

In the summer of 1935, a series of incidents in violation of the Umezu-Ho-King-Ching agreement occurred in quick succession. These motivated the formation of the neutral zone east of Langhsien, under the leadership of Lin Ju-kang. Thereupon on 1 August the same year, the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party issued a declaration entitled, "A Message to all Our Compatriots to Oppose the Japanese and to Save Our Country". It is a very famous declaration known as the "8. 1. Declaration". The full text of it is as follows:

A message to all our compatriots to oppose the Japanese and to save our country issued by the Chinese Communists 1 August 1935.

To our brethren in various fields of industry, agriculture, military, politics, commerce, and learning!

What with the energetic advance of Japanese imperialism and what with the gradual surrender of the traitorous Nanking Government, our Northern provinces are on the brink of actual destruction following upon that of the North-Eastern four provinces. For fact, the Ling-hsien area with several thousand years of classical culture, Hopei, Shantung and Honan provinces with infinite natural resources, and Chahar and Suiyuan districts, which are most significant from the military standpoint as well as such political and economic life lines as Peiping-Nanking, Peiping-Tankow, Tientsin-Tukow and Peiping-Suiyuan Railways, are now completely under the restrictions of the Japanese Army. At present the Kwantung Army Headquarters is positively carrying out their plan for the establishment of the so-called "Mongolian State" or "North China State". After the 18 September Incident in 1931, they actually took possession of various areas beginning with the eastern three provinces and then Jehol, the Great Wall, the Disarmed Area east of Langhsien, Hopei, Chahar, Suiyuan and various provinces in North China. In less than four years, almost all the areas had been either occupied or invaded by the Japanese invaders. The program for the total destruction of China, which General Kwantung submitted to the Emperor, is now being steadily carried into effect. At this date the provinces on the river plains of Chang-liang and Chu-liang, as well as various other provinces, will also be occupied by and by. Our country with its long history of five thousand years will be transformed into a conquered state and our 440,000,000 brethren will then be a wretched mass of defeated people. In recent years, our people have been at the crossroads of life or death. If they choose to be anti-Japanese, they will be saved but if not, they will die. To oppose the Japanese whereby to save our country has now become a holy mission for everyone of our brethren. At this moment, it is most deplorable that there still remain among our great people a few beastly fellows. Traitors such as Chiang Kai-shek, Wang Ching-wok, and Ching Tsueh-liang, as well as such spy agents of the Japanese as Huang Fu, Yang Yung-tai, Wang I-tang, and Chang Chun, advocating a "non-resistance" policy, have sold out our country and have acceded to all the demands presented by the Japanese. They have also prosecuted the civil war, with the militaristic propaganda that exclusion of foreigners must needs be preceded by internal peace. They have further suppressed all the anti-imperialistic movements and advocating such delusive plans as "ten years of public welfare", "ten years of cultural improvement" and "preparation for

revenge" they have checked the people's "Oppose the Japanese and Save the Country" movements. The open and shameless conducts in recent years of these knavish traitorous fellows with such slogans as "Sino-Japanese Friendship", "Sino-Japanese cooperation", "Great Asia Principle" etc. are the most preposterous conducts ever heard of in history. The Soviet Government and the Communists in China regard the Japanese aggressions against China and the treacherous action of the knavish traitors as the worst disgrace to the Chinese people. We, members of the Soviet Government and the Communist Party in China solemnly declare as follows. We oppose and protest most strongly not only against Japan's territorial invasion and internal political interference but also against the Japanese demands for the dissolution of the Kuomintang Party and the Blue Shirts Organization.

It is the point of view of the Soviet Government and the Communists that all the Chinese affairs ought to be settled by the Chinese themselves. However great may be the faults committed by the Nationalists, the Japanese have no right whatsoever to meddle in the question of whether or not these should be eliminated. China is our fatherland. So long as we are Chinese we are brothers. How can we remain idle lookers-on when our country and our people are on the brink of ruin. We cannot help coming forward to save our country and our own selves. The Abyssinians though theirs is a small country with a population of only 5,000,000 are striving to defend their own country and their people by offering a heroic armed resistance against Italian imperialism. Why is it then, that we of a great country of 440,000,000 people should await our ruin with folded arms?

The Soviet Government and the Communist Party in China firmly believe that except a small number of knavish traitors such as Chang Ching-hui, Cheng Hsiao-hse, Chang Yen-ching, Pu Yi, etc., the majority of our brethren in various fields of industry, agriculture, military, politics, commerce, and learning would never allow themselves to become slaves to the Japanese. The declaration of war against Japan by the Soviet Government; various armies' anti-Japanese common resistance repeatedly proposed by the Red Army; bitter fighting by the anti-Japanese vanguard of the northward advancing Red Army; the decisive battle at Sung-hu between the 19th Route Army and the general populace; the heroic struggle of soldiers and people at Chahar along the Great Wall and in various districts east of Langhsien; the united resistance against Japan by the Fuchian People's Government, in accordance with a proposal by the Red Army; sacrifice of lives by national heroes such as Lo Tenghsien, Hse-Pinhsung, Chi-Funchan, Fang Lungchong, Shun-Weichon, Tang Chih-ming, etc. the imprisonment of anti-Japanese patriots such as Tien Han, Tu Chung-yuan, Liu Chung-wu, etc; the anti-Japanese resistance of Tsei-Ting-kai, Chang Kuang-ting, Cheng King-su, Tang Chen-wu, etc; the basic operations plans for the Chinese People's anti-Japanese resistance signed by several thousand people, including Sung Ching-ling, Ho Hsiang-yu, Liu, Ma Hsiang-so, etc; national salvation movements carried out by all classes of people, such as boycotts, walk-outs in factories, offices and schools; demonstrations, and in particular anti-Japanese armed resistance by some hundreds of thousand people in the North-east; the heroic anti-Japanese uprisings led by such national heroes as Yang Ching-yu, Chao Hsian-Chih, Chon Kuo-chung, Hsieh Wan-tung, etc; are all expressions of

our people's grand spirit for national salvation and will inspire our people to be victorious in their anti-Japanese national salvation movement, that even now the various attempts of our people to save our country by opposing the Japanese have not yet achieved victory which they fully deserve is firstly due to the attacks from both flanks by the Japanese Army and the Chiang Army and secondly due to the discord and disunity arising out of isolation and misunderstanding among the various anti-Japanese and anti-Chiang groups. Hence, the Soviet Government and the Communist Party hereby stress the pressing need for the formation of the anti-Japanese joint front and further appeal as follows their brethren throughout the country. Even though various political parties at present as in the past are at variance with one another in their views and interests; and even though various armies are at present as in the past, hostile towards one another, it is necessary for all of us to come to the true realization of "avoiding the outward danger in spite of the interior strife." We must first of all suspend all the internal strifes, rise above all sorts of differences, and concentrate our entire national strength (man-power, material power, financial potentiality, military strength, etc.) upon our fight for the achievement of our holy mission to save our country through opposing the Japanese. The Soviet Government and the Communist Party in China once more declare as follows:

The Nationalists must at once stop attacking the Soviet area and all their troops must make preparations for a war against Japn. It is the desire of the Red Army not to persist in any feeling of enmity existing between the Nationalist Army and the Red Army either at present or in the past, not to persist in any differences regarding internal politics, but immediately to rise above all disputes and, closely cooperating with each other, to save the country through joint effort.

We take a step further and cordially appeal to you as follows. All compatriots who do not want to be a defeated people! All the compatriots who do not want to be a defeated people! All patriotic and conscientious officers and soldiers! Brethren! All comrades of various parties and organizations who desire to join in the holy mission of saving the country by opposing the Japanese! All hot-blooded youths of the Kuangtong Party and the Blue Shirts Society, who have contributed to the racial consciousness! All brothers who are interested in their fatherland! All brothers of the oppressed peoples Han's, Koreans, Mongolians, Tibetans, Yao's, Miao's, Kuo's, Lis, Fang's, etc. in China!

Let us come forward bravely to break through the pressure of the Japanese and Chiang armies; unite the Chinese Soviet Government and various anti-Japanese regimes in the Northeast into one national defensive government, and also unite the Red Army, the Peoples' Revolutionary Army in the Northeast, and the anti-Japanese volunteers corps in various parts of the country into one national anti-Japanese volunteers army.

The Soviet Government and the Communist Party wish to sponsor the establishment of such a national defensive government. The Soviet Government and the Communist Party will at once negotiate with various parties, organizations such as industrial and agricultural organizations, students' societies, commercial organizations, educational associations, journalists' federations, teachers' federations, Chinese merchants' associations, well-known scholars, politicians, Racial Self-Defense Association, Anti-Japanese Society, Fatherland Society, etc. and all the local

military administration organs upon the question of the joint establishment of a national defensive government. In our opinion the national defense government thus established must of necessity be a temporary organ of guidance for the plans of national salvation and a representative organ made up of representatives elected on democratic terms by people in various fields of industry, agriculture, military, politics, commerce, and learning, by all parties and organizations anxious to save the country by opposing the Japanese, by the Chinese abroad; and by various races within the country, of all compatriots, and various matters concerning the anti-Japanese Save-the-Nation movement shall be made subjects of discussion in the government. The Soviet Government and the Communist Party will spare no efforts or assistance in assembling this people's organ and will execute without fail, any decision reached by the organ because the Soviet Government and the Communist Party absolutely respect the people's will. The main responsibility of the National Defensive Government is to save the country through opposing the Japanese and its policies include the following points:

- a. To save the country through opposing the Japanese. Restore lost territories.
- b. To prevent disasters. To embank rivers. To protect people's lives.
- c. All the imperialistic Japanese properties in China shall be confiscated and be appropriated to war expenses against Japan.
- d. All properties, provisions, and land belonging to knavish traitors shall be confiscated and shall be not only distributed among the poor but also appropriated to anti-Japanese war expenses.
- e. Heavy and arbitrary taxes shall be abolished and there shall be economic and financial adjustment in order to promote industry, agriculture and commerce.
- f. Through an increase in salaries, the living conditions of people in various fields of industry, agriculture, military, politics, commerce, and learning shall be improved.
- g. Liberty based upon democracy shall be enforced and all political criminals released.
- h. Free education shall be given to youth out of work.
- i. The policy of according equal treatment to all races living in China shall be carried out. Life, property, freedom of residence, and freedom of education shall be guaranteed either within or outside the country, for the Chinese living abroad and for other races living in China.
- j. All anti-imperialistic people including working classes in Japan, and colonials in Korea and Formosa shall be united and made allies, all peoples and states in sympathy with the movement for the liberation of the Chinese people shall be united. Friendship shall be established with peoples and states that will, with good intentions, remain neutral in our war against Japan.

k. Anti-Japanese united forces shall be organized by all the troops that aim at saving the country through opposing the Japanese. Under the leadership of the National Defensive Government, the General Headquarters of the Anti-Japanese United Forces shall be established. This Headquarter shall be organized by the representatives elected from among the anti-Japanese chiefs, officers and soldiers of various armies or by some other method. In any case they will be chosen with the approval of representatives of various groups, as well as with the approval of the common people. The Red Army shall take the lead in joining the united forces and shall endeavor to fulfil their mission of saving the country through opposing the Japanese.

l. To enable the National Defensive Government to fulfil their responsibilities for national defense and to enable the anti-Japanese united forces fulfil theirs to oppose the Japanese, the Soviet Government and the Communists appeal to the brethren throughout the country as follows:

Those who have guns, should offer their guns. Those who have food should offer their food. Those who have power, should offer their power. Those who have special talents should contribute their talents. All compatriots shall be mobilized and millions of peoples shall be armed with weapons, new and old.

The Government of Soviet China and the Communist Party firmly believe that:

If 450,000,000 Chinese are guided by a united National Defensive Government, if the Unified Anti-Japanese Allied Armies take the lead, if millions of common people are properly armed, and if we are supported by innumerable proletarians and oppressed peoples not only in the East but throughout the world, we will surely be able to overcome Japanese imperialism which within Japan is being opposed by workers and peasants and which outside Japan is regarded with enmity by all powers.

All brothers arise!

Fight for the defense of our fatherland!

Fight for the independence of our people!

Fight for the independence of our country !

Fight for our territorial integrity!

Fight for the human rights and freedom!

Three cheers for the Great Union for Anti-Japanese National Salvation in China!

The People's Council of the Soviet Chinese Government.
The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party.

1 August 1935

After the publication of this famous declaration, the Chinese people's united front gradually began to take shape. The anti-Japanese people's united front which is now so powerful, has developed along the lines of this declaration. "The powerful should offer their power, the rich should offer their money" common slogan of the whole Chinese people in their present resistance, has been taken from this 8. 1. Declaration. The Declaration to the anti-

Japanese people's united front showing a definite direction, initiated gigantic operations.

Therefore, we can define the period between the 16 September Incident and the 1 August Declaration as the early stage of the anti-Japanese Peoples United Front.

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