罗 · 杨李门打及平律 两市委林 refers to Lin Biao, 裴 likely is a typo or misinterpretation, 刘 is Liu Shaoqi, 谭 is Tan Zhen, 彭 is Peng Dehuai, 张 is Zhang Wentian, 赵 is Zhao Shuqi, 邓 is Deng Xiaoping, 粟 is Su Yu, 徐 is Xu Xiangqian, 周 is Zhou Enlai, 杨罗 refers to Yang Shangkun and Luo Ruiqing, 杨李 refers to Yang Xianwu and Li Jingquan. 门打 (menda) is unclear, and 平律两市委 is also unclear without more context. It could be a mistake or misinterpretation in the original text.

According to the decision of the Central Committee to swiftly restore the major railways north of the Yangtze River within this year for the transportation and supply of our troops' southward advance, the Military Commission is prepared to establish the Railway Department, unifying the construction management and transportation of railways in liberated areas nationwide. The decision is made to appoint Comrade Teng Daiyuan as the Minister of the Military Commission Railway Department. To ensure that this decision is carried out systematically and implemented on time, the following preparatory work is outlined:

1. Comrade Teng Daiyuan should be ready to form the Military Commission Railway Department by the end of this month. The department will be based on the railway institutions managed by the North China government's Ministry of Transportation, which will be expanded. An organizational plan should be submitted after the 20th of this month.
2. Comrade Luo Ronghuan is entrusted to negotiate with the Northeast Bureau to withdraw a group of administrative and specialized personnel from the Northeast Railway Department to work for the Military Commission Railway Department. This group should include a person who can serve as the Deputy Minister or Chief Engineer of the Railway Department. The key personnel should arrive at the central location by the end of this month.
3. Lin, Luo, and Liu are instructed to order the Railway Corps to stop the construction of the Jin Cheng Road and concentrate all four detachments of the corps in the interior. First, repair the Luanhe River Railway Bridge (a temporary bridge should be constructed first to ensure that the Beining Road is fully open by the end of January, directly reaching Fengtai). The corps should immediately organize a survey team, even before the liberation of Tianjin, to detour south of Tianjin and be responsible for surveying the entire section from Yangliuqing to Jinan Prefecture. They are required to submit a plan for repairing the entire Tianjin section within this month. The North China Bureau should instruct the North China Ministry of Transportation to send personnel to Yangliuqing to coordinate with the

survey team sent by the Northeast Railway Corps and guide them south. The East China Bureau should instruct the East China Ministry of Transportation to stop the construction of the Dezhou and Jinan sections (due to the hasty construction methods in the interior, which are not conducive to railway operations). Both North China and East China should ensure that the stored rails, sleepers, and all equipment remain in place, awaiting handover to the Northeast Railway Corps. They should continue to collect scattered rails and sleepers in civilian hands. Comrade Huang Yifeng, after completing the arrangements for this task, should come to the central location in the latter half of this month and notify the departure date by the 20th of this month.

4. The Military Commission plans to convene a railway work conference after the 25th of this month. Northeast, East China, North China, Central Plains, and Jin Sui Linfen Commissions are requested to send one administrative and one technical person in charge of railway work each, carrying all existing materials from their respective regions. The deadline for arrival is set without further notice unless there are changes. The conference will be chaired by Comrade Teng Daiyuan.

5. The Northeast Railway Corps, with about 30,000 people in its working area, local governments, and military region support and logistics organizations, must bear the responsibility for supplying them. If the corps needs to mobilize civilian workers to participate in railway construction, it should receive notice from the higher-level government. However, in emergency situations where there is no superior notice, local governments should also accept the request of the corps for mobilization.

6. The Northeast Railway Corps should be prepared, outside of the corps, to organize railway units accompanying the front lines. Each army should have a small unit that includes railway operators and workers from major factories, as well as engineering workers. This is to be ready for the situation where enemy destruction occurs on the frontline railways after our army moves south. In such cases, the units can repair the railways along with the advancing forces. Comrade Huang Yifeng should bring this plan to the central leadership.

7. Please report on the implementation of these measures.

Military Commission