

Central Military Commission's Notice on the Lessons Learned from the Failed Attack on Quemoy (Kinmen) Island (October 29, 1949)

To the Front Committees of various Field Armies and all Military Regions:

According to the report from Comrades Su Yu, Yuan Zhongxian, and Zhou Junming of the Third Field Army to Comrade Ye Fei and Chen Qingxian of the Tenth Corps and the Fujian Provincial Committee on October 28th, received via telegram on the 27th at 8 o'clock, your three regiments landed on Kinmen Island and engaged in fierce combat with the enemy's three divisions for two days and nights. Due to a lack of reinforcements, all troops valiantly sacrificed themselves, which is deeply regrettable. This loss is the greatest since the liberation war. The main reasons for this are underestimating the enemy and impatience. When your previous deployment attacked Xiamen, it was planned to use one division to capture Kinmen, which was an expression of underestimating the enemy and impatience. At that time, we had telegraphed you to concentrate your forces to capture Xiamen first and then transfer troops to attack Kinmen, instead of dispersing your forces. However, you did not pay sufficient attention to this, resulting in this failure. In addition to deeply reviewing this experience and lesson, we still hope to encourage morale, continue efforts, fully prepare, deploy meticulously, and only launch an attack when absolutely certain. We also request the Fujian Provincial Committee to vigorously solve the fleet and other logistical issues for the army. As for the dispersed personnel, we still hope to continue to accommodate them." These words are particularly emphasized for transmission. Please immediately inform all corps and responsible comrades of the various armies to take serious note of this. At this time, when the end of the entire liberation war is not far away, it is easy for leaders at all levels, especially military leaders above, to develop a mindset of underestimating the enemy and impatience, which must be deeply cautioned against by the Kinmen Island incident. It is essential to educate the corps still in combat to strictly guard against underestimating the enemy and impatience, steadily and systematically annihilate the remaining enemies, and liberate the entire country, as this is of utmost importance.

Notes:

[1] Su Yu, then served as the Deputy Commander of the Third Field Army of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Yuan Zhongxian, then served as the Acting Chief of Staff of the Third Field Army of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Zhou Junming, then served as the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Third Field Army of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

[2] Ye refers to Ye Fei, then served as the Commander of the Tenth Corps of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Chen refers to Chen Qingxian, then served as the Chief of Staff of the Tenth Corps of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.