

Upheavals in Peking & Sun Yat-sen's Northern Trip

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Feng Yuxiang, taking advantage of Zhi-xi & Feng-xi War, would rebel against Cao Kun & Wu Peifu. Wu Peifu ordered three pronged attacks at Manchuria, departing Jing-Feng Railway, Xifengkou Pass, and Gubeikou-Jehol, respectively. While being ordered on the northern route of Gubeikou Pass, Feng Yuxiang reached a secret agreement with Zhang Zuolin's Manchurian Army for toppling Cao & Wu. On Oct 23rd 1924, Feng Yuxiang's army suddenly made a stealthy entry into Peking. In Peking, Feng Yuxiang put Cao Kun under house arrest in Yanqinglou (restaurant?) and later executed Cao Kun's military attaché Li Yanqing. Parliament representatives, who had elected Cao Kun as a result of voting bribery, fled to neighboring Tianjin. Feng & Zhang then located Duan Qirui as a leader of the "interim administration" of Peking government. However, Feng Yuxiang made a strategic mistake by kicking last Manchu Qing Emperor Aixinjueluo Pu-yi out of the Forbidden City on Nov 5th. An officer by the name of Lu Zhonglin led 20 soldiers from the pistol company into the Forbidden City (i.e., 'jin gong'), displayed two grenades on a table, and threatened to bombard the Manchu remnants from Mt Jingshan. Pu-yi's teacher, Johnston, was refused entry into the palace, and within 40 minutes, the Manchu remnants were kicked out. At Pu-yi's old residence which the ex-emperor had departed 16 years ago, i.e., King Chunqinwang Residence, police chief Zhang Bi shook hands with civilian ex-emperor, joking that Pu-yi could now have the right to campaign for Chinese presidency as a civilian. Traitor Luo Zhenyue escorted Pu-yi to Japanese embassy, and then onward to Japan's extraterritory in Tianjin. This breach of the agreement between ROC and Manchu court reached in 1912 would lead to Japanese smuggling of the emperor to Manchuria for setting up a puppet state later.

Feng Yuxiang and Duan Qirui etc wired to Sun Yat-sen for a joint meeting about unification of China. Chen Jieru memoirs stated that Sun Yat-sen no longer insisted on a military action against the north. On Oct 30th 1924, Sun Yat-sen returned to Canton for a trip to Peking. On Nov 4th, Sun Yat-sen published his "Statement of Northern Trip", proposing the convention of National Meeting and the nullification of un-equal treaties. Sun Yat-sen, before departure, designated Tan Yankai as the leader of all military forces and Hu Hanmin as the leader of all civil administration matters. On Nov 12th, Chiang Kai-shek led 1000 students and military lectures for seeing Sun Yat-sen off on Yongfeng Warship. Chiang Kai-shek asked Chen Jieru guess how many people attended the departure ceremony, and Chen Jieru stated that she thought it would be 100,000 people. Sun Yat-sen had a short stopover on Whampoa Island at the company of Borodin and Liu

Zhenhuan etc and was impressed by Chiang Kai-shek's accomplishments. Further, Sun Yat-sen declined Borodin's invitation for a trip to USSR after peace talks in Peking. Sun Yat-sen requested with Liu Zhenhuan in going to Yunnan Province the next day to have Tang Jiyao endorse Sun Yat-sen as leader of three provinces of Guangdong-Yunnan-Guangxi. Liu Zhenhuan claimed he would have no problem in doing so because he had at one time saved Tang Jiyao's life. Sun Yat-sen continued on to say that he remembered how Liu Zhenhuan had risked his life in expelling Chen Jiongming on behalf of him. The second day, Sun Yat-sen left for transfer in HK. On 17th, Sun Yat-sen arrived in Shanghai where Feng Yuxiang etc received him. After convening a KMT meeting in Shanghai, Sun Yat-sen departed for Tianjin via a stop in Japan.

On Nov 24th, Zhang Zuolin's Feng-xi Manchurian army entered Peking, disarmed Zhi-xi faction's 23rd Division which had surrendered to Feng-xi earlier, and forced Feng Yuxiang's army into a relocation. On Nov 28th, during stopover at Kobe, Sun Yat-sen made a speech about Grand Asianism (i.e., Pan-Asianism) at Kobe Women's College, advising Japanese as to its choice of a guardian for Oriental Wang[2]-Dao[4] (king-like way) Culture or a henchman for Occidental Hegemony Culture. On Dec 4th, Sun Yat-sen arrived in Tianjin. By the time he arrived in Peking, Sun Yat-sen was already too sick to make his en route speeches about "Down with imperialism... unite China ... expel militarists..."

In Peking, hearing that Feng Yuxiang etc had plans for an attack, Zhang Zuolin exited Peking on Dec 2nd. USSR requested with Feng-xi's Zhang Zongchang for disbanding White Russian Army, but ROC Foreign Ministry in Peking declined it, claiming that those White Russians had naturalized in China already. On Dec 10th, Feng Yuxiang announced that National Army name be abandoned and his commander post be dismissed as a goodwill gesture for Zhang Xueliang's revoking his military post for Manchuria. On Dec 13th, Cao Kun Constitution was revoked, and parliament was disbanded.

Per XZC, Sun Yat-sen was disappointed over Duan Qirui's moderate policies in regards to European powers and Japan, i.e., Sun Yat-sen advocating for nullification of unequal treaties while Duan Qirui seeking for a refund of customs tax to 7.25% from 5%.

Sun Yat-sen passed away in Peking on March 12th 1925. People across the nation held mourning ceremonies. In Wuxi, Xu Zhucheng participated in student society's mourning activities by drafting elegies. Communist activist Yun Daiying was invited to Jiangsu 3rd Normal College for agitational speeches. In Wuhan of Hubei Province, Hu Qiuyuan attended a ceremony as a KMT member. (Note that KMT party itself was still a legal party in both southern and northern China though the military apparatus were at war between each other. Chinese communists, by enrolling in KMT, obtained the necessary legal cover.) After the ceremony, Hu Qiuyuan dropped by at a bookstore and read about Marx writings and German "superman philosopher" Friedrich Nietzsche writings earnestly.

(Hu Qiuyuan also picked up a book by martyr Zhu Zhixin who had expressed admiration for both Marx's materialist perspectives and Nietzsche's "superman philosophy". Early twentieth century would also see a "fad" among China's young men for the West, with Hu Shi being an adorer of Browning and revolutionary-monk Su Manshu an adorer of British poet who died in Greek independence war.)

In Canton, however, Chiang Kai-shek refused Hu Hanmin's order in releasing the weapons to Canton merchant corps even though Hu Hanmin reached a settlement of obtaining 200000 yuan as a loan from the merchant corps. When Chiang Kai-shek reluctantly released weapons, the two parties had a quarrel which turned into a shooting. With several soldiers shot dead, Chiang Kai-shek organized a so-called "revolutionary committee" the second day. Chen Jieru memoirs stated that Chiang Kai-shek, in the name of "training department chief of Guangdong Province army", launched an attack at Canton merchant guilds. After two days' street battles, Canton merchant guilds surrendered. Chen Jieru claimed that Chiang Kai-shek now ranked No. 7, behind Wang[1] Jingwei, Hu Hanmin, Xu Chongzhi, Liao Zhongkai, Liu Zhenhuan, and Wu Zhihui.