

Proclamation of the Tibet Military Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army

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Following is the proclamation of the Tibet Military Area Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army dated March 20:

For a long time the Tibet Local Government and the upper strata reactionary clique have plotted rebellion in collaboration with imperialists and reactionaries outside the country. For quite some time they have assembled rebellious bandits and connived at their ravages, destruction of communications, plunder of merchants and travellers, rape, and arson, and murder in various parts of Tibet, thereby inflicting suffering on the people.

The Central People's Government, adopting an attitude of magnanimity, repeatedly ordered the Tibet Local Government to punish the rebels strictly and protect social order. But the Tibet Local Government only feigned compliance. It not only evaded responsibility for putting down the rebellion, but encouraged and supported it and thus inflamed the rebellious bandits. By March 10 this year, most of the Kaloons [ministers] and the upper strata reactionary clique in Tibet had joined the rebels. They put the Dalai Lama under duress tore up the 17 -article Agreement on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet, openly betrayed the motherland and undermined unification of the country. They murdered Kanchung Soanamchiatso, a Tibetan official of the preparatory committee for the Tibet Autonomous Region, and wounded Sampo Tsewong-Rentzen, Deputy Commander of the Tibet Military Area Commando In addition, they launched an all-

out attack on the People's Liberation Army stationed in Lhasa on the night of March 19. Their crime could not be more heinous.

In order to protect the unification of the motherland and national unity and to relieve the people of the Tibet region from misery and suffering, our army is ordered to take punitive action against and put down the rebellion. We hope that all the people in Tibet, religious and secular, will energetically help our army in the campaign to put down the rebellion and not shelter the bandits, supply the enemy or provide the rebellious bandits with information.

As to the rebels, our army will treat them in accordance with a policy of leniency in various ways: no account will be taken of the past misdeeds of those who desert the rebellious bandits and return to us; those who make contributions will be awarded; all those captured will be well-treated, they are not to be killed, insulted, beaten or searched and deprived of their personal effects. Those who persist in error and carry out stubborn resistance will be punished strictly.

Our army has strict discipline. It protects the interests of the people, agriculture, animal husbandry, industry and commerce. It is fair in business transactions and does not take a single needle or thread from the people. It respects the religious beliefs and the customs and habits of the people and protects the lamaseries and cultural relics.

It is hoped that all the people, religious and secular, will live and work in peace, not listen to and believe rumours or create disturbances among themselves.

Signed: Chang Kuo-hua, commander; Tan Kuan-san, Political Commissar; Ngapo Ngawang Jigme, Teng Shao-tung, Sampo Tsewong Rentzen, Deputy Commanders; Chan Hua-yu and Wang Chi-mei, Deputy Political Commissars.