

"Regarding Our Opinions on the Current Situation," published on January 22, 1949, by 55 individuals including Li Jishen, Shen Junru, etc. The full text is as follows:

We have come to the liberated areas successively. Recalling May 1 of last year, when the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China called on the entire nation and proposed convening a new political consultative conference involving various democratic parties, people's organizations, and democratic individuals to accelerate the overthrow of the Nanjing reactionary dictatorship and establish a democratic united government, we unanimously recognized that this proposal for a national resolution precisely conforms to the demands of the masses of the entire nation. We took the initiative to respond and successively entered the liberated areas, willing to, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, contribute our modest efforts, jointly plan and strive to achieve the rapid success of the Chinese people's democratic revolution, and the early realization of an independent, free, peaceful, and happy new China.

After entering the liberated areas, the impressions we first gained filled us with comfort. Here, there is an atmosphere of democracy and freedom, and a vigorous spirit is flourishing. Production and construction are advancing rapidly, social order is established, and in various sectors such as industry, agriculture, commerce, education, and advisory services, everyone is able to stand firm in their positions, working energetically to support the front lines. Communist Party members, in particular, can take the lead, demonstrate extraordinary self-sacrifice and bravery, be the vanguard for the people, and spare no effort.

The hardworking and high-achieving People's Liberation Army, with the tremendous power of millions of peasants and workers, has launched successive offensives. Within three short months, it successively annihilated over a million troops under Chiang Kai-shek, liberated the entire Northeast, and nearly the entire North and Central China. The military spearhead is now pointing to the south of the great Yangtze River.

There is no doubt that within the year 1949, China will achieve comprehensive liberation. In such a situation, the reactionary Kuomintang group under the wing of American imperialism is indeed on the verge of collapse. In the face of military defeat, they have despaired and changed tactics, attempting to prolong their existence through political conspiracies. As early as the time when the Kuomintang forces on the northern front began to collapse, American imperialism initiated its conspiracy activities, employing various means to undermine the Chinese revolution. On one hand, they schemed to ferment opposition within the revolutionary forces, hoping to hinder or moderate the revolutionary process. On the other hand, they incited the reactionary group in Nanjing to launch a peace offensive in order to gain time, allowing the remnants of the counter-revolutionary forces to make a final struggle in the southern regions or remote provinces. This is something we must be vigilant about.

Today, we must clearly express our belief. We believe that the revolution must be carried through to the end, and there is no possibility of compromise or reconciliation between revolution and counter-revolution. The painful lessons of successive failures since the Xinhai Revolution in 1911 should be firmly remembered. Today, imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucratic capitalism are the objects of the Chinese people's revolution and the enemies obstructing the realization of China's independence, democracy, freedom, and happiness. If they are not thoroughly eliminated, the genuine and complete realization of peace is impossible. Therefore, we must decisively destroy the false and peace offensive instigated by Chiang Kai-shek and raise our vigilance within the ranks of the people's democratic camp to prevent the infiltration of counter-revolutionary forces. People's democratic

dictatorship should represent the broadest layers of the people and not tolerate the germs of counter-revolution; it should ensure the fullest freedom for the majority of the people and not grant freedom to a minority of reactionary elements. Thus, we are confident that those who truly work for the democratic revolution throughout the country will unite and strengthen the unity within the people's democratic camp, leaving no room for opposing factions, and categorically rejecting the so-called middle road. At the critical moment when the ruling power is tottering, the peace offensive becomes increasingly absurd. On New Year's Day, Chiang Kai-shek, the top war criminal of the puppet regime, openly made the first plea for peace in his broadcast.

However, all of this is nothing but deceit and arrogance. Chiang Kai-shek shamelessly absolves himself of the historical crimes that have brought calamity to the country and the people. He shamelessly puts forward certain conditions, saying that as long as the peace negotiations do not harm the country's independence and integrity and contribute to the people's recuperation, as long as the sacred constitution is not violated by me, and the democratic constitutional order is not destroyed, the national character of the Republic of China can be ensured, the legal continuity of the Republic of China will not be interrupted, and the people can maintain their freedom at least at the current minimum living standard. What more does he want after setting these conditions? Therefore, he emphasizes in the end that he wants to "deal with the Chinese Communist Party to the end" and calls for "military-civilian unity, national unity, and unity in struggle." This is Chiang Kai-shek's ultimate goal.

Today is the final test for us, the Chinese people. Our people, who have endured many hardships, believe that they will never again be deceived by the reactionary schemes of Chiang and the United States. However, among a small number of people, there are also such weaknesses – prioritizing coordination as the highest virtue, showing leniency as generosity – and covering the essence of complacency with a cloak of compassion for the suffering of the people. This is the psychological basis for the enemy's implementation of the peace offensive and also the enemy's most cunning psychological support. For the sake of destroying the remnants of the enemy, this last nest must be completely uprooted.

The people's democratic revolution, under the leadership of the Communist Party, has achieved today's victory, which should not be taken lightly. Today, anyone who seeks comfort and compromise with the enemy, causing the revolutionary cause to fall short, becomes a sinner of the Shen Garden Revolution and a national sinner. However, we are very pleased and excited because we have finally seen the recent statement by Chairman Mao Zedong on the current situation.

In order to carry the revolution through to the end, to crush the peace offensive, Mao Zedong has decisively, resolutely, meticulously, and sternly exposed the conspiracy of the Chiang-Huang group and put forward eight genuine conditions for people's democracy and peace.

1. Punish war criminals.
2. Abolish the puppet constitution.
3. Abolish the puppet regime.
4. Based on democratic principles, reorganize all reactionary armed forces.
5. Confiscate bureaucratic capital.
6. Reform the land system.

7. Abolish the treaties that sell out the country.

8. Convene a political consultative conference without the participation of reactionary elements, establish a democratic united government, and take over all powers of the Nanjing Kuomintang reactionary government and its subordinate governments at all levels.

These eight conditions are a ruthless counterattack against the shameless demands put forward by Chiang Kai-shek. Without a doubt, the public opinion of the entire nation is reflected in these conditions. I hope that the people of the whole country, comrades in the democratic united front, must unite, take necessary actions, and resolutely implement the public will, so that these eight conditions for peace can be rapidly realized.

Today is the era for our people to stand up and reshape history. We aim to create a free way of life where the people are the masters and to achieve the highest possible standard of living. This is in stark contrast to Chiang Kai-shek's demand that we continue to be slaves to the Four Big Families and American imperialism, maintaining the current way of life and the lowest standard of living. We want to be the true masters of the People's Democratic Republic. To achieve this goal, the eight conditions proposed by Mr. Mao are indispensable. Let us restate them in a different tone:

1. War criminals must be punished.

2. The puppet constitution and puppet regime must be abolished.

3. The reactionary armed forces must be reorganized based on democratic principles.

4. Bureaucratic capital must be confiscated.

5. The land system must be reformed.

6. Treaties that sell out the country must be abolished.

7. All powers of the Nanjing reactionary government and its subordinate governments must be taken over.

8. Refuse the participation of reactionary elements in the new political consultative conference and the upcoming establishment of the democratic united government.

In summary, the people's revolution must be carried through to the end. The genuine arrival of peace and comprehensive liberation is the day when the revolution is carried through to the end. The liberated people are incredibly powerful. Look at our friendly neighbor, the Soviet Union. In just thirty-two years, it has become the strongest fortress of peace in the world. We, the people of China, outnumber the Soviet Union by more than twice, and with our superior conditions, we dare to believe that after the destruction of the reactionary regime, we can build a new China of peace, democracy, and freedom in a relatively short period. The bright future is before us, and we should strive for it together.

Signatories:

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