

TWENTY-YEAR-LONG
ANTI-JAPANESE
REVOLUTION UNDER
THE RED SUNRAYS

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CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----|
| I. FIRST SALVO OF GREAT ANTI-JAPANESE WAR BOOMS | 1 |
| 1. December Mingyuegou Meeting | 1 |
| 2. Founding of Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army | 11 |
| (1) Oppose Armed Force with Armed Force! | 11 |
| (2) Birth of Independent Revolutionary Armed Force | 28 |
| (3) Leading the First Contingent of the AJPGA | 48 |
| 3. The Establishment of Guerrilla Zones | 65 |
| (1) The Stronghold of Revolution | 65 |
| (2) The Wangjaesan Meeting | 72 |
| II. THE TUMAN RIVER GUERRILLA ZONE—THE STRATEGIC CENTRE FOR THE KOREAN REVOLUTION | 87 |
| 1. A New Society in the Tuman River Area | 87 |
| (1) The Establishment of a Real People's Government | 87 |
| (2) Guidance to the Work of Party, YCLK and Other Mass Organizations | 100 |
| (3) For the Building Up of Reserve Forces for the Revolution | 115 |
| (4) Conversion of Guerrilla Zones into Impregnable Fortresses | 124 |
| 2. Holding Aloft the Banner of Anti-Japanese Allied Front | 146 |
| (1) Luozigou Negotiations | 146 |
| (2) For the Consolidation of the Anti-Japanese Allied Front | 161 |
| (3) Attack on Dongning County Seat | 170 |

| | |
|--|---------|
| 3. The Initiative Firm in Hand | 183 |
| (1) Battle in Defence of Xiaowangqing | 183 |
| (2) The Frustration of the "Siege-and-Attack" Operations | 199 |
| (3) Constant Care for the People in Guerrilla Zones | 211 |
| 4. Ordeals Tided Over | 223 |
| (1) In Snow-covered North Manchuria | 223 |
| (2) In Order to Deliver the Korean Revolution from Crisis | 232 |
| III. SPREADING THE FLAMES OF ARMED STRUGGLE OVER VAST AREAS | 245 |
| 1. Relinquishing of Guerrilla Zones | 245 |
| 2. The Second March into North Manchuria | 256 |
| (1) Prior to the March | 256 |
| (2) Crossing the Laoye Range | 266 |
| (3) At the New Area of Activities | 276 |

I. FIRST SALVO OF GREAT ANTI-JAPANESE WAR BOOMS

1. DECEMBER MINGYUEGOU MEETING

The revolutionary storm was approaching the colonial East.

On September 18, 1931 the Japanese imperialists perpetrated the brigandish “Manchurian Incident”, and thus finally embarked upon the road of realizing their long-cherished ambition of conquering the Asian Continent.

Their invasion of Manchuria rapidly changed the revolutionary situation.

Contradictions became extremely acute between revolution and counterrevolution on the continent, and hundreds of millions of oppressed people stood at the crossroads of life and death.

Resisting Japanese imperialism became a vital question for not only the Korean people but also the Chinese people, and a decisive struggle against the imperialist aggressors posed itself as an urgent task for all the oppressed peoples in Asia.

At that time, when the whole of Manchuria was caught up in the flames of the aggressive war ignited by Japanese imperialism, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung was busy with his activities in the areas around Mingyuegou, Yanji County, where we (Kim Il, Pak Sung Chul and Rim Chun Chu) were active.

With his keen insight he grasped the situation created by the “Manchurian Incident”. He decided that it was the proper time to start an armed struggle, and called a meeting of Party and Young Communist League of Korea (YCLK) cadres at Mingyuegou on December 16, 1931.

Summoned by the respected leader, over 40 Party and

YCLK cadres, including Li Gwang, O Jung Hwa, O Jung Song, Pak Hun, Ku Bong Un, Kim Chol, Kim Jung Gwon, Kim Il Hwan, Kim Il Ryong, Kim Jong Ryong and O Bin, came from Jilin, Antu, Wangqing, Yanji, Helong, Hunchun, Dunhua, etc.

The meeting was held at a lonely farmhouse in a valley near Mingyuegou, and lasted for over 10 days.

The core members of the Red Guards and Children's Vanguard selected by the local Party and YCLK organizations kept a watch over the mouth of the valley up to the hilltop.

At the meeting the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung made a historic speech *On Organizing and Waging Armed Struggle against Japanese Imperialism*.

To begin with, he clearly analysed the internal and external situation and the historical lessons of our people's anti-Japanese national-liberation movement. Declaring that the anti-Japanese armed struggle should be organized and waged, he said:

"The present tense revolutionary situation, which has been brought about by the Japanese imperialist occupation of Manchuria, urgently demands that we take up arms.

"Now is the best time to undertake an anti-Japanese war on a mass scale by waging an armed struggle."

The obtaining situation was indeed favourable for such an undertaking.

Simultaneously with launching aggression on the continent, the Japanese imperialists intensified their all-round repression against the Korean people in order to "secure the rear".

Our people's resistance to their barbarous suppression and harsh plunder was intensified further day by day and developed gradually into a violent struggle.

In the general strike of the dock-workers in Wonsan, strikes of the workers at the Sinhung Coal Mine and Pyongyang Rubber Factory, the peasants' struggle in Tanchon and on the Fuji Farm of Ryongchon, the Kwangju Student Incident and various other struggles, the workers, peasants and students violently resisted the Japanese imperialist aggressors.

In step with the struggles of the people in the homeland, Korean peasants' struggle rapidly gained momentum in east Manchuria, too.

The large-scale well-organized autumn harvest struggle waged under the guidance of the great leader, involving more than 100,000 peasants, developed into a violent struggle, dealing a heavy blow to Japanese imperialism and reactionary landlords.

This situation urgently demanded that the mounting violent struggle of the masses be organized and developed into an armed struggle.

The Japanese occupation of Manchuria also drove the corrupt and incompetent reactionary rulers of China into hopeless confusion and brought unbearable sufferings to the Chinese people.

The Kuomintang regime of China and the reactionary warlords of northeast China, overawed by the Japanese imperialists' invasion, continuously insisted on "absolute non-resistance" and took the road of capitulationism even though a vast territory was occupied by the enemy and the whole of Manchuria was being enveloped in the conflagration.

The people of China, however, did not remain indifferent to the barbarities of the Japanese imperialists. Their anti-Japanese sentiments mounted rapidly, and a large number of patriotic men of the Chinese Northeastern Army embarked upon the anti-Japanese war of resistance.

Consequently, while the Kuomintang administration was rapidly collapsing in Manchuria, Japanese imperialist rule was not established there yet, and this led to a state of anarchy. Meanwhile the Chinese people rose up in the massive anti-Japanese national-liberation movement. This created favourable international circumstances to start an anti-Japanese revolutionary war.

On the basis of a scientific analysis of the obtaining situation, the great leader set forth a strategic line on mobilizing the whole Korean nation for an anti-Japanese armed struggle. He said:

"The time has come when everyone should come out, weapons in hand, in the dedicated struggle to restore their country. Let us fully mobilize all the patriotic forces opposed to Japanese imperialism irrespective of wealth or poverty, partisanship and religion, whether nobles or commoners."

This was a wise course to bring nearer the country's liberation by organizing and mobilizing the whole nation for the anti-Japanese revolutionary war on the basis of the successes already achieved in the struggle to carry out the line of anti-Japanese armed struggle.

Then, the great leader advanced a strategic line on waging the armed

struggle with guerrilla warfare as its main form:

“Guerrilla warfare is a method of armed struggle which will enable us to deal heavy political and military blows to the enemy while preserving our own forces, and to defeat the numerically or technically superior enemy even with small forces. Only when we organize and launch armed struggle using guerrilla warfare, while relying on the active support and encouragement of the masses of the people and the favourable conditions of nature and terrain, are we fully capable of defeating the piratical Japanese imperialist aggressive forces.”

This strategic line was not only most scientific and superb, but also accorded with the specific features and requirements of the national-liberation war to defeat the stronger enemy and achieve the country's liberation and independence with our own efforts even without forming a national army or getting support from outside under the imperialist occupation.

In his speech the great leader explained concrete ways and means and the immediate tasks of the armed struggle.

He said that for organizing and waging the armed struggle, first of all, it was necessary to set up one's own revolutionary armed forces capable of defeating the enemy's counterrevolutionary forces, and taught that the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army (AJPGA) should be founded.

He added:

“It must become a genuine people's army, made up of the fine sons and daughters of workers and peasants; it must become a genuine revolutionary army equipped with Marxist-Leninist ideas, and fighting for the country's liberation, the people's freedom and happiness. The guerrilla army must become a political army which not only fights for the people's interests but educates, organizes and mobilizes them in the revolutionary struggle; and it must become a working-class army which is true not only to the Korean revolution but to the world revolution.”

Thus, the great leader described the character and mission of the AJPGA, and then explained in detail the principles of building it and the ways and means for obtaining arms.

He stressed that the guerrilla army should be formed with advanced workers, peasants and patriotic youth trained and tested in the practical revolutionary struggle, with fine young communists tempered and tested

in the severe trials of the underground revolutionary struggle as its core, and that it should fight to constantly strengthen its ranks in close relation with the revolutionary advance of the masses.

And he taught that in order to properly discharge its mission, the leadership of communists over it should be firmly ensured, and its ranks be consolidated politically and militarily.

The great leader went on to say that the AJPGA should obtain arms by its own efforts, and taught that the only way to obtain arms was to capture them from the enemy, while, at the same time, striving to manufacture weapons by its own efforts.

Next, he presented a line of establishing a guerrilla base:

“A solid guerrilla base will make it possible to continually expand the armed ranks and wage protracted guerrilla warfare even when besieged by the formidable enemy. It will also make it possible for us to protect the revolutionary masses from the cold-blooded murder and barbarity of the enemy. In particular, as we fight the armed struggle with no state backing and no aid from outside, we badly need our own firm military base, a rear base. Furthermore, this base is absolutely necessary in order to progress with preparations for the founding of the Communist Party and the revolutionary movement as a whole, while waging armed struggle.”

The great leader said that the guerrilla base might take different forms according to the prevailing subjective and objective situation, the environment and conditions of the struggle and the degree of preparedness of the armed forces, and made clear the forms and tasks of the guerrilla base, the conditions to be provided for it in the form of liberated zone and the stages of building the base.

He also made an analysis of the composition of the people living in the areas along the Tuman River, the level of their national and class awakening and the topographical features and the advantage of the geographical situation, and taught that the guerrilla zone—the guerrilla base in the form of a liberated zone—should be set up in mountain regions and revolutionized rural areas along the Tuman River.

In his speech, the great leader also taught that in order to organize and wage armed struggle, there must be a mass basis on which the guerrilla army could rely in its activities, and said that the positive participation and support and encouragement of the masses were a basic condition for

constantly expanding and strengthening the guerrilla army and guaranteeing the victory of the guerrilla warfare.

Continuing, he stressed that through energetic organizational and political work among the masses, their rising revolutionary spirit and anti-Japanese sentiments should be brought into full play so as to form an anti-Japanese united front embracing the whole nation and lay the mass basis for the armed struggle.

And then the great leader taught that a broad anti-Japanese united front of the Korean and Chinese peoples should be formed for the success of the armed struggle against Japanese imperialism.

Saying that the Japanese occupation of Manchuria roused the indignation of the Chinese people, he emphasized that only by forming a united front with broad anti-Japanese forces of the Chinese people was it possible to combine the efforts of the Korean and Chinese peoples to the utmost and deal stronger political and military blows at the aggressors.

The great leader noted that the pressing task in forming this united front of the Korean and Chinese peoples was to organize a joint front with men of the Chinese Northeastern Army who have risen up under the banner of anti-Japanese national liberation. And he taught in detail about its significance, the difficulties arising in forming the joint front and the principles we should hold fast to in forming it.

Besides, he set forth the task of organizing detached units in the regions of Wangqing and Antu where the Chinese nationalist anti-Japanese units had gathered, as an organizational measure for actively winning them over.

In conclusion, he put forward the task of stepping up the organizational work of the Party and YCLK for the successful implementation of the above-mentioned important tasks.

He said that basic Party organizations should be set up in all districts, and the work of the YCLK organizations strengthened, and taught in detail about the principled questions arising in it.

The respected leader Comrade Kim Il Sung said:

“Only when the vanguard role of party organizations is enhanced and the work of the YCL further strengthened, can we successfully carry out all the tasks that will arise in organizing and waging the armed struggle and

make sound organizational and ideological preparations for founding a unified Marxist-Leninist party.”

He taught that the Party organizational life should be intensified to prepare the leading core forces of the guerrilla army and the organizational backbone of the Korean Communist Party to be founded in the future, and that those workers, peasants and progressive intellectuals trained in the mass struggle should be absorbed in the basic Party organizations and given intensified Party training so as to bring them up into communist nuclei.

Touching upon the strengthening of the work of the YCLK, the great leader taught that the characteristics of young workers and peasants and other sections of youth should be studied and the organizational and political work intensified in such a way as to suit them, and that many leading core elements should be trained from among the advanced elements of young workers and peasants in all areas.

Stressing that whether or not we defeat the Japanese imperialists and realize the cause of the country's liberation by organizing and waging the armed struggle depended entirely upon how we would discharge our revolutionary tasks, he concluded his speech, saying:

“We are the revolutionaries who are determined to devote our very lives to the country's restoration and to the victory of the cause of socialism and communism.

“Whatever ordeals and difficulties stand in our way, we will fulfil the duty of the communists as revolutionaries by finally accomplishing our revolutionary tasks.

“Let us all pool our strength and come out in the armed struggle to destroy Japanese imperialism.

“Victory will surely be ours and the country's liberation achieved without fail.”

As the great leader finished his speech, there was uninterrupted enthusiastic applause.

His speech calling upon the entire people to join the armed struggle moved those attending the meeting to great emotion and excitement.

In those days everybody, shocked by the “Manchurian Incident”, followed the development of the situation with deep interest: Some were enraged at the non-resistance of the Chinese reactionary regime; some

worried what the situation of our people and the future of our struggle would be like when the Japanese imperialists stretched out their tentacles even to Manchuria. However, nobody could analyze and assess the rapidly changing situation so wisely.

The day of the massive anti-Japanese war—how eagerly they longed for!

Now the time for decisive struggle was near at hand when the armed enemy would be resisted with arms.

Those present at the meeting unanimously expressed their full support to the strategic lines of anti-Japanese armed struggle and the ways and means for their implementation clarified by the great leader, and resolved to thoroughly carry them out.

At the end of the meeting, everybody stood up and, shoulder to shoulder, sang with vigour the “Song of Revolution” and the “Internationale”.

*We are fire flaming all over,
We are the hammer breaking chains.
The red banner is the symbol of hope.
Struggle is the only slogan we shout.*

...

*Take up arms, the oppressed.
Throw off the yoke, slaves.
Our future is full of hope.
Let's march forward.*

*The villains sucking our blood
Get their voice hoarse from greed.
Our ranks grow a hundred times
In the fierce last battle we fight.*

Indeed, their spirit was high enough to cross over mountains and oceans at a breath and gallant enough to destroy the stronghold of imperialism at a stroke.

They saw before their eyes the day when they would march into the

homeland flying the red flag—the glorious day of the national liberation.

Those attending the meeting shook hands firmly with each other, pledging to participate vigorously and proudly in the glorious fighting ranks of the anti-Japanese revolutionary war led by the great leader, and left for their respective posts.

Those members of the Party and the YCLK who were later informed of the discussions of the meeting through the organizations, felt their strength growing and clenched their fists firmly.

In the organizations of the Party and the YCLK respectively, we studied hard and understood, word by word, the strategic lines of the anti-Japanese armed struggle advanced by the great leader.

We seemed to clearly see the grand and detailed operation map showing the whole course of the anti-Japanese revolutionary war from its start to its final victory.

The great leader's speech at the December Mingyuegou Meeting gave perfect answers to all questions arising in waging the anti-Japanese armed struggle—the national-liberation war in a colony—the character of the anti-Japanese revolutionary war and its main combat forms, the principles of building revolutionary armed forces and the establishment of guerrilla base, the building of mass foundation for armed struggle and the formation of anti-Japanese joint front.

Bearing in mind each of the lines, we warmly recalled the great energy and effort the great leader devoted for the elaboration, formulation and completion of all those strategic and tactical lines.

After the Kalun Meeting, the great leader had formed the Korean Revolutionary Army and pushed ahead vigorously with the preparation for the armed struggle.

Thus, the nuclei of the revolutionary armed forces were being formed, military experience accumulated and the mass foundation for the armed struggle built up. For the armed struggle, however, strategy and tactics had to be worked out to firmly guarantee its victory.

Before the great leader advanced the line of anti-Japanese armed struggle, there could be no ready-made theory on the anti-imperialist revolutionary war since no one had ever thought of the national-liberation war to be waged independently by the people in colonies.

Charting the untrodden road of national-liberation war in colonies,

the great leader took upon himself the heavy burden of clarifying its strategy and tactics for the first time in history. However, he could not find even a day or an hour free to study and meditate.

The great creative activity of the respected leader had to be conducted in the grave circumstances of underground activities when he frequently visited different areas along the Tuman River, breaking through the enemy lines, and in the busy days when he sat up all night to meet workers of the revolutionary organizations from various areas and discuss many new emerging problems.

Telling with deep emotion about the great leader's tireless efforts and energies, some comrades recalled the unforgettable night when Mother Kang Ban Sok had broken twigs for the fire by wrapping them in her skirt hem for fear of disturbing her son in his deep thought; some others remembered the sleepless night he had spent on the unheated cold floor without a bedding but resting his head on a wooden pillow, hearing the paper covering the window rustling in the wind.

Somebody said with admiration that the great leader, though busy, had never casually passed by even a hill or a valley in the areas along the Tuman River, and had shown deep interest in the composition and ideological bent of the inhabitants of even a small village, and that already at that time he had had in his mind the problem of establishing guerrilla bases.

Each of the strategic lines advanced by the great leader at the December Mingyuegou Meeting was so correct and wise that all the Korean communists and revolutionary people were firmly convinced of victory in the anti-Japanese revolutionary war from its start, and cherished deep in their heart the boundless pride and honour of making a revolution under the leadership of the respected leader, great military strategist and genius of revolution.

The December Mingyuegou Meeting was, indeed, a historic meeting that clarified in an all-round way the strategic and tactical lines of the anti-Japanese revolutionary war.

Now the time came when in response to the call of the great leader, the Korean communists and patriotic people should join the sacred war for national liberation, with arms in hand.

The era of the revolutionary storm had arrived.

2. FOUNDING OF ANTI-JAPANESE PEOPLE'S GUERRILLA ARMY

(1) OPPOSE ARMED FORCE WITH ARMED FORCE!

Following the historic December Mingyuegou Meeting, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung wisely organized and led the preparatory work for founding the AJPGA—the genuine revolutionary armed force of the people for the first time in our country.

The important problem in the preparatory work for founding the AJPGA was to enlist men and obtain arms.

In order to promote on a full scale the work of founding the AJPGA on the basis of the achievements and experience already gained in the work of training men and collecting arms, the great leader dispatched to the vast areas along the Tuman River those cadres of the Party and the YCLK who had attended the meeting, men of the Korean Revolutionary Army and political workers. And he himself went to Antu to give unified guidance to this work.

Antu was a place where, with a far-sighted plan to organize and wage the anti-Japanese armed struggle centering on the areas along the Tuman River, the great leader had pushed ahead with its preparatory work since the Spring Mingyuegou Meeting.

Therefore, in the area of Antu at that time there were not a few fine young communists personally trained by the great leader, and a solid mass foundation for the armed struggle.

In Antu, the great leader energetically guided the preparatory work for founding the AJPGA, which was going on briskly in the vast areas along the Tuman River centred on the regions of Xinglongcun, Xiaoshahe and Dashahe.

The area of Antu, where the great leader worked, was frequently visited by the political workers active in all parts of the homeland and Manchuria, and his liaison personnel were sent out almost every day.

The preparatory work for founding the AJPGA was pushed ahead rapidly.

In those days, however, there was an important problem to be solved immediately in speeding up this work, and especially in building the mass basis of the armed struggle.

There was a village near Fuerhe, located between the counties of Antu and Dunhua. It was adjacent to the areas of Xiaoshahe and Dashahe in Antu County, where the great leader was conducting his activities at that time; it was also well connected with all parts of Manchuria, as well as the region of Dunhua.

Those political workers, who came to the great leader for his instructions, and those liaison personnel dispatched by him passed by the village. And in the future too this road would be used by those youth cadres coming to Xiaoshahe in response to his call, or those recommended and sent by the revolutionary organizations in different parts of central and east Manchuria and the homeland, or those who would be the core elements of the armed ranks.

But until that time, however, our revolutionary organization had not taken root there, and the stooges and special agents of the enemy used to arrest and murder the political workers and liaison personnel passing there.

Without revolutionizing the village and taking it under our control as early as possible, it was impossible to successfully ensure the preparatory work for founding the AJPGA nor the operations of the army to be founded in the future.

The revolutionary organization had dispatched its members to the village on many occasions to revolutionize it. But the enemy's surveillance was so tight that they had all failed to settle down. There was an organization member there, but lacking experience, he could do nothing on his own.

The respected leader Comrade Kim Il Sung was informed in detail of the actual conditions in the village and the activities of the political workers.

He said that the village had to be revolutionized by all means, but it was a pity that even a peasants' association had not been organized there yet. And for a while he was lost in deep thought and then said:

“I think I shall have to go there for the time being.

“So long as the village is left in the hands of the enemy, we cannot freely push ahead with the preparatory work for founding the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army, and even after the formation of the armed ranks, it won't be able to act freely.”

Much concerned about the safety of the great leader, all his comrades earnestly dissuaded him, but he did not change his resolve.

Immediately, he summoned the organization member in the village, and after acquainting himself in detail with the actual conditions there, said as follows:

“When you go back, spread a rumour that you are going to hire a hand, because you lack workhands. I will go to your house as a ‘hired hand’.”

Putting his hand on the shoulder of the embarrassed organization member, the respected leader went on to say:

“Since we are resolved to devote our lives to the revolution, what if I play the part of a ‘hired hand’ for a while? Since the reactionaries are rampant in the village, a thorough camouflage is necessary. You should act well as the ‘master’.”

Several days later, the great leader went to the village, disguised as a “hired hand” and met the “master”.

When villagers saw him, they took him to be the hired hand who was said to be coming.

Towards sunset, mounted police suddenly rushed to the village. It seemed that somebody had squealed.

The organization member was at a loss what to do.

But the great leader went out coolly into the courtyard and started chopping firewood with an axe.

After a while, the mounted police appeared in the courtyard.

Without giving them a glance, the great leader went on chopping firewood.

Pointing to him, they asked who he was. The host answered that he was his hired hand, when they looked at him attentively.

Apparently, they thought that he was a real “hired hand” and left.