

5. After his arrival in Lanchou (103-41, 36-03) late in January 1949, Prince TE held several discussions with PAI Hai-feng and Prince TA, after which he went to the President's Northwest Bandit Suppression Headquarters in Lanchou to request that the Mongols in the Northwest, particularly those in the Alashan-Yehejo territory, be granted local autonomy and weapons with which to defend themselves against the Chinese Communist forces. Northwest Commander CHANG Chih-chung was not in Lanchou***** and TE was therefore received by CHANG's deputy, Commander LO, who gave his verbal approval of the idea. Nothing concrete, however, was said or done. TE subsequently decided that whatever the policy of the Northwest Headquarters might be, he would devote himself to organizing all the Mongol leagues and banners in the Northwest in an attempt to establish a free Mongolia, since China now has only nominal jurisdiction over Mongol areas and the political-military situation there is unclear. Prince TA is in full agreement with this plan. TE's subordinates and their dependents departed from Lanchou for Tingyuanying on 21 February; TE himself and Prince TA planned to go there on 1 March.
6. On 19 February 1949 Governor MA Hung-k'uei of Ninghsia Province told Prince TE that the Mongol troops from Manchuria and Silingol League who had been moving westward since the fall of Chinchou (121-07, 41-07) in October 1948***** were then north of Kueisui and that some of them had probably reached Shanpa (107-08, 40-59). On 17 February PAI Hai-feng stated that some of Uljiwachir's troops had also moved into the area north of Kueisui and Paotou in an attempt to establish some sort of contact with non-Communist Mongol troops in that area. PAI has been delayed in setting up his planned temporary headquarters at Shanpa.
7. Prince T'U, Chief of Yehejo League, is seriously ill in Ninghsia and his subordinates fear that he may not live. T'U's secretary is "Little" YUN Yao-chên (雲耀宸), a native of Tumen in Suiyuan (sic) and a graduate of Peiping University.

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