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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH CHINA, AS REPORTED
 IN CHINESE COMMUNIST PRESS, 1 JUNE - 28 SEPTEMBER 1951

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

In reviewing the available copies of the Canton Nan-fang Jih-pao from 1 June through 28 September 1951, and certain issues of other Chinese Communist newspapers of the same period, it is evident that the Chinese Communists are emphasizing the defense of South China apparently in fear of coastal invasion in this area. Militia groups have been organized to support the armed forces in their efforts to suppress undercover activities, while cadres have been trained to assist various military activities. Programs for the suppression of subversive elements and counterrevolutionaries have been intensified. The troops in this area have participated not only in military but also in civilian activities, such as harvesting, flood-control, land-reform, land-reclamation program.

Possible friction between the People's Liberation Army and civilian elements in South China are indicated by such items as the questionnaire distributed by the Canton People's Government to the district governments asking whether there are any differences between the armed forces, local government, and residents, and whether the masses "have cultivated love for the PLA." That the morale of the Chinese Communist soldiers may be low is suggested by the fact that activities have been organized to maintain "high spirits among the men."

Promotion of Defense Efforts

In the propaganda material furnished to the propaganda activities personnel attending the Second Kwangtung All-Circles People's Delegates Conference, the importance of national defense was emphasized particularly for Kwangtung since it, facing the ocean, is considered to be the first line of national defense. The propaganda line urged the people of the province to support the strengthening of South China defense. (1) Speakers at this conference including Yeh Chien-ying, Fang Fang, and Hsiao Hsiang-jung, all stressed the importance of intensifying the national, coastal, and border defense efforts. (2)

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The 10-months' activities report of the Kwangtung People's Government given by Ku Ta-ts'un, deputy chairman of the provincial government, exhorted the people of the province to strengthen the defense of its borders and make preparations to foil any attempts to attack the Kwangtung coastal area.(3)

Emphasizing the importance of defense to the minority race delegates attending the conference, Kwangtung Chairman Yeh Chien-ying told them that he hoped that the minority races, fishermen and peasants would unite to protect Hainan and to strengthen its defense against any enemy attacks.(4)

Kwangtung with its 3,700 kilometers of coastline and 729 islets populated by 700,000 fishermen and salt laborers, has been vulnerable to KMT attacks. After the First Kwangtung All-Circles People's Delegates Conference, steps were taken to reinforce the coastal defense. This led to the formation of the Border Defense Bureau, Island Administration Bureau, and the various island control agencies located in the coastal area. Fishermen and laborers banded together to clear out all counter-revolutionaries and reactionary elements in their immediate areas.(3) It is reported that in answer to the general call to strengthen national defense, farmers throughout Kwangtung enthusiastically signed up for military service.(5)

To prepare Canton citizens for eventual enemy air attacks, the Canton People's Air Defense Committee held a city-wide air-raid drill at 0930 on 28 September 1951. The notification was published in the newspapers, and all citizens including the personnel of all government agencies and business concerns were warned to follow the air raid caution instructions as if an actual air attack on the city were in progress.(6)

Militias and Cadres

A movement to organize militia groups among the peasants in South China was begun to aid the armed forces in suppressing bandits and special agents and in protecting agricultural production activities and personal property. Peasants, such as those residing in Hsiao-yung of the Fourth Circle in Chung-shan Hsien on the Kwangtung coast, have banded together to reorganize the militia to further guarantee its continued progress.(4) In Tung-kuan, Kwangtung, the militia, consisting of 13 men, guarded the granary each night.(5) Recently, Ku Ta-ts'un reported that the Kwangtung militia was expanded to include some 300,000 men, which is a 66 2/3 percent increase over the 1950 strength.(3)

In July 1951, the Central and South China Regional District successfully concluded a program recruiting students to study in military cadre schools. This resulted in the registration of some 24,000 students from various institutions of higher learning and secondary schools, disclosed a Hankow dispatch of 11 July 1951. One of the purposes in recruiting students for military cadre schools is to strengthen national defense and to secure world peace.(7) In Kwangsi, over 2,800 registered (7) and in Kwangtung, 22,000.(8) To arouse the political consciousness of the youths, schools had classes on current events during the first 6 months of 1951. This inspired the young people to join the military cadre schools.(7) A Hankow dispatch of 16 July 1951 reported that some 110,000 students in the Central and South China region signed up to enroll in cadre institutions for the purpose of preparing themselves to participate in activities of various types.

Suppression of Subversive Elements and Counterrevolutionaries

Because of its long coastline, with Hong Kong and Macao adjoining, Kwangtung is most vulnerable to infiltration by anti-Communist elements who wish to enter the mainland for the purpose of training people for and directing subversive activities. Ku Ta-ts'un reported that during the 10 months prior to September 1951, 239 citizens lost their lives as a result of subversive activities and 5,467 suffered injury or were poisoned. The People's Liberation

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Army and various local armed forces in the area joined together and successfully annihilated 52,520 bandits and captured a large quantity of equipment during this period.(3) The South China Military District Command headquarters reports that during the first 6 months of 1951, some 261,686 bandits were annihilated in the South China area. Among these, 18,956 were annihilated in Kwangtung, and 242,730 in Kwangsi.(9) It is also reported that during the past 2 years, 1,060,000 bandits were annihilated in the Central and South China Regional District.(10)

Speaking before the delegates attending the Second Kwangtung All-Circles People's Delegates Conference, Hsiao Hsiang-jung reported that in Kwangtung the guerrilla-suppression program was basically completed and that activities for the defense of the South China border and coastline were greatly increased.(11) To the delegates of the minority groups attending the same conference, Yeh Chien-ying urged the Yao tribe of the Pei Chiang area to assist the government in suppressing local bandits and maintaining security.(4)

In conjunction with the South China coastal and border defense program, a great deal of emphasis has been placed in the suppression of counterrevolutionaries during the past few months. At a recent conference, Fang Fang, deputy chairman of the Kwangtung Province, suggested that a study should be made as to whether or not the program to suppress counterrevolutionaries has been successfully carried out.(2)

Since the First Kwangtung All-Circles People's Delegates Conference, 1,571 counterrevolutionary cases have been handled involving 89,701 prisoners. Delegates of the peasants discussed methods to suppress corrupt elements among the people, and forces comprised of peasants were organized to suppress 23,317 corrupt individuals, bandits, and special agents.(3) On 1 September 1951, at a mass meeting in the Chung-shan Memorial Auditorium in Canton, the military court of the Canton Military Control Committee convicted 704 counterrevolutionaries of whom 41 were given the death penalty.(12) Between 25 July and 25 August 1951, the public security branch bureau of the small town of Sha-ho, Kwangtung, received 378 cases involving 493 counterrevolutionaries.(13)

Although the strictest steps have been taken to suppress counterrevolutionaries, anti-Communist activities have continued to be reported. For example on 23 July 1951, an explosion destroyed an explosives storage depot on the Lai-Chen section of the Heng-yang Railway. According to press reports, the depot was sabotaged by US-Chiang agents. This explosion, the largest in Kwangsi history, caused damages amounting to 800 million yuan and affected 2,199 Nan-ning citizens and 867 homes.(14)

To maintain national peace and order and to keep strict control over the entry and departure of counterrevolutionaries bent upon sabotage, on 2 August 1951, the Ministry of Public Security of the Central People's Government issued measures restricting travel between the Chinese mainland and Macao and Hong Kong. Such travelers, with permits issued by public security organs, are required to go through certain designated points and those who fail to comply with these regulations will be punished according to law [see Appendix I for full text/.

To exercise effective control over the frontiers of China and to facilitate the entry and departure of overseas Chinese, the Ministry of Public Security also formulated provisional regulations governing the entry and departure of this group of individuals [see Appendix II for full text/.(15) The registration of members of reactionary parties and groups, secret service organizations, and other counterrevolutionaries in Central and South China is required by a regulation issued on 11 August 1951 by the Central and South China Military and Administrative Committee and signed by Lin Piao.(16)

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Relations With People's Liberation Army

Publicity was given to a questionnaire relating to the armed forces distributed jointly on 25 July 1951 by the Canton People's Government and the Canton Committee of the Chinese Communist Party to various ch'u governments. This inquiry included such questions as: Has the problem of housing for soldiers stationed in your area been solved? Were there any differences arising among the armed forces, local governments, and their residents? If so, how were solutions arrived at? Have soldiers abided by regulations? Have the masses cultivated love for the People's Liberation Army?(17)

Although the majority of the newspapers articles indicate that relationships between the personnel of the armed forces and civilians are harmonious, letters to the editor from readers of the Canton Nan-fang Jip-pao reveal that friction and misunderstandings do exist between the two groups. After a complaint made by a reader on the conscription of private vehicles at Jen-shan, Hui-yang, Kwangtung by an engineer company of a certain CCF division stationed in that area, the local political commissar replied that following an investigation the company commander of the unit involved was reprimanded for the unwarranted steps taken and that full restitution was made to the owner of the vehicles.(29) In another letter, a reader disclosed that civilians were injured on 6 and 9 August 1951 in the streets of Nan-hsiung during ta get practice by soldiers stationed in the area. The local political commissar admitted, with apologies, the incidents.(30)

Troops stationed in Hainan received letters from their families in Heilung-chiang urging them to put forth greater efforts for the glory of the nation. Such letters were designed to help keep up the morale of the soldiers far from home.(19) Kwangtung units of the Fourth Field Army organized cultural and recreational activities and also engaged drama, dance, and musical groups to entertain the servicemen. Between April and September 1951, a total of 7,452 special programs were put on. From January to June 1951, 189 showings of movies were made to approximately 400,000 men.(20) Hankow reported that the Central and South China Military District formally opened the Army Workers Hospital on Armed Forces Day in 1951.(18)

A Hankow dispatch of 25 July 1951 reported that units of the Fourth Field Army stationed in the Central and South China Military District were preparing to celebrate the twenty-fourth anniversary of the formation of the PIA and that publications of various armed units were printing special 1 August issues.(17) On the eve of 3 September, V-J Day, leaders of the Fourth Field Army stationed in this area made statements in honor of the occasion.(2)

Chinese Communist forces stationed in Kwangtung have shown great interest in the people among whom they have taken up residence. For the relief of the flood-stricken citizens, PIA soldiers stationed in the Ch'ao-shan, Pei-chiang, Tung-chiang, and Kao-lei areas were able to donate a large quantity of rice by cutting down on their own consumption of the grain.(21) On 30 July 1951, information was received that a typhoon was sweeping from the sea toward the Ching-hai area in Hi-lai. Hearing about this, the military and administrative cadres stationed in the immediate area quickly joined local citizens in organizing units to harvest the crops before the onslaught of the typhoon.(22) A PIA unit stationed in the Tung Chiang area cooperated with the local land-reform activities which resulted in the successful fulfillment of the program for the area.(23) With the assistance of PIA soldiers in the Chu Chiang Military Subdistrict, a large area of waste land was reclaimed and made productive.(24)

To show their appreciation to the men of the armed force, Canton citizens celebrated the Fifth Day of the Fifth Month (26) and the mid-autumn festivals by presenting gifts to the soldiers stationed in and around the city.(27) Like many others, citizens residing in the Kao-lei district highly praised PIA troops engaging in national defense and suppressing the enemies.(28)

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On 15 September 1951, the Kwangtung Second All-Circles People's Delegates Conference sent the following wire of thanks to PLA units in South China:

"We express thanks for your bringing about peace and order in South China during the past year. ... Because of your untold hardship, your spirit of patriotism, the coastal and border defense in South China is being consolidated daily, the remnants of local bandits are being cleared up, and serious blows are being inflicted on bandit special agents who have infiltrated South China. Your brave efforts have given us reassurance in supporting the Resist America, Aid Korea Movement, the suppression of counterrevolutionaries, the land-reform program, and have guaranteed our continued advance in reconstruction work and establishing the people's democratic dictatorship.

"In addition, you have aided us in agricultural production, in carrying out austerity and relief measures in calamity-stricken areas, and in fixing dikes in flooded areas. In the province-wide land-reform movement, you have given us your experienced and able cadres to participate in various struggles and thus won over our complete support. All this will not be forgotten by the people in Kwangtung.

"We are very much aware of your present endeavor in strengthening coastal and border defenses in South China. We know that this is being done to safeguard us. ... We, in turn, will strive for the completion of the land-reform movement in rural areas, democratic reform in towns and cities, increase in production, completion of patriotic pledges, and carrying out the Resist America, Aid Korea Movement in coordination with you and in support of you. We are of a firm conviction that by our united efforts, we can wipe out the Chiang bandits and imperialists who are sabotaging our sacred land."(25)

APPENDIX I. REGULATIONS CONTROLLING INFILTRATION
OF COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES FROM MACAO AND HONG KONG

The following regulations were issued by the Ministry of Public Security of the Central People's Government on 2 August 1951:

1. Travelers to and from Hong Kong and Macao should go through certain localities, publicly designated by local governments above the provincial level. They may not go through any other locality.
2. Travelers to and from Hong Kong and Macao should obtain traveling permits in advance from the public security organs either of their present place of residence or their place of destination, in accordance with the following stipulations:
 - a. Travelers to and from Hong Kong and Macao should present their census record (or appropriate identification documents from the ch'u or hsien government, in the case of the rural population) together with appropriate identification documents relating to their profession, to the public security bureau or subbureau of the hsien or municipal people's government of his place of residence, when applying for the necessary permit.
 - b. Travelers coming to the mainland from Hong Kong and Macao should apply in advance for permit from the public security bureau or subbureau of the hsien or municipal people's government of the traveler's native place or his place of destination.

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3. Overseas Chinese returning or going abroad via Hong Kong or Macao are subject to control by the Provisional Regulations Governing the Entry and Exit of Overseas Chinese as promulgated by the Ministry of Public Security of the Central People's Government, Republic of China.

4. Foreign nationals coming into or leaving the country via Hong Kong and Macao are subject to control by the Regulations Governing Foreign Nationals.

5. Travelers to and from Hong Kong and Macao, when going through the designated localities, should have their personal luggage and the above-mentioned documents of identification examined by the examining agencies of the frontier security and public security organs of the local people's government without fail, in accordance with the Government Administration Council's Provisional Principles on the Examination of Travelers' Luggage.

6. Persons discovered coming in and/or going out in a clandestine manner without the necessary permit, shall be punished according to law.

7. All existing local measures in contravention to the above stipulations are to be annulled immediately.

The above measures shall become effective on 1 September 1951 and shall be strictly observed by all concerned. (15)

APPENDIX II. PROVISIONAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING
ENTRY AND EXIT OF OVERSEAS CHINESE

The following regulation were promulgated by the Ministry of Public Security of the Central People's Government on 2 August 1951. These measures were formulated to exercise effective control over our national frontiers and to facilitate the entry and exit of overseas Chinese, as follows:

1. Overseas Chinese entering or leaving this country provided with passport, traveling certificate, or other documents issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, or various foreign affairs agencies in China, or Chinese diplomatic missions abroad, shall be allowed to enter or leave the country.

2. Overseas Chinese returning to China from countries which have not yet established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, who have not been provided with the above-mentioned passports, etc., should, on entering China, apply to the frontier security and public security examining agency of the local people's government concerned for a Returned Overseas Chinese Certificate to identify him as an overseas Chinese and to enable the people's government to accord him the proper care.

3. Overseas Chinese leaving the country, when the country of destination has not yet established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, should submit documents of identification issued by the ch'u and hsiang government or overseas Chinese agencies of the people's government, to the hsien or municipal public security agency of his native place or his place of residence, to apply for an exit permit to leave the country via a designated place.

4. When such overseas Chinese enter or leave the country, the above-mentioned passport, etc., personal luggage, and other articles, shall be subject to examination by the frontier security and public security examination agency of the local people's government concerned without fail, in accordance with the Government Administration Council's Provisional Principles Governing the Examination of Travelers' Luggage.

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5. Overseas Chinese entering or leaving the country with passports, etc., the effective date of which has elapsed, shall be required by the frontier security and public security examination agency again to go through the official process of application, before being permitted to enter or leave.

6. As ratified by the Government Administration Council, these measures shall be promulgated and implemented by the Ministry of Public Security. As from the date of implementation, existing local measures which are in contradiction to the above stipulations shall be forthwith annulled. (15)

SOURCES

1. Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao, 31 Aug 51
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3. Ibid., 18 Sep 51
4. Ibid., 11 Sep 51
5. Ibid., 20 Aug 51
6. Ibid., 9 Sep 51
7. Hankow, Chang-chiang Jih-pao, 13 Jul 51
8. Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao, 24 Jul 51
9. Ibid., 12 Sep 51
10. Ibid., 25 Jul
11. Ibid., 4 Sep 51
12. Ibid., 2 Sep 51
13. Ibid., 30 Aug 51
14. Ibid., 17 Sep 51
15. Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 3 Aug 51
16. Hankow, Chang-chiang Jih-pao, 13 Aug 51
17. Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao, 28 Sep 51
18. Ibid., 26 Jul 51
19. Ibid., 17 Aug 51
20. Ibid., 10 Aug 51
21. Ibid., 21 Jun 51
22. Ibid., 14 Aug 51
23. Ibid., 4 Aug 51
24. Ibid., 5 Aug 51
25. Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 17 Sep 51
26. Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao, 10 Jun 51
27. Ibid., 16 Sep 51
28. Ibid., 28 Jul 51
29. Ibid., 4 Jun 51
30. Ibid., 8 Sep 51

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