

Communist Instigation & Guangxi Province Trotskyists

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Xie Hegeng was dispatched to Southwestern China by CCP in the autumn of 1934 for instigating Bai Chongxi's rebellion against Chiang Kai-shek. Xie Hegeng was selected for the task for his father's connection with Bai Chongxi's uncle. For secrecy's sake, Xie Hegeng was ordered to have vertical contacts with several communist leaders, only, including Zhou Enlai, Dong Biwu, Li Kenong and Xuan Xiafu. [Xuan Xiafu](#), who planned to continue his work inside of Northwestern Armies [i.e, the armies controlled by Sun Dianying & Sun Liangcheng], was ordered to go to southern China to assist Xie Hegeng. Xuan Xiafu obtained a recommendation letter from Ji Hongchang. General Ji Hongchang, before his death, had written a reference letter for Xie Hegeng to bring to Feng Yuxiang who was retiring on Mt Tai-shan around mid-June of 1934. Feng Yuxiang was asked to recommend Xie Hegeng for a job inside of Gui-xi [Guangxi Province] Army. On Mt Taishan, Xie Hegeng and Feng Yuxiang discussed 19th Route's heroic fighting during the Shanghai Incident of Jan 28th 1932 as well as the failure of Li Jishen's [Fujian Mutiny](#) in Jan 1934. Xie Hegeng also obtained the help of Feng Yuxiang in calling Li Jishen for a separate recommendation letter to Bai Chongxi & Li Zongren. Xie Hegeng was offered a job as an economic researcher in Industrial & Commercial Bureau of Guangxi Prov.



In autumn of 1935, Xie Hegeng entered Construction Agency of Guangxi Province. Soon, Xie Hegeng gained the trust of Bai Chongxi & Li Zongren and was offered the special pass to enter private residencies of the two. Meanwhile, Xuan Xiafu was offered the post as a colonel equivalent counselor in Guangxi Prov's pacifying banditry [commie] office. Xuan Xiafu, who headed CCP's secretary for southwestern Chinese workers' committee, was asked to contact Whampoa Academy graduates for a concerted fight against Chiang Kai-shek. Both Xuan Xiafu and Xie Hegeng were ordered by Ke Qingshi & Nan Hanchen not to contact local communists in Guangxi. From 1935 to 1936, Xuan Xiafu and Xie Hegeng had more than 20 meetings.

Xie Hegeng proposed to Bai Chongxi & Li Zongren in inviting talented, ambitious and patriotic people to Guangxi, including those who worked for people's government during Fujian Mutiny, generals and soldiers of KMT 19th Route, and intelligentsia from National Salvation Society. Xuan Xiafu and Xie Hegeng also proposed a restoration of KMT 19th Route Army. Bai Chongxi & Li Zongren agreed to organize a division under Weng Zhaoyuan for KMT 19th Route Army. As a propaganda show, a Guangxi Province Student Corps was nominally established to propagate the slogan of "resisting Japanese invasion", with Liu Fei acting as commander and Xie

Hegeng as director of 1st column [regiment]. Xie Hegeng hence advocated a slogan of "pushing through nationwide movement for a resistance war against Japan by launching a regional war calling movement". In late 1934, 19th Route Army leaders, including Cai Tingkai, Jiang Guangnai, Weng Zhaoyuan and Ou Shounian, arrived in Nanning of Guangxi Prov. In Feb 1936, Bai Chongxi & Li Zongren gave Weng Zhaoyuan a division [61st Div] as promised. Bai Chongxi & Li Zongren combined 99 local gentry-organized columns into a corps, and claimed to have an army of over 100000 including the original 7th & 15th corps.

"June 1st Movement"

In May 1936, Hu Hanmin, i.e., KMT veteran, died of a stroke in Nanking. Chen Jitang, with the encouragement of his brother, contacted Bai Chongxi & Li Zongren for a concerted confrontation against Chiang Kai-shek. Li Yizhong & Chen Weizhou [Chen Jitang's brother] came to Nanning for inviting Bai Chongxi & Li Zongren to Canton. Bai Chongxi & Li Zongren visited Canton respectively, emphasizing the need to be cautious. Chen Jitang comforted Li Zongren by claiming that Han Fujun of Shandong & Song Zheyuan of Hebei had emissaries in Canton. In meetings with Guangdong officers and officials, Li Zongren detected the lack of loyalty of Guangdong officers and officials for Chen Jitang. On May 27th, Bai Chongxi & Li Zongren sent a public wire calling for opposition to Japan's reinforcement to northern China. Chiang Kai-shek called for a national unification by demanding the revocation of semi-independence of Southwestern China. In late May, Chen Weizhou was made into garrison commander for Canton by Chen Jitang, further antagonizing subordinate Guangdong generals.

Xie Hegeng memoirs stated that Bai Chongxi & Li Zongren contacted Chen Jitang of Guangdong Province in launching a "June 1st 1936 Movement" and establishing an anti-Japan coalition government. Li Zongren memoirs stated that it was Chen Jitang who was responsible for launching "June 1st Movement" in Canton.

Li Zongren, who pointed out that Chen Jitang had called Fujian Mutiny "ignorant", had himself launched an ignorant movement due to the following factors: i) Hu Hanmin's death would make Chen Jitang feel he was to be the natural leader of southern China; ii) Chen Jitang's brother, Chen Weizhou, was deliberately told by Chiang Kai-shek that he intended to destroy Guangxi with the help of Guangdong. Hence, Chen Jitang launched "June 1st Movement" in the name of "resisting Japanese and fighting against Chiang Kai-shek". On June 1st, a meeting of "Southwestern Political Affairs Committee" was convened in Canton. A public wire was sent to Nanking calling for opposition to Japanese invasion. Li Zongren claimed that he stayed in the movement for properly guiding the movement in the right direction. On June 2nd, "Southwestern Political Affairs Committee" issued a public wire. Two days later, a dozen generals issued a public wire calling for resistance to Japan's invasion.

Xu Zhen claimed that southern troops intruded into Yongzhou of Hunan Province on June 5th and that southern government called for a mobilization against Hengzhou [Hengyang] of Hunan

Province on June 9th. Xu Zhen stated that Japan raised demand for Hebei Province on June 10th 1935. On June 9 [?] 1935, Heh Yingqin [Ho Yinqin] and Umezu Yoshijiro signed an agreement, i.e., Ho-Umezu Agreement, recognizing Japanese occupation of Hebei and Chahar and making five northern provinces demilitarized.

On June 22nd, Guangdong-Guangxi provinces, with 300000 troops and dozens of planes, organized a "military commission", with Chen Jitang acting as generalissimo of the commission and commander-in-chief of the "army for rescuing China". Coalition government consisted of Li Zongren & Bai Chongxi faction, Li Jishen faction, Chen Jitang faction, "southern China patriotic society", CCP representative to HK [i.e., Hu Egong], [Third Party](#) [i.e., Zhang Bojun], "socialist democratic party", "youth party", "countryside construction autonomy school of thought", and numerous other renowned people.

Xu Zhen stated that Heh Jian, provincial chair for Hunan, sought loyalty for Chiang Kai-shek by sending secret emissary. Chiang Kai-shek reinforced defense at Hengyang, and dispatched Hu Zongnan's 1st Division to Changsha the provincial capital in July. At Changsha, Hu Zongnan won over young college students, including Chen Daxun, and promised to notify them should the resistance war against Japan get started. Li Zongren also pointed out that Jiang Bocheng, i.e., Chiang Kai-shek's crony, had stationed in Canton for instigation activities. Jiang Bocheng spent millions of yuans in buying over subordinate Guangdong Province generals. On July 6th [July 4th per LZR memoirs & XZ book], 40 pilots and dozens of planes from Guangdong Prov's airforce, headed by Huang Guangrui & Xie Mang, defected to Chiang Kai-shek's Nanking government by flying to Nanchang of Jiangxi Province. (per ZLA, Zheng Jiemin was responsible for instigating the airforce.) On the same day [July 7th per XZ], Li Hanhun, i.e., a deputy corps chief under Chen Jitang, announced a defection to Chiang Kai-shek. (Per LZR memoirs, Li Hanhun went to HK in the name of illness.) On July 10th [July 13th per LZR memoirs], at a KMT plenary, Chiang Kai-shek repeated his policy of "Quelling Internal Enemies Before Expelling External Invaders" and sowed seed of dissension by announcing a conferral of Guangxi posts onto Li Zongren & Bai Chongxi and a dismissal of Chen Jitang's Guangdong post [i.e., director of pacification office]. On July 14th [July 8th per XZ], Yu Hanmou, i.e., 1st Corps Chief under Chen Jitang, demanded the resignation of Chen Jitang at Dayu of Jiangxi Province, and on the same day, 2nd Corps Chief Zhang Da defected to Chiang Kai-shek. per ZLA, Qian Dajun was responsible for instigating Yu Hanmou as a former classmate at Baoding Cadet. Deng Longguang & Wu Jianxiong followed the suit of Yu Hanmou who flew to Nanking to express loyalty for Chiang Kai-shek. Two warships, under Kuang Wenlong & Deng Ruigong, sailed away from Guangdong coast. Yu Hanmou, with support from Qian Dajun & Huang Zhenqiu, came to Canton to assume the post as director of pacification for Guangdong Province. On 17th, at 11:00 pm, Chen Jitang asked Li Zongren over to his residency where he gave Li Zongren 200000 yuan of "da [grand] yang [coinage]" as an appreciation of support. On July 18th, at dawn, Chen Jitang fled to HK.

Li Zongren ordered a charter plane for return to Nanning at noon, with a worry that his plane could be hijacked by Chiang Kai-shek's spies. Chiang Kai-shek, who had conferred Guangxi posts onto Li Zongren & Bai Chongxi on July 13th, suddenly changed his mind. Chiang instructed that Bai Chongxi go overseas while Li Zongren report to military commission in Nanking. Chiang then changed order to allow Bai Chongxi assume provincial chair of Zhejiang. However, Li Zongren & Bai Chongxi, with the backing of Guangxi Province, refused to obey the order. KMT Central Army, with 400-500,000 army, campaigned against Guangxi. Gu Zhutong led Tang Enbo & Xue Yue against northern Guangxi from Guizhou Province, Chen Cheng's 18th Corps marched westward along West River, Yu Hanmou marched against southern Guangxi from Gaozhou, while Heh Jian attacked Guilin from southern Hunan Prov.

Guangxi expanded 14 regiments into 44 regiments for defense. Chiang Kai-shek dispatched Ju Zheng, Zhu Peide & Cheng Qian to Guangxi for reconciliation talk. On Sept 4th, three months after the "June 1st Movement", Li Zongren & Bai Chongxi reconciled with Chiang Kai-shek who revoked his order at the mediation by Feng Yuxiang.

Murdering Ethnic-Japanese Drugstore Owner

On Aug 22nd 1936, Bai Chongxi & Li Zongren declared that KMT 19th Route was restored by assigning a division to Division Chief Weng Zhaoyuan. Weng Zhaoyuan's 61st Division was dispatched to Beihai city [near southern Guangdong Province] where they murdered a Japanese-born merchant Nakamura Jyunzo [zhongye shunsan] who was long suspected of being a Japanese spy. This Japanese often invited Japanese officials to his house and was said to have received stipends from Japanese secret agency.

Xie Hegeng memoirs stated that a communist member named Zhang Meisheng was the secretary to division chief Weng Zhaoyuan and that this execution on Sept 3rd 1936 was approved by Cai Tingkai. Before the Japanese was killed by a dagger, he uttered a sentence in native Guangxi dialect: "I am not a Japanese." After killing the Japanese, Zhang Meisheng organized a "Beihai high school students' society for rescuing the country".

Li Zongren memoirs pointed out that he had ordered that Weng Zhaoyuan's 61st Division return to Guangxi Province at the time Li Zongren & Bai Chongxi reconciled with Chiang Kai-shek in early Sept. However, Li Jishen & Cai Tingkai deliberately murdered the Japanese for stirring up "international incident". Li Zongren & Bai Chongxi exerted great efforts to pacify this matter by providing financial compensation to Japanese.

In mid-Sept, Chiang Kai-shek came to Canton and asked for a meeting with Bai Chongxi. Li Zongren went to meet Chiang Kai-shek on Sept 17th after Bai Chongxi's wife, in tears, objected to the trip.

Communist Infiltration Into Southwestern China

Another figure involved in communist infiltration in southwestern China would be Liu Zhongrong who first worked for Gui-xi in the winter of 1935. Xie Hegeng memoirs stated alternatively that during the "Guangdong-Guangxi Incident" [i.e., Two Guang Incident], CCP leader Zhou Enlai dispatched Liu Zhongrong to southwestern China for gaining direct access to Li Zongren via Wang Gongdu (see "Guangxi Province Trotskyists" below). During the "Guangdong-Guangxi Incident" [i.e., Two Guang Incident], Li Zongren dispatched Liu Zhongrong to Xi'an for a second time for the purpose of a liaison with Zhang Xueliang's northeastern army & Yang Hucheng's northwestern army. In Nov 1936, prior to Xi'an Incident, Li Zongren & Bai Chongxi sent Liu Zhongrong to Xi'an for a 3rd time. On Dec 12th, i.e., the date of coup d'état, Liu Zhongrong met with Zhang Xueliang as a representative of Gui-xi army. Liu Zhongrong did not return to southwestern China till May 1937, i.e., after months' stay in communist territory. After the eruption of Sino-Japanese War on July 7th 1937, Liu Zhongrong was dispatched to Yan'an for staying with communist leaders for half a year. In early 1938, Liu Zhongrong, together with another communist [Liu Zhonghua], came back to southwestern China to assume counselor posts after Xie Hegeng maneuvered with Pan Yizhi. The two Liu guys were assistants to Xie Hegeng privately, while Xuan Xiafu was already called to Xi'an to assist Lin Boqu's Eight Route Army Office by Zhou Enlai in Feb 1937. Liu Zhongrong, though having severed relations with communists a long time ago, still remained a loyal follower of CCP, while his father Liu Chenglie had harbored communist telegraph set on behalf of such communist spy masters as Nan Hanchen, Wang Shiyong and Liu Guanyi. Xie Hegeng memoirs stated that back in 1937, in Tianjin, Liu Zhongrong assisted CCP agent Ke Qingshi in fleeing to Yan'an.

"Guangxi Province Trotskyists"