

Speech at the First Meeting of the People's Revolutionary Military Committee

(October 20, 1949)

The current combat situation is as follows:

1. The First Field Army, consisting of four corps (originally two corps from the Northwest and two corps transferred from North China), has more than 400,000 troops and is commanded by Peng Dehuai.
2. The Second Field Army, with three corps totaling 500,000 troops, is led by Liu Bocheng and Deng Xiaoping. They are currently on the move, preparing to head southwest. They have reached the Baoqing area and are preparing winter clothing; once equipped, they will proceed.
3. The Third Field Army, comprising four corps and 600,000 troops, is commanded by Chen Yi, Rao Shushi, and Su Yu. Its primary mission is to counter imperialist threats. A portion of this army is currently engaged in battles in the Jinmen and Dinghai regions.

Note: The excerpts from this speech, delivered by Mao Zedong at the first meeting of the Central People's Government's People's Revolutionary Military Committee, focus on military deployment.

The Third Field Army is preparing ships for an assault on Taiwan. We intend not to move this army elsewhere. The Fourth Field Army, led by Lin Biao, is a large unit. When it moved south from Beijing, it had 800,000 troops; with the addition of forces under Cheng Qian, Chen Mingren, Li Xiannian, and troops from South China, it now exceeds one million. The regions occupied by this army are mostly newly liberated areas, with Henan and Hubei liberated for only two years, considered semi-old regions, while others are newly liberated. This army has little connection with foreign powers, except in Guangzhou, where British interests may appear. We have stationed two corps in Guangzhou, supplemented by substantial local forces in Guangdong.

Our two key points of resistance against imperialist influence are Shanghai and Tianjin. The situation in Qingdao is less critical. We have concentrated 15 divisions along the Beining Line, while the entire Shanghai region is secured by the Third Field Army.

The southwest advance comprises three corps led by Liu and Deng, plus one corps under He Long, totaling 600,000 troops. Their mission is to consolidate Yunnan, Guizhou, Sichuan, and Xikang. He Long's forces will advance directly to northern Sichuan and the Sichuan-Xikang border, while Liu and Deng's units will move from Dabieshan to Emei Mountain. It is estimated that, by winter's end, the entire southwest—excluding Kunming—will be liberated.

Moving into Xinjiang, our forces have already reached Hami by October 15, engaging in negotiations with Tao Zhiyue, who welcomed our lead forces. Plans are in place for the main force to arrive in northern and southern Xinjiang by November or December, before snowfall prevents logistical preparations and food supplies for the troops.

Given the vast size of our army entering various regions, food supply is a critical issue. It is essential to recognize our army's potential as a productive force, and next year's production must be well planned.

Additional Notes on the Military and National Defense

During this meeting, Mao Zedong also emphasized the importance of transitioning military forces into production roles to contribute to local economies and alleviate government financial burdens. Training efforts, naval advancements, and addressing threats like banditry were also highlighted.