Chen Jiongming Rebellion against Sun Yat-sen

by Ah Xiang


At http://www.larouchepub.com/other/2004/3123morgan_v_dr_sun.html, Mike Billington wrote about the 'SYNARCHISM" work of imperialists and capitalists in an article entitled 'How London, Wall Street Backed Japan's War Against China and Sun Yat Sen". Mike Billington pointed out that 'British refusal to work with Sun Yat Sen was transformed into overt military operations against him in 1922. The British Consul General in Shanghai, after reviewing Sun's International Development of China, accused Sun of trying to supplant colonial Hongkong as a trans-shipping center by Canton, and linked Sun to Bolshevik activities in the South. The British, under Addis' direction, provided Chen Chung-ming, a warlord in the Canton region, with a $500,000 loan to conduct a military assault on Sun and his KMT base in Canton, which nearly succeeded. At the same time Addis began making direct economic and military deals with other regional warlords, encouraging them to act independently of either Peking or Canton."

Chen Jiongming’s ultimate rebellion against Sun Yat-sen was very much a trickery of Chiang Kai-shek. According to Chen Jieru’s memoirs, before and after the confrontations between Sun Yat-sen and Chen Jiongming, Chiang Kai-shek had sowed dissensions by writing to various military and political leaders inside of southern government. Chiang Kai-shek’s personal character had doomed China from right here. Similar scenario of dissension would be subsequent Chiang Kai-shek trickery against Liu Zhenhuan [Guangxi army] and Yang Ximin [Yunnan army], i.e., two generals who had contributed to the overthrow of Chen Jiongming regime. Chen Jieru’s conclusion is that Chiang Kai-shek could easily turn his friends into foes.

On Oct 8th, Sun Yat-sen proposed the 'Act for Northern Expeditions' to the Parliament in Canton, and shortly thereafter, held the ceremony of ‘Oath of Northern Campaigns’ in Canton. On Oct 15th, Sun Yat-sen took ride of Warship Baobi and arrived in Wuzhou of Guangxi Province on Oct 17th. In Guangxi Province, Sun Yat-sen toured numerous cities, made public speeches as to northern campaigns, designated his ‘grand military base’ in Guangxi, and re-organized the armies under his immediate influence. Sun Yat-sen conferred CIC (commander-in-chief) of Dian-jun onto Zhu Peide, CIC of Gan-jun (Jiangxi Prov army) onto Peng Chengwan, CIC of Qian-jun onto Gu Zhenglun, chief military counsellor post onto Li Liejun, and secretary post onto Hu Hanmin. At Wuzhou of Guangxi Province, Sun Yat-sen re-organized armies into three corps, with Li Liejun, Xu Chongzhi and Li Fulin in charge, respectively. Sun wired to Chen Jiongming for a meeting about northern campaigns in Wuzhou as well as a plan for appropriation of 40 battalions of Yue-jun army, but Chen Jiongming declined it. At this time, Chen Jiongming stationed his troops at Nanning of Guangxi Prov. On Oct 25th, Sun arrived in
Nanning and paid a visit to Chen for enlisting support of the northern campaigns. Chen Jiongming claimed that he would need half a year for a rest of his troops. On 29th, Sun returned to Wuzhou.

Maring, who came to China in the spring of 1921, met Sun Yat-sen in Guangxi Prov. On Oct 31st of 1921, Chicherin wired to Chita Republic's foreign affairs ministry to inquire about the possibility of establishing relations with Canton Government without antagonizing the Peking Government. Bao Huiseng’s Memoirs claimed that it was Maring who gave Sun Yat-sen, someone who lacked real command of loyal forces, the hope and courage in revoking Chen Jiongming’s posts in June of 1922. However, Sun Yat-sen's personal charisma among Southwestern China’s generals or militarists should never be discounted. Sun Yat-sen’s later acceptance of Russian packages should be ascribed to frustrations at the Chen Jiongming rebellion as the correct cause-effect.

On Nov 5th, Chen returned to Canton and visited Sun while having a stopover at Wuzhou. On Oct 23rd, Chen Jiongming dispelled rumors that he had collusion with Wu Peifu’s Peking government. (Records claimed that Wu Peifu dispatched numerous emissaries for talks with Chen and promised to make Chen vice president should Wu-Chen alliance succeed in controlling south-north of China.)

On Dec 7th of 1921, Sun Yat-sen made a speech in regards to “Three Peoples’ Principles” in Guilin of Guangxi Prov. On Dec 10th, Sun lectured about spiritual education of revolutionary soldiers among Dian-jun, Gan-jun and Yue-jun officers. From Guilin, on Dec 15th, Sun Yat-sen rebuked Peking’s Xu Shichang for the treacheries in holding talks with Japan without setting pre-condition as to nullifying ‘twenty one demands’.

Back in late 1921, Chiang Kai-shek and Chen Jieru got married at Shanghai’s Yong’an Building. On Dec 22nd 1921, Chiang Kai-shek, cutting short his honeymoon trip to Xikou hometown, answered Sun Yat-sen’s recall to Canton. While waiting for Ship Taft (?) in Shanghai, Chen Jieru met Jiang Jingguo and told him to write to his birth mother at Xikou often. At about the same time, Chiang Kai-shek’s adopted son, i.e., Jiang Huiguo, was dispatched to Shanghai by Chiang Kai-shek’s former mistress Yao. (Chen Jieru stated that a few months earlier, a Japanese woman brought Jiang Huiguo to Shanghai and ran away after dropping the boy to Chiang Kai-shek as a result of Dai Jitao’s refusal to see the woman and the boy. However, Wang Shichun’s ‘Jiang Huiguo’s Life Long Journey’ claimed that a Japanese man sent Jiang Huiguo to Chiang Kai-shek shortly after the boy’s birth for covering up the affair between Dai Jitao and a Japanese nurse. Li Ao stated that Chiang Kai-shek might have adopted Jiang Huiguo because Chiang Kai-shek’s mother had been pressuring him into surrender of Jiang Jingguo to Chiang Kai-shek’s dead brother as an ‘adopted son’. Chiang Kai-shek’s brother, dead at age 3 in 1898, was ‘married’ with a ‘die young’ girl via superstitious ‘after-death matrimony’ in 1919.) Chiang & Chen couple also made a trip to Suzhou, but after return to Shanghai, Chen Jieru found out she had
contracted sexually-transmitted disease from Chiang Kai-shek via ‘Wassermann test’. (Chen Jieru claimed that this disease impaired the reproductivity of both Chiang Kai-shek and herself. Later, Chiang Kai-shek was said to have reached three agreements with Soong Mai-ling, including no child birth, something that was already a disability.) Chen Jieru pardoned Chiang Kai-shek, and the two arrived in Canton for transfer to Guangxi Prov.

Liao Zhongkai met with Chiang Kai-shek in Canton and advised him against antagonizing Chen Jiongming by pointing out that it was Chen who had expelled Guangxi Province army and welcomed Sun Yat-sen back to Canton. Before departing Canton for Guangxi, Chiang Kai-shek was persuaded into making a visit to Chen Jiongming; however, at officer’s canteen, Chiang Kai-shek was angered into a departure as a result of Ye Ju ridiculing Sun Yat-sen as so-called nickname ‘Sun Dapao [i.e., big gun Sun]’. Chiang Kai-shek and Chen Jiongming, resenting each other since first cooperation in March of 1918, would lead to ultimate Chen Jiongming rebellion against Sun Yat-sen.

Meantime, Xu Shuzheng, a Duan Qirui crony of Wan-xi faction, secretly paid a visit to the South. Sun Yat-sen instructed Liao Zhongkai, Wang Zhaoming and Chiang Kai-shek for a meeting with Xu Shuzheng about an alliance against Zhi-xi faction of northern warlord government. On Jan 3rd of 1922, Chiang Kai-shek was asked to depart Canton for Guilin. Chiang met Sun at Guilin on Jan 30th per Ding Zhongjiang. (Note that Chen Jieru memoirs stated that Chiang Kai-shek and Liao Zhongkai first met Sun Yat-sen in Wuzhou of Guangxi Province in late Dec 1921 and then rode on ships to Guilin along the Wuzhou-he River. Ships were pulled upstream by boat tracker with towropes on their shoulders. At one time, Sun Yat-sen jumped off the ship for sake of walking faster, and Chen Jieru claimed that bookish Hu Hanmin could not even catch up. At Guilin, Sun Yat-sen possessed two regiments or 2400 soldiers. On Feb 3rd of 1922, Sun Yat-sen officially declared the start of ‘northern campaigns’, with Li Liejun in charge of campaigns against Jiangxi Province and Xu Chongzhi passing through Hunan Prov. On Feb 10th, Li Zongren took over Yulin from Hu Hanqing who relocated his army to Gaozhou.

All through the months in Guangxi Province, Chiang Kai-shek had time and again advised against Sun Yat-sen on the matter of Chen Jiongming, while Chen Jiongming had refrained from dispatching any funds or military supplied over. Chen Jiongming claimed that with Chiang Kai-shek bent on instigating to get Chen Jiongming removed, he could not afford to send over military aid that might be used against Chen Jiongming. In Guilin, when Sun Yat-sen called in Chiang Kai-shek over the letter of admonition against Chen Jiongming, Chiang Kai-shek, per CJR memoirs, burst into cries and left Guilin for Shanghai the second day. From Shanghai, Chiang Kai-shek continued on writing to various generals and officials on the matter of depriving Chen Jiongming of the posts, and Chiang Kai-shek also wrote to Chen Jiongming in advising him on an honorable step-down for sake of revolution.

On Feb 12th, Manchurian warlord Zhang Zuolin dispatched Li Shaolin to Guilin of Guangxi
Province for an alliance against Cao Kun/Wu Peifu government in Peking. On Feb 20th, Duan Qirui’s emissary, Zhou Shanpei, also arrived in Guangdong. Sun-Duan-Zhang alliance hence commenced, with an objective of restoring the old Parliament and making Sun Yat-sen the official president while Duan Qirui deputy president. (Duan Qirui, on Feb 13th, fled Peking under the protection of four Japanese. Duan Qirui arrived in Tianjin’s extraterritory for coordinating the Zhi-xi vs Feng-xi War.) Manchurian warlord Zhang Zuolin dispatched Li Menggen to the south, and Sun dispatched Wu Chaoshu for a courtesy return visit to Zhang Zuolin in early March of 1922.

In Canton, Deng Keng was attacked by an assassin (i.e., Chen Jiongming’s cousin Chen Yuansheng) on March 21st of 1922 [Mar 23 per Li Dongfang] at Dashatou Train Station when Deng Keng returned to Canton from his HK visitation to Duan Qirui’s emissary per Ding Zhongjiang. Chen Jieru memoirs pointed out that Deng Keng, being a maternal cousin of Chen Jiongming, accused Chen Jiongming of deliberately procrastinating the dispatchment of supplies to Sun Yat-sen while Chen Jiongming answered Deng Keng with accusation that Sun Yat-sen had fallen into the instigation of ‘Zhejiang rascal’ (i.e., Chiang Kai-shek). Chen Jieru memoirs further pointed out that Chen Jiongming showed a Chiang Kai-shek handwritten letter to Deng Keng, which made Deng Keng take actions by rallying a few close friends (including Wu Chaoshu, i.e., son of Wu Tingfang) in purchasing firearms direct from HK’s Simpsons Arms Dealer. Li Dongfang pointed out that for half a year, Chen Jiongming had merely sent over 70,000 yuan currency while Deng Keng secretly shipped to Sun Yat-sen’s northern expedition army 800,000 bullets.

Deng Keng had previously allocated his direct-controlled regiment for usage as Sun Yat-sen’s bodyguard regiment. Deng Keng, a senior revolutionary, had participated in Xin Hai Revolution and Second Revolution. On March 23rd, Deng Keng passed away at age 38, and before his death, cited Zhu Zhixin’s martyrdom as an example of his devotion to revolution. As suggested by Liao Zhongkai, Deng Keng was buried in a garden opposite to Zhu Zhixin’s burial place. (Scholar Yuan Weishi pointed out that Sun Yat-sen could be behind the assassination of Deng Keng? It is hard to sort out the reason for Deng Keng’s death, but Deng Keng refused to disclose to his rescuers the name of the assassin. General Huang Dawei’s memoirs claimed that Sun Yat-sen, earlier, had instructed him to assassinate Chen Jiongming by pistol while having a meeting in Wuzhou of Guangxi Prov. Chen Jieru memoirs, however, showed that Sun Yat-sen had sought for reconciliation with Chen Jiongming by declining Chiang Kai-shek’s proposals. And, Deng Keng had died in the hands of his relatives simply because Chen Jiongming had treated any attempt to strengthen Sun Yat-sen as something disadvantageous to Chen Jiongming’s power base.)

Deng Keng’s death would abort Sun Yat-sen’s northern campaign plan since Sun Yat-sen was counting on Deng Keng for supplies and aids. On March 26th of 1922, Sun Yat-sen, in Guilin of Guangxi Province, decided to dispatch two divisions back to Canton, i.e., Xu Chongzhi and Li
Fulin's armies. Chen Jiongming recalled his loyal forces from Xunzhou of Guangxi Province and then called Hu Hanmin's Canton office to inquire whether Sun Yat-sen was returning to Canton. On April 9th, Sun left Guilin, and on 16th, arrived at Wuzhou where he called on Chen Jiongming for a meeting. Li Dongfang pointed out that Sun Yat-sen had been able to get to Wuzhou on April 12th as a result of adopting Chiang Kai-shek's advice in a sudden march to the city which effectively segregated Chen Jiongming's main forces in Guangxi Province from those in Guangdong Prov. Chen Jieru memoirs stated that Sun Yat-sen returned to Canton because Hunan Prov's Zhao Hengti changed mind in refusing Sun Yat-sen's armies pass through Hunan territory. Chen Jiongming requested that Chen Shaobai and Cao Yajun go to Wuzhou for dissuading Sun Yat-sen from possible conflicts with Chen. Since Chen Jiongming's crony, Ye Ju, was still stranded in Nanning of Guangxi, Chen Jiongming wired to Sun for resigning all his posts. Sun Yat-sen agreed to Chen resignations on 19th and conferred governor of Guangdong onto Wu Tingfang and Canton garrison commander onto Wei Bangping. Chen Jiongming left for his native Huizhou city on April 21st, on which day Ye Ju was coming back towards Canton from Guangxi Prov. Chiang Kai-shek bade farewell to Sun Yat-sen at Sanshui after Sun Yat-sen refused to adopt his advice in disarming Chen Jiongming's army at Canton & Shilong.

In late April, Li Zongren was ordered by Chen Jiongming to hand over Yulin to Chen Jionguang. Li Zongren barely escaped a possible catch by Guangdong Province army by departing for Guixian County ahead of a scheduled handshake session. The precarious slip-away was to do with battalion chief Yu Zuobo's ambushing the Guangdong Province army in the process of relocation to Guixian county. Thereafter, Yu Zuobo, during an encounter with Governor Ma Junwu's battalion, caused the death of the concubine of Ma Junwu. Ma Junwu resigned his job at Guangxi Province after his concubine died of Guangxi Province army's attack while shielding him with her body. (Note here is a woman who loved her man more than herself.)

Chen Jieru memoirs stated that Chiang Kai-shek sent Chen Jiongming another letter. But the letter was returned to Chiang Kai-shek unopened, with remarks on the envelope stating 'arrogant son of bitch · jealousy · ruthless · fatuous · selfish · the mischievous prank'. In the following weeks, Chiang Kai-shek continued to send wires to generals and officials against Chen Jiongming. Sun, against the advice of Chiang Kai-shek, forgave Chen Jiongming and asked Chen to lead Northern Expeditions as head of infantry ministry. Sun further conferred Ye Ju, i.e., Chen Jiongming's crony, the post of border general for Guangdong-Guangxi provinces. Sun ordered that his army go northward to Shaoguan from Sanshui. In a telegraph sent to Chiang Kai-shek on May 3rd 1922, Xu Chongzhi also advised against Chiang Kai-shek's call for removal of Chen Jiongming.

Thinking that Chen Jiongming had been pacified and contained, Sun Yat-sen, together with Hu Hanmin and Xu Chongzhi, left Canton for Shaoguan on May 4th and re-issued the 'northern campaign' decree, with Xu Chongzhi, Li Liejun and Huang Dawei in charge of right, middle and
left columns. On 6th, Sun arrived in Shaoguan. Mme Sun Yat-sen, leading Red Cross nurses, personally went to Shaoguan Pass for inspiring soldiers’ spirits for northern campaigns. On May 7th, Sun Yat-sen conferred the post of commander-in-chief of First Route of Northwestern Chinese Army onto Yu Youren, and the post of commander-in-chief of second route onto Chen Shufan. On May 8th, Northern Expedition armies fought with Yue Zhaolin’s Jiangxi Province army. An oath of war was held in Shaoguan on May 9th. In late May and early June, Liao Zhongkai wired to Chiang Kai-shek in asking him skip the matter of Chen Jiongming and go serve Xu Chongzhi’s northern campaigns. Also Hu Hanmin advised against Chiang Kai-shek’s call for war against Chen Jiongming by citing possible bloodshed in Canton should that happen. Sun Yat-sen’s letter also rebuked Chiang Kai-shek over the ‘bad tempers’. On June 1st, Sun returned to Canton for dispelling rumors per CJR memoirs. Sun Yat-sen requested Chiang Kai-shek’s return several times; however, Chiang Kai-shek refused to answer. Xu Chongzhi, ignoring Chiang Kai-shek’s wire again, went northward to Jiangxi Prov. On June 13th, Northern Expedition armies took over Ganzhou of Jiangxi Prov. Li Mingyang’s & Lai Shihuang’s brigades arrived in Jian and Huzhou against Jiangxi Province Governor-general Chen Guangyuan. On 15th, northern expedition army, headed by tactician Li Liejun, decided on phase two of the campaign, not knowing that a rebellion had erupted back in Canton.

However, Ye Ju, with 50 battalions, returned to Zhaoqing on May 8th, entered Canton on 18th and wired to Sun Yat-sen for restoring Chen Jiongming’s governorship on 20th. (Per Yuan Shiwei, Ye Ju demanded that Sun Yat-sen fulfilled his promise, i.e., resigning at the same time as President Xu Shichang of northern Peking government.) Wang Zhaoming and Ma Junwu promptly went to see Chen Jiongming at Huizhou city and were told that Chen had no intent for rebellion against Sun. In Canton, Ye Ju promised that he would return to the Guangxi-Guangdong border within 3 months. Chiang Kai-shek, back in Shanghai again, on May 25th, wired over a suggestion to delay northern campaigns. Sun Yat-sen, against the advice of Hu Hanmin, returned to Canton at the request of Liao Zhongkai on June 1st. Ye Ju, fearing Sun Yat-sen, left Canton. Sun Yat-sen, angry that nobody from Chen’s camp dared to see him in person, held a news conference on June 12th explaining why he decided to launch northern campaigns through Jiangxi Province instead of Hunan Province and demanding that Chen Jiongming’s armies retreat 30 li distance away from Canton city-wall within 10 days. Sun Yat-sen claimed that he was not selfish and that’s why he came into Canton which was surrounded by 60 battalions of Chen’s armies.

On June 14th of 1922, Chen held a military meeting in the headquarters of Ye Ju who had returned to Canton by then. Chen decided to rebel against Sun on the 15th and appointed Xiang-jun’s Hong Zhaolin as the herald forces. At 10 pm, on June 15th, Sun received a phone call stating that Yue-jun might rebel on the night. By midnight, Sun’s secretaries persuaded Sun into relocation away from presidential palace on Mt Guanyinshan, on the back of which stationed Li Yunfu brigade which was under Hong Zhaolin’s command. By 2:00 am of June 16th, an officer under Chen Jiongming came to report to Sun Yat-sen, stating that Yue-jun had already had early
breakfast for sake of a rebellion and offered 200,000 yuan as an award for Sun Yat-sen's capture, live or dead. Shortly afterwards, horns blew and rebellion began. Over 4000 rebels attacked the presidential palace. At 3:00 am, secretaries forcefully escorted Sun Yat-sen out of the palace, secretly arrived in Wen Shude’s Navy headquarter and boarded Warship Chuyu. Rebels captured Liao Zhongkai and put him under arrest in Shijing Weapons Factory in western Guangzhou. Rebels pillaged Canton, expelled Parliament members, and killed ‘Lian [united] Yi [righteous] She [society]’ members. Meanwhile, Mdm Sun Yat-sen and a small contingent of bodyguards fought against Chen’s rebels till noon. Wei Bangping and Wu Tingfang boarded the warship for instructions from Sun. Sun ordered a counter-attack by the navy as well as by Wei Bangping’s field army. On the afternoon, seven warships, under the command of Wen Shude, sailed to Bai’etan and bombarded rebels on the shore. Along the river course, warships attacked rebel positions at Dashashan, Baiyunshan, Shahe, Guanyinshan and Wucenglou. A brigade under Wei Bangping defected to the rebels. Wei Bangping would soon declare neutrality. Hence, Sun called off the bombardment and returned to Huangpu (Whampoa) with his warships by 5:00 pm. On June 18th, Sun wired to Ningbo of Zhejiang Province to recall Chiang Kai-shek. Chiang left a will with Zhang Renjie (i.e., Zhang Jingjiang - Chiang’s best pal on the Bund) on 20th, left Shanghai on 25th and arrived in Canton on 29th. On June 19th, Sun wrote to Northern Expedition armies for recalling them back to quell rebellion. On June 20th, Wen Shude steered Yongxiang & Tong’an warships to Pearl River for peace talk with Chen Jiongming. On June 23rd, Sun changed to Feng Zhaoxian’s Yongfeng Warship when Wen Shude expressed ambivalence. On 25th, Wen Shude ordered ZHaoh Warship left West River. On 30th, Wen Shude declared martial law to coerce Sun Yat-sen. Tang Tingguang, Ye Ju & Wei Bangping made a joint call for Sun to step down. Several warship captains decried Navy Minister Tang Tingguang’s order. Wu Tingfang, foreign minister, passed away at age 81 after receiving a letter from Chen Jiongming in request of Sun’s step-down.

On June 20th 1922, Chen rebels attacked Hu Hanmin in Shaoguan. Hu Hanmin left Shaoguan for a trek across the mountains to find Xu Chongzhi’s army. Hu Hanmin retreated to Ganzhou of Jiangxi Province on June 27th. On July 2nd, majority of Northern Expedition armies, Xu Chongzhi, Li Fulin, Zhu Peide and Huang Dawei, turned around to fight Yue-jun’s rebellion; Li Liejun remained in Jiangxi to protect the rear. However, the first division, headed by Liang Hongkai, marched straight back to Huizhou to serve under Chen Jiongming. Xu Chongzhi etc changed route to fight rebels in Shaoguan, with Zhu Peide’s Dian-jun as herald force. Liang Hongkai and his 1st Div of Guangdong Province Army slipped away to join Chen Jiongming. Hu Hanmin suggested following the footstep of Liang Hongkai and then attacked Chen Jiongming via havoc, but Xu Chongzhi advocated for retaking Shaoguan. Liang Hongkai joined Xiong Luue against the northern expedition army; Shen Hongying destroyed two thirds of Huang Dawei’s 1st Corps at Wenyuan; and Tan Meng brigade under Chen Jiayou’s Hunan Province Army steered away some of Li Fulin’s 3rd Corps. At a hospital in Nanxiong, Li Liejun and Xu Chongzhi split into two groups for Hunan & Fujian, respectively. Li Liejun was disarmed by Zhao Hengti in Hunan. In Fujian, Xu Chongzhi’s 2nd Corps and Li Fulin’s 3rd Corps took over
Tingzhou. With Lu Yongxiang’s mediation, Hu Hanmin reached an agreement with Wang Yongquan of Wan-xi Clique against rival Li Houji who defected to Zhi-xi Clique after July 1920 Zhi-xi vs Wan-xi War.

On July 8th, three warships under Wen Shude were bought over by Chen Jiongming and left Whampoa and the battle scene. Sun led the remaining ships to protect Changzhou Castle which was under rebels' siege. On Sept 1st [9th per Wang Jianji & Wang Yuanchao], Changzhou Castle was lost after Kong Xiangfu’s marines defected to the rebels. Castle commander Ma Bolin retreated to the warship. Sun sailed his warships to Xinzhuo-he River area. On July 9th, Northern Expedition armies engaged rebels near Shaoguan and would retreat on 30th after rebels, including Liang Hongkai’s division, came to relief of Shaoguan.

On July 10th 1922, Sun personally led warships for a charge at Bai’e’tan for sake of a breakout. Warship Yongfeng incurred six hits from rebels’ batteries. Chen Jieru memoirs stated that Chiang Kai-shek, showing off him as a brave man, commanded the ships by asking Mr & Mme Sun Yat-sen hide in lower decks. Chen Jieru memoirs stated she had wet pants during the bombardments. Sun's warship closed into Shamian extraterritory, and foreign corps' customs officer, i.e., a British, came to inquire with Sun to see whether Sun had intent for seeking asylum. On the 19th, Sun bombarded rebels' Qianshan Battery. Chen Jiongming and Ye Ju, for fearing possible mis-firing onto foreign warships at Bai’e’tan, would dispatch a small vessel for launching a mine attack at Sun’s Yongfeng Warship. Xu Zhi, a HK engineer, deployed the mine which failed to cause damage to Warship Yongfeng. Foreign legations protested against Chen Jiongming. British demanded that Sun’s warships leave Bai’e’tan and Shamian area.

On 27th, Wen Shude demanded that Sun leave Canton and that warships return to his command. Warships Haiqi, Haishen & Zhaohe left Humen for a defection. On July 29th 1922, northern campaign armies failed in the attack at Shaoguan. In August, northern campaign armies retreated outside of Guangdong Prov. On Aug 4th, rebels took over Nanxiong. On 6th, Xu Chongzhi, Li Fulin and Huang Dawei retreated to Longnan, Huichang and Ruijin of Jiangxi Province, and then transferred to Fujian Province; and Li Liejun’s Gan-jun, Zhu Peide’s Dian-jun and Chen Jiayou’s Xiang-jun retreated to Hunan Province border area. On Aug 9th, Sun Yat-sen, together with Chiang Kai-shek, Chen Ce and Huang Huilong, boarded British Warship H M S Moorben for transfer to HK after fighting rebels for 55 days on Warship Yongfeng [renamed Zhongshan Warship later]. On Aug 10th, Sun boarded a postal ship [Russian Empress] for Shanghai. On 14th, Sun arrived in Shanghai. Chen Jieru memoirs stated that Chen Jiongming claimed that he had no part in this rebellion since he was already released the commander posts prior to the incident. Further, Ye Ju published documents that were confiscated from Dr Sun Yat-sen’s palace, and accused Sun Yat-sen of clandestinely colluding with Soviet Russia for importation of communism to China.

In Shanghai, Chiang Kai-shek, in rage, wrote to Hu Hanmin and Wang Jingwei with a demand
that they repelled Chen Jiongming from Canton within 10 days or otherwise he would never talk with the two again. Sun Yat-sen wrote to Chiang Kai-shek with a rebuke as to his downheartedness. To pacify Chiang Kai-shek's psychic mental status, Chen Jieru asked her friend [i.e., Zhang Jingjiang's 'baby-face' wife] to have Chiang Kai-shek join Zhang Jingjiang's Hengtai Brokerage as the 17th shareholder. Per ZLA, it was Zhang Jingjiang who supplied 4000 yuan capital for Chiang Kai-shek to be a partner. Zhang, Chiang & Dai then hired Chen Guofu as the manager for the brokerage seat on Shanghai Securities & Commodities Exchange that was established by Yu Qiaqing the president of Shanghai's chamber of commerce. Also among the shareholders would be Zhu Shoumei & Zhou Junyan who later became Chiang Kai-shek's military accountants. Chen Jieru stated that from Sept 1922 to Feb 1923, Chiang Kai-shek was busy doing stock trades. Meanwhile, in Dec 1922, Sun Yat-sen obtained the support of Guangxi Army General Liu Zhenhuan for expelling Chen Jiongming's Guangdong Army from Canton.

In Oct 1922, in Fujian Province Wang Yongquan launched a war against Li Houji. With Sun Yat-sen's backing, Xu Chongzhi and Li Fulin fought against Zhi-xi army, and took over Fuzhou city on Oct 13th. Wan-xi's Duan Qirui sent over Xu Shuzheng to offer the conferral of governor-general for Fujian Province onto Wang Yongquan. In late Oct, Chiang Kai-shek was dispatched to Fuzhou by Sun Yat-sen for serving Xu Chongzhi. However, Chang left one month later, and together with Huang Dawei. Sun was surprised to see Chiang quit the job, and moreover claim to have quit the job in same step as Huang Dawei. Chiang returned to Shanghai on Nov 27th, and would not go to Fuzhou till Dec 18th.

On Jan 15th 1923, Hong Zhaolin, i.e., a Chen Jiongming crony at Chaozhou & Shantou, severed his relationship with Chen Jiongming. Hong Zhaolin welcomed Sun Yat-sen & Xu Chongzhi back to Canton. Chen Jiongming retreated to Huizhou. Meanwhile, Yang Ximin of Yunnan-Guangxi Army & Liu Zhenhuan of Guangdong-Guangxi Army obtained the defection of Mo Xiong & Chen Jitang against Chen Jiongming. Yang & Liu took over Zhaoqing, Sanshui & Hekou. Shen Hongying, separately, took over the North River area. On Jan 16th, Sun Yat-sen's loyal forces returned to Canton. On 20th, Xu Chongzhi was conferred the post of commander-in-chief of Guangdong Province army, while Hu Hanmin the governor post for Guangdong Province.