

ORDER OF THE CCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE,  
THE STATE COUNCIL,  
THE CENTRAL MILITARY COMMISSION  
AND THE CENTRAL  
CULTURAL REVOLUTION GROUP  
CONCERNING THE PROHIBITION OF  
THE SEIZURE OF ARMS, EQUIPMENT, AND  
OTHER MILITARY SUPPLIES  
FROM THE PLA

*Chung-fa* No. 288 (67)

*(September 5, 1967)*

To all provincial (municipal) revolutionary committees (or preparatory groups), military control committees at all levels, military district commands at all levels, and all revolutionary mass organizations:

The Chinese People's Liberation Army is a peerless people's army, an army of the sons and brothers of the working people personally formed and led by our great leader Chairman Mao and personally commanded by Vice Supreme Commander Lin Piao. It is dependent on the people as fish is dependent on water, and is linked with the people as blood is with flesh. The PLA must resolutely respond to the call of the great leader Chairman Mao, resolutely support the revolutionary Left, discharge all its duties, and care for and protect all proletarian revolutionaries, all Red Guard revolutionary young fighters, and all the revolutionary masses.

Chairman Mao says: "Without a people's army, the people will have nothing." The PLA is the pillar of the proletarian dictatorship. It shoulders the glorious and formidable tasks of defending the country and the great proletarian cultural revolution.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army must be constantly on the alert against sudden attacks by imperialism, reactionaries of all countries, and modern revisionism. It must firmly stick to

its fighting posts, strengthen war preparedness, and insure the perfect condition of its equipment, so that as soon as an order comes it may take action immediately.

In their "Call Concerning Development of a Support-the-Army and Cherish-the-People Movement" issued on August 25, the CCP Central Committee, the State Council, the Central Military Commission, and the Central Cultural Revolution Group pointed out: "The PLA and the arms, equipment and material supplies of all descriptions in its possession are inviolable. No outsiders are allowed to enter and occupy PLA command organs." All proletarian revolutionaries, Red Guard revolutionary young fighters, revolutionary masses, and patriotic people must strictly observe this and carry it out effectively. This is in response to the call of "Support the Army and cherish the people" made by our great leader Chairman Mao. To care for the PLA and support it is the common task of all revolutionary masses and patriotic people. True proletarian revolutionary comrades in particular must set an example in this respect.

All revolutionary mass organizations must correctly understand extensive democracy under the condition of proletarian dictatorship as well as the "Four No" of the PLA. In the complex, acute class struggle it must constantly increase its class vigilance, prevent its being used by the class enemy, prevent any provocation and sowing of discord by class enemies inside and outside the country and their fishing in troubled waters, and strictly guard against any attempt to weaken or lower the PLA's fighting strength and prestige by US and Chiang, Soviet revisionism, Japanese spies, and landlords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries, and bad elements.

To resolutely implement the June 6 order and August 25 "Call Concerning Development of a Support-the-Army and Cherish-the-People Movement" by the CCP Central Committee, the State Council, the Central Military Commission, and the Central Cultural Revolution Group, it is here reiterated:

(1) All mass organizations and individuals, irrespective of their affiliations, are forbidden to seize under any pretext what-

ever the arms, ammunition, equipment, vehicles, materials and supplies of the PLA. They are forbidden to seize arms, ammunition, equipment, vehicles, materials and supplies from arsenals, military stores, and defense enterprises. They are forbidden to intercept arms, ammunition, equipment, materials and supplies being carried in trains, trucks, or ships and vessels. Outsiders are forbidden to occupy command organs of the PLA.

(2) In particular, in PLA academies and schools, cultural and sports units, and all units in which Four-Big is being developed, no organization or individual is allowed to seize arms, ammunition, equipment, vehicles, materials and supplies.

(3) Unless authorized by the Central Authority, all organs, armed services, institutes and schools, and other units of the PLA are absolutely forbidden to hand over to any organization or individual any arms, ammunition, equipment, vehicles, materials and supplies.

(4) Arms, ammunition, equipment, vehicles, materials and supplies of the PLA that have been seized must all be put under seal and stored, and a time-limit must be set for their return.

This order shall come into effect from the date of its proclamation. Anyone who violates this order from now on shall be dealt with as a case of violation of the State's law.

In carrying out the above order, local garrison forces must first patiently carry out political and ideological work, carefully reason [with offenders], and proceed to dissuade or stop [them from committing the offense]. When such dissuasion or prevention proves ineffective, shots should be fired in the air as a warning and they should be ordered to withdraw. When all dissuasion and prevention and warning are ineffective, such act of seizure may be declared a counter-revolutionary act, and action should be taken to arrest the few bad ring-leaders and trouble-making murderers so that they may be dealt with according to law. When such persons resist arrest or fight back, the PLA may act and hit back in self-defense.

Fighters on duty in coastal and frontier areas, off-shore

islands, and defense and security or important areas may hit back in self-defense if someone tries to seize their weapons from them.

This order shall be observed and carried out by all provincial (municipal) revolutionary committees, (or preparatory groups), military control committees at all levels, military district commands at all levels, and all revolutionary mass organizations.