

Purge of Socialist Democratic Party

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[*Excerpts from "Red Terror & White Terror"*]

Purge of Socialist Democratic Party - Western Fujian Prov

Purge of Socialist Democratic Party (SDP), which first started in early 1931, had led to 6352 victims and two similar mutinies termed Kengkou Mutiny on May 27th and Fu Bocui Rebellion. (Fu Bocui was a finance minister of western Fujian Province Soviet who severed himself with CCP in an armed confrontation.) Purge of SDP went into peak around March. After the purge, communist members had dwindled to 5000 from 8000 in Western Fujian Prov.

On April 4th, Zhou Enlai wrote to Fujian Province CCP special commissar committee that Chiang Kai-shek and Fu Bocui must have a tightly-knit master plan for sabotaging the Soviet government. Gao Hua speculated that it must be Zhou Enlai who made the instruction since Zhou, a person in charge of military affairs and Soviet governments, had made simultaneous instructions to CCP special commissar committees in Fujian-Guangdong-Jiangxi border area and in Hunan-Hubei-Jiangxi border area. Similar to Southwestern Jiangxi Prov's AB League Purge, Zhou Enlai's CCP Central Committee had first supported the Purge of Socialist Democratic Party and then advised against 'simplification' and 'over-implication' in late Aug 1931. Zhou raised his question mark as to Purge of SDP in his Aug 29th letter.

In Western Fujian Prov, Deng Fa, a veteran who led the picket forces during Hongkong-Guangdong Strike, was the secretary for the special commissar committee after he was dispatched to Longyan of Fujian Province in Dec 1930. Deng Fa, before connecting with Jiangxi Province in Sept 1931, had contact with Shanghai's CCP Central Committee, only. When Deng Fa noticed that some communist cadre slept with two women together, he concluded that Fujian communists must have been penetrated by KMT reactionaries. Deng Fa made up his mind in Jan 1931 when he heard the wrong slogans from soldiers of Red Army 12th Corps, like "Support Second Comintern !" and "Long Live Social Democrats !" Red Army 12th Corps was headed by Luo Binghui and Tan Zhenlin. (<http://www.humanrights-china.org/meetingchina/Meeti2002114164646.htm> stated that "from the Fukien partisans and nucleus of regular Red troops the Twelfth Red Army was created under the command of Wu Chung-hao, with T'an Chen-lin as political commissar. Wu was later killed in battle and replaced by Lo P'ing-hui.")

Using extortion via cruel tortures, Deng Fa executed 17 officers, including Lin Haiting (commissar for 100th Regiment of 12th Corps), on March 2nd. Soon the purge eliminated most of the officers from platoon upward, 25 executive committee members of Western Fujian Soviet, and half of backup execution committee members of Western Fujian Soviet, including such initial leaders of peasant uprisings in Yongding, Longyan and Hangwu areas as Duan Fenfu. Victims also included the so-called communism young pioneers of age 16. Most of the communist leaders of landlord family background were executed. Innumerable officers, soldiers and communists fled across the sea, or to the KMT-

controlled areas, or to Fu Bocui's Shanghang area.

Kengkou Mutiny - Western Fujian Prov

Fu Bocui controlled his hometown Gujiao area. In Oct 1930, Fu Bocui was accused of possessing "third party viewpoints". In Feb 1931, Deng Fa revoked Fu Bocui's CCP membership and dispatched Red Army against him. On March 6th, Western Fujian Soviet Government issued Notice No. 23, accusing Fu Bocui of being a leader of Socialist Democrat. On May 27th, a mutiny termed Kengkou Mutiny ensued when communist column chief Li Zhen of Hangwu-xian County arrested Luo Souchun (i.e., secretary for Western Fujian Soviet Government) for implicating about 200 communists in the Socialist Democrat Party. Li Zhen set free Heh Dengnan (CCP district secretary of Hangwu county) and Chen Jingyue (i.e., commissar for the 3rd armed column of Hangwu county), lay a siege of county Soviet government, and dispatched soldiers to Baisha to have his remnant 3rd district members released by means of a handwritten note from Luo Souchun. On May 29th, Deng Fa dispatched Red Army 12th Corps against Hangwu (today's Shanghang county) and executed majority of 3rd district communist members. On June 1st, per GH, 2nd district members of Hangwu also rebelled against Deng Fa. Similarly, rebellions had occurred in Yongding county where CCP leaders like Xie Xianqiu, Lu Zhaoxi and Zeng Muchun were executed for refusing the purge order. Deng Fa, Zhang Dingzai (chairman for Western Fujian Soviet) and Lin Yizhu cracked down on all of them.

Once Deng Fa received Zhou Enlai's letter in regards to 'over-implication', Deng Fa pushed out Lin Yizhu, i.e., purge trial director, as a scapegoat, and executed Lin Yizhu in addition to Luo Shouchun, Zhang Danchuan (culture minister) and Xiong Binghua (monitoring minister). Zhou would realize the seriousness of the problem till he arrived in Western Fujian Province in Dec 1931. While en route to Yongding from Changting, on Dec 18th, Zhou wrote an urgent letter to CCP Central Committee in Shanghai, and on Jan 7th, Zhou hosted the CCP Jiangxi Soviet meeting, calling for a correction of "guideline mistake" in the purge. Deng Fa was rebuked in Jan 1931 and was recalled to Ruijin of Jiangxi as director for "political safeguarding bureau" of the Chinese Soviet Republic in 1932. Zhou Enlai dispatched Li Kenong to Fujian in March 1932 for correcting the purge. Ren Bishi was downgraded to deputy secretary while Zhou Enlai himself assumed the post of secretary for CCP Soviet Central Bureau. As for Mao's cronies, Zhou issued a punishment of 6 month party retention on Jan 25th 1932. However, "political safeguarding bureau" still went ahead in executing Li Wenlin, Zeng Bingchun and Wang Huai etc as 'AB League culprits' on May 30th 1932, to be followed by execution of 200 more reactionaries. Gao Hua pointed out that CCP began to utilize "political safeguarding bureau" as its apparatus for purging reactionaries in lieu of various military and administrative organs. However, in June 1932, a so-called Worker-Peasant Drama Society Incident occurred, and on Aug 13th, Deng Yingchao, i.e., Zhou Enlai's wife, accused Zhang Aiping, Wei Gongzhi and Zuo Quan etc of propagating Chen Duxiu & Trotsky thoughts for simply mentioning the slogan of "socialist revolution".

Gao Hua claimed that Zhang Dingzai, an old acquaintance of Mao Tse-tung who dispatched Tan Zhenlin & Luo Binghui to western Fujian as two aids, must have picked up the purge idea from Mao Tse-tung. Gao Hua also stated that Ren Bishi, during stopover on March 15th, had encouraged Deng Fa in the purge movement. Gao Hua added that Mao Tse-tung had tried to distance himself from the Purge movement after Zhou En-lai's letter and that Mao Tse-tung further instructed Zhang Dingzai in correcting Fujian's over-implication purge with 5000 silver dollars in Nov 1931. Later in 1945, Deng Fa, who was deprived of his power base by Mao Tse-tung, stated that the 1931 Purge of Social

Democrats was totally a blunder, while Mao Tse-tung ambiguously stated that CCP had walked the "detour" road and committed mistake in 1931 purge movement. CCP restored the reputation of the 3,728 social democrats in 1954 and declared them as martyrs. Fu Bocai was restored reputation in 1985.