


# Regulations Forbidding the Use of Military Force to Suppress the Revolutionary Student Movement

PLA General Staff and General Political Department

*Source:* These regulations (“Guanyu juehui buxu dongyong budui wuzhuang zhenya geming xuesheng yundong de guiding”) were ratified and circulated by the CCP Center on 21 August 1966 in the form of Central Document *Zhongfa* [1966] 416 (classified “crucially secret”). Our translation is based on the text reproduced in People’s Liberation Army National Defense University Research Institute for Party History, Party Building, and Political Work, ed., “*Wenhua dageming*” yanjiu ziliao (“*Great Cultural Revolution*” *Research Materials*) (Beijing, 1988), Vol. 1, pp. 90–91.

When students recently took to the streets to demonstrate in Guilin, Xi’an, Lanzhou, Baotou, and other places, local Party and government organs asked for contingents of armed soldiers to be mobilized to protect their premises. In Guilin, an entire armed battalion has apparently been mobilized for contingency use. In other places, demands have been made for carloads of soldiers to be sent to factories and schools to talk to and dissuade the students from demonstrating. As a result, the relationship between the army and the students has become quite tense, and some students and masses have engaged the soldiers in arguments and put up big-character posters. Teachers and students in some schools have sent a stream of telegrams to the Central Military Commission claiming that revolutionary teachers and students are being surrounded by the army. The situation has already pitted the army against the revolutionary students, and we must regard it with the utmost seriousness. Consequently, we have drawn up the following regulations:

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1. No part of the armed forces may under any circumstance suppress the revolutionary student movement by force, much less open fire at the students. Even to fire blanks at the students is a serious political error against which serious disciplinary action will be taken.
  2. If the local Party and government authorities invite the army to join the National Day celebrations, the army may with permission from the Party Committee of the Military Region allow a limited number of

men to take part, but they must not under any circumstances bear arms.

3. Regardless of the circumstances, the local Party and government authorities may mobilize the army only with the permission of the Central Military Commission.

4. The army should not become involved when students clash with other students or with the masses. Definite cases of active counter-revolution such as manslaughter, arson, poisoning, destruction of property, and theft of state secrets should be handled according to law by local public security organs. In such cases, if the power of the public security organs is insufficient and if requests for help are made, the army may provide assistance.

5. The army should not send soldiers to factories and schools to engage in propaganda and dissuasion.

6. The army should not put up big-character posters criticizing the local schools, factories, or government organs. The army should warmly welcome the [critical] big-character posters directed at it appearing in local schools, factories, and government organs.

7. Any person who attempts to avoid the struggle by escaping to and hiding on military premises should be asked to go back to where he came from and not be given a hiding place.

All units must earnestly respect and implement the above regulations.

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