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SOURCE Kung-shang Jih-pao.

WAR THREATS BRING FEAR, DRAFT DODGING,
 AND SUPPRESSION IN KWANGTUNG

The pro-KMT Hong Kong Kung-shang Jih-pao carried a series of reports during December and early January revealing an increasing fear among the people and the strict countermeasures of the government in Kwangtung Province.

On 6 December, the Kung-shang Jih-pao reported that because of the KMT gunboats plying Kwangtung coastal waters, KMT planes over Canton, and the accompanying air-raid siren warnings, the Canton population has become frightened. Many women and children have fled to the country. Communist authorities, fearing wholesale exodus to Hong Kong and Macao, have clamped down on civilian movement. Those desiring to leave the city must get permits from the police. Steamship lines are watched, permits examined, and boats searched to prevent the escape of possible conscripts through collusion with crews. Peddlers' boats are forbidden to come alongside of steamers. Former employees of the KMT government who transferred to the new regime through necessity, are being transferred to other offices, for fear of collusion during air raids. The authorities are taking extraordinary precautions against air raids. Recently, there were three alarms in one day in Canton, two of them false, and the third not accompanied by any damage; but the residents were terrified, and pleaded with the officials for more protection.

On 26 December, the Kung-shang Jih-pao reported that the Communists were fortifying the Kwangtung coast and had secretly ordered the enrollment of 150,000 students and young workers as "volunteers." A self-defense militia is being organized, trained, and armed. There are severe penalties for those who allow weapons to fall into the hand of the guerrillas.

On the same day, the paper reported that the oppressed people are praying for a Nationalists counterattack, and that regular troops of the Fourth Field Army with tanks, and a regiment of the Third Field Army, have been sent to the coastal areas around Swatow to resist possible invasion.

Previously, on 21 December, the Kung-shang Jih-pao reported, with reference to those 150,000 "volunteers," that because many able-bodied men were escaping to Hong Kong and Macao, the officials in the Tung Chiang area had formed a Population-Movement Investigation Squad. Identification cards are being issued in certain cities and areas. Special cards colored black, are issued to those who

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were civil servants under the Nationalists. Such persons are especially suspect. There are two other colored identification cards: Red for Communist party workers; yellow, for peasants, workers, etc.

These measures have caused fear among the people. In Tung-kung, the rich are reported hiring substitutes "to volunteer" for them, according to the 26 December issue of the Kung-shang Jih-pao. The same report said that the poor are taking to the hills or joining the guerrillas.

When these "draft dodgers" cannot be captured, their families are held as hostages, revealed the Kung-shang Jih-pao in its issues of 26 December and 7 January.

The 7 January issue also noted that many KMT agents are being arrested. For example 23 women passengers were arrested on 6 January on a train arriving at Shen-chuan. A search by police yielded men's clothing, 300 Hong Kong dollars, and 700,000 yuan. "Communist sources say that in these times of stress, KMT secret agents use women as spies and messengers to being supplies to the draft dodgers," the paper said.

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