

Communiqué on the Revolt

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Violating the will of the Tibetan people and betraying the motherland. The Tibetan Local Government and the upper-strata reactionary clique colluded with imperialism assembled rebellious bandits and launched armed attacks against the PLA Garrison in Lhasa during the night of March 19. Acting on orders to put the rebellion down, the valiant units of the PLA stationed in Tibet completely smashed the rebellious bandits in the city of Lhasa on the 22nd. Now the units of the PLA, assisted by patriotic people of all sections, both religions and secular, are mopping up the rebellious bandits in other places, in Tibet.

In order to safeguard the unification of the motherland and national unity, Premier Chou En-lai of the State Council issued an order on March 28 which, in addition to ordering the Tibetan Military Area Command of the People's Liberation Army to stamp out the rebellion thoroughly, proclaimed that from that day the Tibetan Local Government which had instigated the rebellion was to be dissolved and the Preparatory Committee for the Tibet Autonomous Region should exercise the functions and powers of the Tibetan Local Government.

The armed rebellion of the Tibetan Local' Government and the reactionary clique of the upper-strata in Lhasa began on March 10. The Dalai Lama had originally planned to attend a theatrical performance in the auditorium of the Tibetan Military Area Command of the People's Liberation, Army on March 10. The proposal was put forth by

the Dalai Lama personality more than one month earlier and the date of March 10 was fixed by the Dalai Lama himself. On that day, however, the rebellious Tibetan clique spread wild rumours alleging that the army units of the Tibetan Military Area Command would detain the Dalai Lama and, using this rumour as a pretext, staged an armed rebellion, put the Dalai Lama under duress, raised such reactionary slogans as "Drive away the Han people" and "Independence for Tibet" and, at the same time, killed Kanchung Soanamchiatso, a Tibetan official of the Preparatory Committee for the Tibet Autonomous Region who opposed the rebellion, and wounded Sampo Tsewong-Rentzen, the Tibetan Deputy Commander of the Tibetan Military Area Command and others. The armed rebels at the same time surrounded the headquarters of the Tibetan Military Area Command of the People's Liberation Army and the offices of the Central Government agencies in Lhasa.

The rebellious activities of the Tibetan traitors have been of fairly long duration. These rebels represent imperialism and the most reactionary major serf owners. Since the Chinese People's Liberation Army entered Tibet and the Central People's Government and the Tibetan Local Government concluded the Agreement on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet (namely the 17 article [Point] agreement) in 1951, they have been plotting to tear up this Agreement and preparing for armed rebellion. But as the motherland is thriving and prospering day by day, the policy of the Central People's Government toward Tibet is correct, and the garrison units of the People's Liberation Army in Tibet observe strict discipline, all enjoy the warm support and love of the people of all sections in Tibet and the rebellious conspiracy of this handful of reactionaries had no support from the Tibetan people. In accordance with the stipulations of the Constitution, the Central

People's Government has always insisted on the solidarity of all the nationalities in the country and solidarity among the Tibetan people, and has carried out regional national autonomy in Tibet. This is warmly welcomed by the Tibetan people. The Preparatory Committee for the Tibet Autonomous Region was established as early as April, 1956. Yet, owing to obstruction by the reactionaries in the Local Government of Tibet, the preparatory work for the autonomous region has made little progress. The 17-article Agreement stipulates that the Tibetan Army must be reorganized, and that Tibet's social system, that is serfdom, must be reformed in accordance with the wishes of the people. These two important tasks could not be carried out as the result of obstruction by the reactionaries. In order to wait for the reactionaries to wake up, the central authorities at the end of 1956 told them that within six years, that is for the period of the Second Five-Year Plan, reform would not be carried out and the Tibetan Army would not be reorganized.

The Local Government of Tibet is called Kasha in Tibetan and its six members are called Kaloons. Of the six Kaloons, two are patriots: Ngapo Ngawang Jigme and Sampo Tsewang-Rentzen who was wounded by the rebels on March 10. One of the other four, Yuto Chahsidongchu, had already turned traitor in 1957 and fled to Kalimpong the centre of the rebellious element activities abroad. The three others, Surkong Wongching-Galei, Neusha Thubten-Tarpa and Hsika Jigme-dorje (Shasu) came out in the open as traitors in the present rebellion. Before this, these traitors had used their legal status in the Kasha to muster reactionary forces from among the upper strata, collaborate with the external enemy and actually direct some of the most reactionary major serf owners in Sikang and Tibet to organize armed rebel forces in certain regions east, north and south of

the Tsangpo River to oppose the Central People's Government and betray the motherland. Their rebellion was engineered by the imperialists, the Chiang Kai-shek bands and foreign reactionaries. The commanding centre of the rebellion was in Kalimpong; and their leader is the dismissed Sitzub Lokongwa Tsewongrouten. Many of their arms were brought in from abroad. The base of the rebellion to the south of the Tsangpo River received air-dropped supplies from the Chiang Kai-shek bands on a number of occasions, and radio stations were set up there by agents sent by the imperialists and the Chiang Kai-shek clique to further their intrigues.

Between May and June last year, on the instructions of the Tibetan Local Government and the upper-strata reactionary clique, the rebel bandits intruded into Chamdo, Dinching, Nagchuka and Loka, destroyed communications, ravaged the people by plunder, rape, arson and murder, and attacked agencies and army units of the Central People's Government there. Guided by the spirit of national unity, the Central People's Government repeatedly enjoined the Local Government of Tibet to punish the rebel elements and maintain social order. But the Local Government of Tibet and the upper-strata reactionary clique took the Central People's Government's attitude of maximum magnanimity as a sign of weakness. Their talk was of this sort: The Han people can be frightened off; in the past nine years, the Han people have not had the courage to lay even a finger on our most wonderful and sacred system of serfdom; if we attack them, they can only defend and not hit back; they dare not suppress our rebellion, but only entreat us to suppress the rebellion; if we bring a large group of rebel forces to Lhasa from other places to hit them with, they will surely run away; if not, we can abduct the Dalai Lama to Loka and gather forces for a counter-attack to take Lhasa back; if we fail, we

run to India; India sympathizes with us and may help us; there is the powerful United States which may also help us; President Chiang Kai-shek -in Taiwan has already given us active help; the Dalai Lama is god, who dare not obey him? The Americans say that the people's commune movement in China has caused discontent among the people who are ready to rebel; it is time to drive the Han people away and proclaim independence, and so on. The spirit of these reactionaries soared to the clouds and they were ready to take over the whole universe. They refused to do their duty and stop the rebel bandits' ravages instead they stepped up their treacherous intrigues. After concentrating considerable counter-revolutionary forces in Lhasa, they started their armed rebellion on March 10, openly scrapping the 17-article agreement.

After the outbreak of the March 10 rebellion in Lhasa, the Dalai Lama wrote to the representative of the Central People's Government in Tibet on three occasions saying that he had been seized by the reactionaries and was making all possible efforts to deal with the illegal actions of the reactionary clique. In reply, the representative of the Central Government: welcomed the attitude of the Dalai Lama and expressed the hope that the Local Government of Tibet would change its wrong attitude and do its duty to suppress the rebellion.

These reactionary elements, however, not only did not show the least sign of repentance but decided to extend the rebellion. They blatantly abducted the Dalai Lama from Lhasa and launched an all-out attack on the People's Liberation Army units stationed in Lhasa on the night of March 19. The hope of a peaceful settlement was extinguished. The reactionary forces of Tibet finally chose the road to their own extinction.

At 10:00 a.m. on March 20, the troops of the Tibetan Military Area Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army were ordered to take punitive action against the clique of traitors who had committed monstrous crimes. With the aid of the patriotic Tibetan monks and laymen, the People's Liberation Army completely crushed the rebellion in the city of Lhasa after more than two days of fighting. A rough count shows that by the 23rd, more than 4,000 rebel troops were taken prisoner, and 8,000 small arms of different kinds, 81 light and heavy machine guns, 27 mortars, six mountain guns and ten million rounds of ammunition were captured. Encircled by our troops, many of the rebel troops surrendered in groups.

The rapid way in which the rebellion was put down in Lhasa showed that the Tibetan traitorous clique is certainly doomed and that the future of the Tibetan people is bright. Primarily this is because the Tibetan people are patriotic, support the Central People's Government, ardently love the People's Liberation Army and oppose the imperialists and traitors. Tibet (including Chamdo) has a total population of 1,200,000, while the rebellious bandits number only 20,000 people, mostly people who were deceived and intimidated to join in, included are some rebellious elements who fled to Tibet from areas east of the Kingsha River in what was formerly Sikang Province, and are known as the Khamba people. The overwhelming majority of the Tibetan people are peasants and herdsmen who live in extreme poverty, and they eagerly hope to free themselves from the darkest feudal serfdom in the world. There are also many patriotic progressive people in the upper and middle strata in Tibet. They support the Central People's Government, oppose the rebellion and advocate democratic reform of the unjust social system so as to turn Tibet step by step into a civilized, progressive area. Tibet now already has a labouring class

firmly aspiring for emancipation, and fairly large sections of patriotic progressive people who want reform in the upper and middle strata. The task at present is first to put down the rebellion and establish peaceful law and order. In the course of this, the policy of the Central Government in dealing with the rebel elements is to punish without fail those guilty of major crimes, not punish the intimidated followers and award those who have performed meritorious services. The Central Government has instructed the People's Liberation Army Units in Tibet to unite broadly with all Tibetans who have not taken part in the rebellion, accept responsibility for protecting the business political and religious circles in Tibet, respect the habits and customs of the local people and their religious beliefs, protect the lamaseries and cultural institutions and relics and safeguard the interest of the mass of the people and social order. As for those captured and enemies who have laid down their arms, it is not permissible to retaliate against, injure or humiliate them.

The Chinese Government, for its part, considers that in the relations between China and the neighbouring countries to the Southwest, primarily between China and the great friendly country of the Republic of India, the principles of peaceful coexistence are to be persistently applied as well as the five principles signed between China and India on April 29, 1954, on trade and intercourse between the Tibet region of China and India. In the fundamental interests of the two countries, both parties have no reason at all not to adhere to these principles fully both at present and in the future. Chinese Government quarters welcome the statement of Indian Prime Minister Nehru on March 23 on non-intervention in China's internal affairs and considers this statement to be friendly. On the part of China, there has never been interference in the internal affairs of India or discussion of the internal

affairs of India at the sessions of the National People's Congress or its Standing Committee. It considers such discussion of the internal affairs of a friendly country to be impolite and improper.

In order to wipe out the rebel bandits thoroughly, the State Council has ordered the units of the Chinese People's Liberation Army stationed in Tibet to assume military control in various places in Tibet. The tasks of the Military Control Committees are: to suppress the rebellion; to protect the people and the foreign nationals who observe the laws of China; with the authorization from the Preparatory Committee for the Autonomous Region of Tibet and the Tibet Military Area Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, to set up administrative bodies at various levels in the Autonomous Region of Tibet, and organize self-defence armed forces of patriotic Tibetans to replace the old Tibetan Army of only a little more than 3,000 men who are rotten to the core, utterly useless in fighting and who have turned rebel.

The Military Control Committee of Lhasa was formally set up on March 23. Military control committees will be set up in other places except for Shigatse which is under the leadership of Panchen Erdeni, where it is not necessary to set one up. All the military control committees in Lhasa and the other places consist: of the representatives of the local patriotic people.

Important cities and areas including Ari, west of Lhasa; Gyantse; Phari; Yatung, southwest of Lhasa; Damshune and Nagchuka, north of Lhasa; Chetang, south of Lhasa and Tsichao, Lingtze, Tsamu, Dinching, Chamdo and Dza-I, east of Lhasa are all now under the firm control of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. The overwhelming majority of the local people are cooperation with the Chinese People's

Liberation Army. The rebel bandits are still carrying on only in some very remote places.

Since the Dalai Lama, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Tibet Autonomous Region, is still held under duress by the rebels, the State Council has decided that the Panchen Erdeni, Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Autonomous Region of Tibet should assume the post of Acting Chairman during the period of the Dalai Lama's abduction. The State Council has also appointed as Vice-Chairmen, the living Buddha Pebala Choliehnamje and Ngapo Ngawang Jigme, Standing Committee members of Tibetan Nationality of the Preparatory Committee of the Autonomous Region. Ngapo is concurrently secretary-general. As soon as order has been restored, local administrative bodies of the Autonomous Region of Tibet at all levels will be set up throughout Tibet and exercise the functions and powers of autonomy.

At present, autonomy and military control by the People's Liberation Army are simultaneously in force. Autonomy will gradually and completely replace military control when the rebellion is put down and peaceful order is established.

As the result of the rebellion by the reactionary forces in Tibet and the defeat of the rebellion, a new page is unfolding in Tibet's history. The conclusion can now be drawn that the imperialists and Tibet's reactionary forces entirely miscalculated the situation in Tibet.

Contrary to their wishes, the rebellion started by them in Tibet has not led to a split in the motherland and retrogression in Tibet, but instead has strengthened the consolidation of national unification, accelerated the doom of the reactionary forces in Tibet, pushed forward democratization in Tibet and promoted the new birth of the Tibetan people.