

Succession of Wang Jingwei & Assassination of Liao Zhongkai

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Dr. Sun Yat-sen conferred the post of "*da yuanshuai*" (i.e., grand marshal) and governor for Guangdong Province onto Hu Hanmin before departing for Peking for sake of peace talks with Northern Warlord Lineage government. Sun Yat-sen's Grand Camp in Canton was controlled by 'KMT Central Politics Meeting', with three members of Hu Hanmin, Liao Zhongkai and Wu Tiyun. When Sun Yat-sen fell ill, Borodin, Wang Jingwei and Ma Chaojun etc went inside of Russian embassy for discussions with Leo Karakhan. Borodin told Wang Jingwei that he should be the natural successor of Sun Yat-sen. On March 12th, Sun Yat-sen passed away in Peking due to liver cancer. Peking newspapers eulogized Sun Yat-sen as the 'founding father' of ROC, a reverence name later adopted by KMT standing committee on Mar 21 of 1940. (Sun Yat-sen, before his death, had mentioned that '**enemies are just beside you**' when Wang Jingwei requested time and again for death bed instructions. I would not be able to tell whether Sun Yat-sen had realized his blunder in allying with USSR/CCP and meant the 'enemies' to be Russian and CCP agents.)

Hu Hanmin assumed the post of KMT "*zong li*" (i.e., generalissimo) for half a year. Borodin returned direct to Canton after Sun Yat-sen burial, while Wang Jingwei went to Chaoshan area for individual discussions with two KMT generals, i.e., Xu Chongzhi and Chiang Kai-shek. Hu Hanmin added Wang Jingwei to the three-member 'KMT Central Politics Meeting'. Wang Jingwei, with the support of Liao Zhongkai, began to expand 'KMT Central Politics Meeting' into 11-member "national government commissar meeting". Wang Jingwei renamed the Grand Camp of the Grand Marshal in Canton to the 'National Government'. After manipulations, Wang Jingwei was elected to be the chairman of the new National Government. (Hu Hanmin recorded that Borodin had apologized to him for Wang Jingwei's disclosing the 11-member name list to the outside newspaper before an official election was held and that Wang Jingwei had blushed about his trickery and blushed again when he was declared elected at the meeting. Another senior KMT member, Zou Lu, wrote down his distaste of Wang Jingwei's hypocrisy in claiming apathy about officialdom in early years.)

On June 15th, Wang Jingwei decided to organize the grand marshal office into the National Government. On July 1st, National Government and "organization guideline for the national government" were promulgated. 16 persons to serve as commissars of the national government, with five on standing committee. Wang Jingwei was made into chairman of the national government, and Borodin a senior adviser. On July 3rd, an eight person military committee was set up. National Government was divided into departments of

diplomacy, military and finance etc. Song Ziwen was authorized to set up the Bank of China.

Chen Jieru memoirs stated that Chiang Kai-shek demanded on June 20th 1925 that KMT executive commissar committee admit him as a member by displaying military forces via a curfew. Chiang Kai-shek, for his harsh arrests of senior KMT members, was nicknamed "Ningbo's Napoleon". In lower Yangtze, "*Orient Magazine*" published some photos of Chiang Kai-shek and Borodin. When some publications cautioned against the emergence of neo-warlord [i.e., Chiang Kai-shek], KMT senior leader Wu Zhihui disputed it by claiming that he saw no sign of such a neo-warlord.

On Aug 1st, commanders for the armies of Guangdong, Yunnan and Hunan provinces wired over loyalty to the National Government by surrendering the military leadership. With military pressure, Chiang Kai-shek assumed the post of commander-in-chief for the National Revolutionary Army on Aug 20th 1925, with him commanding 1st Corps [consisting of two divisions on basis of Whampoa 1st brigade and 3rd division that was converted from Yue-jun], Tan Yankai 2nd Corps, Zhu Peide 3rd Corps, Li Jishen 4th Corps, and Li Fulin 5th Corps. Chen Jieru memoirs, however, claimed that KMT senior members convened a meeting on Mt Xishan against Chiang Kai-shek, not against Wang Jingwei. On Aug 26th 1925, provincial armies rescinded their respective naming & numbering, and adopted the general term as National Revolutionary Army, with five corps re-organized as follow:

- First Corps, led by Chiang Kai-shek;
- Second Corps, led by Tan Yankai;
- Third Corps, led by Zhu Peide;
- Fourth Corps, led by Li Jishen;
- Fifth Corps, led by Li Fulin.

Li Zongren memoirs stated that Cheng Qian's Hunan Province army was organized as Sixth Corps. First Corps, with five divisions, headed by Heh Yingqin after early 1926, was from Xu Chongzhi's Guangdong Province Army 2nd Corps which Chiang Kai-shek forcefully took over. Second Corps consisted of 4 divisions of Hunan Province guest army. Third Corps consisted of 3 divisions of Yunnan Province guest army. Fourth Corps, with four divisions, was from Guangdong Province Army 1st Corps. Fifth Corps consisted of 2 divisions of Li Fulin's guest army. Sixth Corps consisted of 3 divisions of Hunan Province guest army. Li Zongren pointed out that various armies had relied upon zoning and opium taxation for military stipends and budgets before KMT National Government took over the finance beginning from Aug 1925.

On Aug 20th 1925, Liao Zhongkai was assassinated. KMT ordered a special commissar committee for handling the emergency, with Wang Jingwei, Xu Chongzhi and Chiang Kai-shek on board. Soon, investigations would implicate both Hu Hanmin and Xu Chongzhi in the assassination. Chen Jieru memoirs stated that Hu Hanmin's cousin (?) was the assassin. At Wuhan University in Hubei Province, Hu Qiuyuan, nicknamed "little superman", suddenly received a notice for holding a KMT branch meeting and realized that KMT did exist on campus. At the meeting, they discussed the Liao Zhongkai assassination as well as June 23rd Shaji Bloody Crackdown by British.

In a resolution passed on Sept 1st 1925, Wang Jingwei and Chiang Kai-shek expelled Hu Hanmin to USSR and Xu Chongzhi to Shanghai, making Chiang Kai-shek the de facto military leader. Chen Jieru stated that Chiang Kai-shek now ranked No. 2, right behind Wang Jingwei. Li Zongren memoirs stated that Chiang Kai-shek first allied with KMT Leftists [Liao Zhongkai, Wang Jingwei], Russian and communists in defeating senior KMT leaders and excluding Hu Hanmin & Xu Chongzhi. Chiang Kai-shek then instigated Zhongshan-jian Incident for ridding off Wang Jingwei. After Zhongshan-jian Incident, Chiang Kai-shek would make Wu Tiecheng into a scapegoat.

After May 30th protests, imperialists tried to compromise with China on the matter of China's autonomy in customs and tariffs in light of the spirits from the Washington Conference. In Sept-Oct, Peking government convened a "special meetings on customs and tariffs". Hu Shi and Zhou Gengsheng toured colleges and universities across the nation. At Wuhan Univ, Zhou Gengsheng made a speech on "customs and tariffs" to college students including Hu Qiuyuan.

Chiang Kai-shek conducted a second eastern campaign against Chen Jiongming remnants as well as quelled Deng Benyin army in southern Guangdong Prov. Second Eastern Campaign was authorized on Sept 28th 1925.

KMT records made the following accusations: Right after taking control, Wang Jingwei adamantly advocated 'leftist tendency'. Earlier, during the 3rd Plenary of KMT's First Congress in May 1925, Wang Jingwei still showed ambivalence as to rightist or leftist tendencies when Tan Pingshan (CCP member) and Yu Shude clamored for 'left turn'. Wang Jingwei stated his desire to be a leftist during the Guangdong-Hongkong Strike. At the peak of leftist movement, Liao Zhongkai and Chen Qiulin were assassinated in front of KMT's party HQ on August 20th. Borodin strongly demanded an investigation into the assassination and the arrest of Hu Hanmin, Zou Lu and Deng Zeru as suspects. Xu Chongzhi and Chiang Kai-shek disapproved it. CCP's party organ newspaper "*Guide*" claimed that Hu Hanmin was the culprit. Hence, Wang Jingwei sent Hu Hanmin to Moscow and removed Zou Lu and Lin Sen from KMT key leadership positions. Jiang Yongjing mentioned a so-called 'KMT Anti-Rightists Movement' that implicated KMT

senior central committee members. (Hu Qiuyuan biographical account stated that Zou Lu and Lin Sen, being dispatched to Peking by Canton government as so-called "diplomatic corps", passed through Wuhan in the early winter of the year. Around this timeframe, classmate Yan Dazhu first tried to enroll Hu Qiuyuan in CY by claiming that KMT was elementary school, Communist Youth [CY] League was middle school, and Communist Party [CP] was grand school. Incidentally, W.U. possessed one CP and two CY including Hu Qiuyuan by the end of 1925.)

Implicated in the 'KMT Anti-Rightists Movement' would be such KMT senior central committee members as Dai Jitao, Ju Zheng, Shi Ying, Li Liejun, Tan Zhen, Shao Yuanchong, Xie Chi, Deng Zeru and Sun Ke. In contrast with Chen Jieru's statement, this would lead to a KMT assembly of 'rightists' in front of Sun Yat-sen's tomb inside of Biyun-shi Monastery on Xishan Mountain (Western Mountain) near Peking in Nov 1925. Chen Jieru thought Mt Xishan faction was against Chiang Kai-shek, not against Wang Jingwei. In late Nov, Peking people destroyed "Morning Post" newspaper and demanded the convention of National Meeting.

On Jan 12th 1926, KMT military committee decreed that Infantry Cadet Academy be renamed Central Military Politics Academy, with Chiang Kai-shek acting as principal. On 20th, Chiang Kai-shek retained the post of garrison commander for Canton by releasing the post of corps chief to Heh Yingqin, and Cheng Qian, head of the corps for attacking Hubei Province, was conferred the post of chief of 6th Corps.

During Jan 1926 KMT Second Congress, Wang Jingwei attacked the KMT Xishan Meeting participants (i.e., Western Hills Faction) and re-organized the 36-member executive committee of KMT Second Congress. Hu Qiuyuan biographical account stated that Chiang Kai-shek opposed the proposal by Xishan Meeting participants. Among the 36 members, nine were selected as standing committee members, including Wang Jingwei, Tan Yankai, Tan Pingshan (CCP), Chiang Kai-shek, Li Zuhan (CCP), Hu Hanmin (absentee in Moscow), Chen Gongbo, Gan Naiguang, and Yang Paoan (CCP). Tan Pingshan (CCP) was in charge of KMT Organization Department and KMT secretariat, and Lin Zuhan (CCP) in charge of the Peasants Department. Wang Jingwei handed over the control of his Propaganda Department to Mao Tse-tung. Hu Hanmin's Workers Department was handled by CCP member Feng Juepo.

Ding Zhongjiang stated that Wang Jingwei and CCP members colluded with USSR adviser Kissanga in trying to tackle Chiang Kai-shek for his objections to penalizing KMT Xishan Meeting participants. At this time, Xu Chongzhi had left the scene, and Chiang Kai-shek, victorious in two eastern campaigns against Chen Jiongming, proposed to start the Northern Campaign. Wang Jingwei and Kissanga, in order to prevent Chiang Kai-shek from controlling the armies, would oppose the Northern Expedition plan and further

conspired to have Chiang Kai-shek relocate to Feng Yuxiang's northwestern army in Shenxi Province as a military lecturer. When Chiang Kai-shek refused to go to northwestern China, Kissanga requested that Chiang Kai-shek have a vacation in USSR. Chiang Kai-shek exchanged letters with Wang Jingwei in regards to Wang Jingwei's echoing Kissanga arrangements and persuading Chiang Kai-shek into an early departure for USSR. To get rid of Chiang Kai-shek, Kissanger manipulated to win over Wang Maogong, one of the two division heads under Chiang Kai-shek's First Corps. (Wang Maogong stationed Second Div in Guangzhou while He Yingqin stationed First Div in Chaoshan.) Kissanger further conferred Li Zongren as chief of Eighth Corps and Huang Shaohong as chief of Ninth Corps, deliberately leaving corps chief of Seventh Corps unfilled. Chiang Kai-shek also complained to Kissanga/Wang Jingwei about the budget cutting for the Whampoa Military Academy in favor of the Second Div of First Corps and Chiang Kai-shek hinted that Kissanga/Wang Jingwei might promote Wang Maogong to the chief of Seventh Corps. Chen Lifu's memoirs mentioned that he was responsible for dissuading Chiang Kai-shek from going to USSR at the dock.

Meanwhile, 16 year old Jiang Jingguo, the elder son of Chiang Kai-shek, paid a visit to Canton from Beijing where he was ordered to study foreign languages like French by his father who disapproved Jiang Jingguo's participating four times in the patriotic boycott activities against Japan textile industry's bloody crackdown on May 30th 1925 workers' strike in Shanghai (i.e., 5-30 Bloody Incident). Three years before that, Chiang Kai-shek ordered his son Jiang Jingguo to study in Shanghai. Jiang Jingguo visited his father at Whampoa Military Academy and expressed his wish to do overseas studies in USSR. Chiang Kai-shek disapproved him and sent him back to Peking. While in Peking, Jiang Jingguo obtained the support of CCP leader Li Dazhao and got acquainted with numerous Russians. In Moscow, Comintern reorganized the 'University for Toilers of the East' into 'Sun Yat-sen University' in honor of the late Sun Yat-sen.