

Reinstatement of 'Interim Agreed-upon Laws'

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Tang Jiyao and Cen Chunxuan in southwestern China wired over demands that the new Peking government i) restore the 'Interim Agreed-upon Laws' of 1912 in place of the 'New Agreed-upon Laws' of 1914, ii) assemble the Parliament with members of the 1913 Parliament, iii) fill in the post of Vice Presidency, iv) institute the State Council, v) punish the 13-member clique responsible for pushing through Yuan Shi-kai's imperial enthronement, and vi) convene a special military meeting for governor-generals or generals of all provinces to attend in Shanghai. The 13-member clique would include the so-called 'Latter Six Gentlemen': Yang Du, Sun Yujun, Yan Fu, Liu Shibe, Li Xiehe and Hu Ying. (The 'Former Six Gentlemen' would be those who were betrayed to Empress Dowager Cixi by Yuan Shi-kai during the [Hundred Day Reformation](#).) Sun Yujun and Hu Ying were ex-KMT members who changed course after the failure of Second Revolution. Yan Fu, added to the imperial enthronement committee without his concurrence, had always blamed Kang Youwei and Liang Qi-chao for pushing the reform before the natural death of the dowager empress Cixi. (Similar fate of China would be the 1989 student movement that ended in [June 4th 1989 Massacre](#), again prior to the natural death of Deng Xiaoping.) One notable culprit would be Yuan Shi-kai's presidential secretary, Liang Shiyi, who set up an 'imperial system petition committee' in replace of the 'imperial system preparation committee'.

Tang Shaoyi, Liang Qichao and Wu Tingfang, in Shanghai, echoed support for Tang Jiyao and Cen Chunxuan's demands. Duan Qirui expressed objections. On June 25th, 1916, Li Dingxin, Navy Commander-in-chief in Shanghai, declared independence in support of the 'Interim Agreed-upon Laws' of 1912 and joined the rank of the 'Republic Restoration Armies'. On June 29th, Li Yuanhong, with the approval of Duan Qirui, yielded to the demands of the 'Republic Restoration Armies' by adopting the 'Interim Agreed-upon Laws'. Li Yuanhong further decreed to reconvene on August 1st the Parliament that was dismissed on Jan 10th of 1914 for sake of stipulating the official Constitution of the ROC: This convention was to dismiss Yuan Shi-kai's Legal Code Enactment Department and National Convention Committee etc, and to empower Duan Qirui with the post of premier for the State Council. On July 14th, Li Yuanhong published the list of imperial enthronement culprits. Thereafter, on the same day, the 'Republic Restoration Armies', headed by Tang Jiyao, Cen Chunxuan, Liang Qichao, Liu Xianshi, Lu Rongting, Chen Bingkun, Lü Gongwang, Cai E, Li Liejun, Dai Kan, Liu Cunhou, Luo Peijin and Li Dingxin etc, dismissed the Southwestern China Military Council and expressed the allegiance to the Peking government.

In northern Guangdong Province, Li Liejun's armies, out of indignation at Long Jiguang's attack, took over Shaoguan on June 7th and defeated Long Jiguang's relief army at Yuantan on July 3rd. Gui-jun, i.e., Guangxi's republic restoration army under Mo Rongxin had taken over Sanshui from the west and forced Long Jiguang into a retreat to Canton. On July 6th of 1916, Duan Qirui downgraded Long Jiguang to the post of 'mining industry director for Guangdong/Guangxi provinces', relocated Li Liejun for a post in Peking's central government, and conferred the post of governor-general onto Lu Rongting. Peking made an order that governor-general ["du du"] or Manchu title for general ["jiang jun"] were to be renamed "du [monitoring] jun [army]" while provincial administration was termed governor. (Above new governor-general ["du jun"] would be "xuan [visiting] yue [monitoring] shi [emissary]").) Duan Qirui made Zhu Qinglan the provincial chief for Guangdong. As a side trick, Duan Qirui also conferred the governor-general post of Hunan Province onto Lu Rongting so that Lu Rongting would distract himself over the control of either Guangdong or Hunan provinces. Duan Qirui planned to retain control of Guangdong by dispatching Sa Zhenbing's navy to Canton; at the same time, Duan Qirui pretentiously sent Tang Xiangming as an investigator of Long Jiguang's qualification for retained employment in Guangdong. On July 10th, Lu Rongting, to the surprise of Duan Qirui, left Hunan Province for Guangdong Prov. Long Jiguang was forced into accepting a relocation to Hainan Island (i.e., Qiong-zhou) while retaining 20000 soldiers as two divisions. Under the pressure of Duan Qirui and his cronies, Li Liejun resigned his post at the republic restoration army on Aug 17th and bid farewell to his Yunnan army on Aug 22nd. On Aug 25th, navy general Sa Zhenbing's fleet arrived in Canton. In Oct 1916, Lu Rongting, after a pretension of sick leave, assumed the governor-general post of Guangdong as a Gui-jun or Guangxi army leader. Li Zongren's soldiers, at Renhexu and E'hu-zhen, nominally received stipends and subsidy from Lu Rongting's Guangdong Governor-general Office, and they constantly starved over the shortage of grain, lacked mosquito tents and military uniforms, and owed backpay in military stipends. Later, Li Zongren followed Lin Hu for relocation to Canton area and joined banditry quelling in Leizhou Peninsula. (Half a year later, two battalions of the regiment where Li Zongren served were sent to Hunan Province for safeguarding [Movement For Protecting the 'Interim Agreed-Upon Laws'](#) in the autumn of 1917. Guangxi Governor-general Tan Haoming acted as the commander-in-chief of the three prong "law safeguarding troops" of Guangxi-Guangdong provinces, while senior revolutionary Niu Yongjian acted as tactician.)

On Oct 10th 1916, in Peking, Li Yuanhong conferred medals and lordship onto various generals and governor-generals in memoration of the Xin Hai Revolution.