

URGENT APPEAL

Canton, [?], Kuang-chou Hung-szu, 15 July 1967

[Full text of "A Most Urgent Appeal to the People of the Whole Country -- Wuhan is in Critical Danger!"]

To comrades-in-arms of proletarian revolutionary groups throughout the country:

To the vast masses of revolutionary worker, peasant and soldier comrades throughout the country:

Hupeh is in critical danger! Wuhan is in critical danger! The Hill of the Tortoise and the Hill of the Serpent are roaring, as are the Yangtze and the Han rivers! The tri-city of Wuhan is engulfed in white terror!

Since the past six months, a small handful of T'an-type characters headed by Ch'en Tsai-tao in the Wuhan Military District have conspired with a small handful of people in authority taking the capitalist road within the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees to suppress the staunch revolutionary rebels of revolutionary groups including "Wuhan Area Workers General Headquarters," the "13 September," "Second Headquarters of Wuhan Steel," and the third headquarters and joint revolutionary committee of "Hsin Hu Ta" [New Hupeh University], "Hsin Hua Kung" [New Central China College of Technology?] and "Hsin Hua Nung" [New Central China College of Agriculture?]. In order to strangle Chairman Mao's revolutionary line, carry out a counter-revolutionary seizure of power, and restore capitalism in an overall manner, they published a serious "18 February" statement. A series of big poisonous weeds such as "21 March Circular" were made later on. Thus black wind blew in February and March.

In June, in order to suppress the newly emerging workers movement, the old T'an-type characters in Wuhan again published a "4 June Public Notice."

From then on, the black wind of counter-revolutionary armed struggle started in May rapidly grew in intensity. Controlled and directed by these cunning characters, the conservative organization "Pai Wan Hsiung Shih" [a million heroic troops] stirred up armed struggles on a large scale. The black wind of counter-revolutionary armed struggle, the massacre of revolutionary rebels, was stirred up in the tri-city of Wuhan. In June, black wind blew and dark clouds hovered over the sky. Revolutionary rebels in Wuhan were pushed toward the bloody chasm of armed struggle by Ch'en Tsai-tao.

The "Pai Wan Hsiung Shih," fostered and controlled by Ch'en Tsai-tao and company, set up strongholds everywhere and carried out concentrated training. This group of bandits, wearing steel helmets or safety caps, holding iron spears and daggers and armed to the teeth, were on the attack day and night, using fire fighting engines, gasoline, "666" powder [an insecticide], and gas shells! In an organized and planned way they encircled and attacked revolutionary rebels from Hanyang to Hankow and now from Hankow to Wuchang, creating the "6 June" bloody incident, the "8 June" bloody incident, the "13 June" tragedy, the "15 June" tragedy, the "17 June" massacre, the "19 June" massacre.... Bloody incidents without parallel in history are occurring, and one heroic revolutionary rebel after another is being slaughtered! The blood of the revolutionary rebels soaks the great earth of Wuhan.

17 June was a bitter day. At 1 p.m. that day, old T'an-type characters in Wuhan despatched a large number of trucks laden with fully armed "bandits" to mount a direct attack against Chungnan Hostel in a vain attempt to destroy the People's Cultural Park, this red stronghold of revolutionary rebels, at one end of Chungshan Road in Hankow. Thus began an extremely wicked massacre. To come to the rescue of our members of the dare-to-die corps at the Finance and Trade Building, the "Workers General Headquarters," the "13 September" and other revolutionary groups sent out three truckloads of rescuers. When the first truck of 37 men rushed into the "bandits," the all-evil T'an-type characters of Wuhan used military trucks to intercept the trucks behind, with the result that the first truck was very much alone. A bandit jumped into the driver's chamber and raised his blood-stained axe to attack the driver... The truck was stopped; at that instant the bandits surrounded the truck and attacked the 37 heroes with blood-stained iron spears, steel forks, and axes. The first line of the heroes fell, followed by the second line... A stream of blood flowed to the ground from the truck. The 37 heroes fought with might abroad the truck. With the exception of three who escaped from the tiger's mouth, all the rest laid down their lives for the defense of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line... The massacre began at 1 p.m. and lasted till the early morning of the 18th. More than a hundred were killed by the "bandits" and numerous people received light injuries. Those who met with death included PLA soldiers who tried to rescue the injured, Red pioneers seven or eight years old, and innocent revolutionary masses.

Then in the evening of 17 June, the old T'an-type characters in Wuhan again incited several tens of thousands of peasants who were ignorant of the

truth to besiege the revolutionary rebels at a water conservancy construction site and stir up a large-scale armed struggle. More than 150 persons were beaten to death and more than 1,000 persons were injured. The result: all work at the X X water conservancy construction site was stopped during the flood season. The incident was extremely serious....

On 24 June, the same wicked elements mobilized the fully-armed bandits to raid and occupy the 4th Designing Institute of the Ministry of Railways where the rebels stayed. After that, they besieged more than 200 young revolutionary fighters of the Second Headquarters of Wuhan Steel at a branch of the Water Conservancy Engineering College. With the aid of search lights and fire fighting engines, these mobsters used water hoses, poisonous gas, smoke and fire and finally took over the building. As soon as they got into the building, a wilful massacre began. Fighters who refused to yield were forced to jump from the building, and countless revolutionary young fighters were either killed or injured. Many were unreasonably abducted by the "bandits," and their whereabouts are still unknown... On that day, too, the "bandits" washed the Workers Rebel General Headquarters with blood and killed or injured several hundred. Bodies and the injured persons were all taken away by the "bandits"... On the same day, the "bandits" encircled Wuhan Medical College with an attempt to take away the injured persons of our rebel group and damage the property of the hospital belonging to the rebels...

The situation is worsening. Bloody suppression yet on a bigger scale lies ahead...

Water of the Yangtze River flows on thunderously, while blood on both banks flows into the river. Wuhan area is aflame like a battlefield. This is the moment of a life-and-death battle between two classes, two roads and two lines! Can we watch fighters of revolutionary groups being brutally murdered one by one by the "bandits," the mercenary army of the old T'an-type characters of Wuhan? No, we absolutely cannot! Can we see large groups of injured members of the revolutionary groups perish because they cannot get hospital treatment and large groups of workers prevented from returning to their factories and their homes? No! A thousand no! Ten thousand no!

We are going to ask the old T'an-type characters of Wuhan for repayment of blood debts! We will defeat them! We will liberate the whole Central China!

Hupei is in critical danger! Wuhan is in critical danger!

The revolutionary rebels are appealing to you with their blood! Let us go into action now and keep a close watch on Wuhan. Let us make the greatest effort to assist Wuhan's revolutionary groups! Final victory will surely belong to us!

Overthrow Wuhan's T'an-type character -- Ch'en Tsai-tao!

Wuhan Workers General Headquarters is sure to win!

Wuhan's old T'an-type characters' mercenary army, "million bandits" is sure to lose!

Pledge to defend Chairman Mao with our blood and lives!

Long Live Chairman Mao's revolutionary line!

Long live the great Chinese Communist Party!

Long, long live our great leader Chairman Mao!

Joint Wuhan-bound Investigation Team  
sent by  
Revolutionary Rebel Corps of Force  
Chung-tzu 715 of the PLA;  
Red Flag Fighting Team of Peking Aero-  
nautical College of Congress of Capi-  
tal's Red Guards;  
Red Rebel Group of Harbin Military En-  
gineering College;  
Rebel-to-the-end Corps of Chiaotung  
University of Shanghai;  
Cultural Revolution Preparatory Committee  
of Sian Military Telegraph Engineering  
College;  
13 August Red Guards of Tientsin Uni-  
versity;  
Red Rebel Headquarters No. 2 of Sinkiang  
(Uighur Autonomous Region);  
and other revolutionary rebel organiza-  
tion, totalling a hundred.