

Appeal of the central Soviet government to the ko-lao-hui

Brothers of the Ko-lao-hui!

Recently the mortal enemies of our Chinese nation, the Japanese imperialists, have been constantly increasing the ferocity of their savage robber actions to swallow up China. Not only have they occupied our four north-eastern provinces, but they have gone further and established de facto control over the whole of northern China. They have not merely engaged in smuggling, thus ruining the whole of our economic life, and increasing various forms of suffering such as bankruptcy and unemployment, but they have established a colonial regime in Taiwan and Korea, and they have sent more than 50,000 additional soldiers into northern China. All of these political and economic methods are calculated to turn northern China into a second "Manchukuo," to make of northern China a base for an assault on all of China. Moreover, they are just now engaged in carrying out a ruthless invasion of north-western, central and southern China, and endeavouring to swallow up all of China and turn it into their colony; they want to turn our 400,000,000 brothers into their slaves and beasts of burden. The grievous misfortune of the loss of our state and the extinction of our race is already singeing our eyebrows; we find ourselves before an imminent crisis in which life and death, survival or ruin are at stake. Apart from a few traitors who are selling out their country [han-chien mai-kuo-tsei], there is no one among all those Chinese who are in the slightest degree upright, among those Chinese who are unwilling to be slaves without a country, whose hair does not stand on end with anger, whose bosom is not filled with rage, and who does not want to wage a war of resistance to the death against Japan! Today the military leaders of the south-west, Li Tsung-jen, Ch'en Ch'i-tang, etc., have raised the banner of resistance to Japan, and moved their armies northwards. Moreover, they have demanded of the Nanking Government and Mr. Chiang Kai-shek to go forth and do battle against Japan. The anti-Japanese national revolutionary war has already entered a new stage.

Formerly, following its principles-" Restore the Han and exterminate the Ch'ing," " Strike at the rich and aid the poor "-the Ko-lao-hui participated actively in the anti-Manchu revolutionary movement of 1911. The revolution in northern Shensi has also benefited from the considerable aid, support and active participation of comrades from the Ko-lao-hui. Comrades such as Hsieh Tzu-ch'ang or Liu Chih-tan are not only leaders of the Red Army; they are also exemplary members of the Ko-lao-hui. This revolutionary spirit, these glorious feats, must be manifested even more widely in today's heroic struggle to save the country and save ourselves.

The Central Chinese People's Soviet Government has many times in the past proclaimed its views about resisting Japan and saving the country, and called upon all those who are unwilling to be slaves without a country to unite, without distinction of party or class, and go and fight together against our common enemies-the Japanese imperialists and the traitors who are selling out their country-in order to secure the independence and liberation of the Chinese nation. The Ko-lao-hui has always been representative of the organisations of the resolute men of our nation, and of the broad masses of peasants and toilers. It has constantly been the victim of the oppression of the militarists and the bureaucrats; its members have been considered as "inferior people " or calumniated as " bandits," and it was denied a legal existence. The treatment inflicted on the Ko-lao-hui by the ruling class is Treally almost identical with that inflicted on us!

In the past, you supported the restoration of the Han and the extermination of the Manchus; today, we support resistance to Japan and saving the country. You support striking at the rich and helping the poor; we support striking at the local bullies and dividing up the land. You despise wealth and defend justice, and you gather together all the heroes and brave fellows in the world; we do not

spare ourselves to save China and the world, we unite the oppressed and exploited peoples and social strata of the whole world. Our views and our positions are therefore quite close; there is even more complete correspondence as regards our enemies and the road towards salvation. Consequently, we once more make a special and very sincere appeal to all our brothers of the Ko-lao-hui throughout the whole country. Regardless of our past subjects of discord or mutual grievances, we must now forget them in order to unite under the slogan of resisting Japan and saving the country. Let us constitute a close and intimate alliance of brothers, let us together defend righteousness and come to the aid of our country in its need. This is your sacred duty, and the sacred duty of the whole Chinese people!

The Soviet Government is the government of the oppressed people of China. We have the responsibility to receive and to protect all those who are persecuted and threatened with arrest by the Kuomintang Government. Consequently, the Ko-lao-hui can exist legally under the Chinese Soviet Government. Moreover, we have instituted a reception bureau for the Ko-lao-hui for receiving all the heroes, brave fellows and courageous fighters for upright causes who are unable to maintain themselves in the white areas. We hope and request that the lodge masters and grand masters of the various lodges in all parts of the country, and our brothers among the brave fellows on every hand, will send representatives or come themselves to discuss with us plans for saving the country. We await them with enthusiasm, and will give them a hearty welcome! We proclaim loudly: Show the revolutionary spirit that characterised the Ko-lao-hui in the past!

Let the Ko-lao-hui and the whole of the Chinese people unite to strike at Japan and to restore China!

Long live the liberation of the Chinese people!

The Chairman of the Central Government of the Chinese People's Soviet Republic:

MAO TSE-TUNG,

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