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TRANSLATIONS FROM HUNG-CH'I (RED FLAG)

No. 8, 1967

- Communist China -

No. 61

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## FOREWORD

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This serial publication contains translations of articles from the Chinese-language periodical, Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), No. 8, 23 May 1967. Complete bibliographic information accompanies each article. This completes the translation of this issue of Hung-ch'i.

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**WE WORKERS, PEASANTS AND SOLDIERS MUST DOMINATE THE  
ARENA OF LITERATURE AND ART**

[Following is a translation of an article by Red Rebels of the Peking Kuanghua Timber Factory in the Chinese-language periodical Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Peking, No. 8, 23 May 1967, pages 71-72.]

Amidst the drum beats for a general offensive on the top persons in authority taking the capitalist road within the party, we commemorate the 25th anniversary of the publication of our great teacher Chairman Mao's epoch-making work, "Talks at the Yen-an Forum on Literature and Art." We proletarian revolutionaries feel utterly elated and proud.

Chairman Mao taught us that history is created by the people and the stage of history must have the masses as its masters. The same is true with the stage of literature and art.

For the past several thousand years, the masses of the people who create history have been trampled under feet, exploited and oppressed, whereas the parasites, emperors and kings and ministers and generals, lords and ladies, and the bourgeois class have ridden over people's heads, bullying the people, and doing what they please. Led by Chairman Mao, after several scores of years of valiant struggle and sacrifice, we have overthrown the three big mountains over our heads, established the dictatorship of the proletariat, and we workers, peasants, and soldiers have truly come to our own and become masters ourselves.

For several thousand years, the literature and art of the exploiting class, confounding black and white and twisting history, has left no stone unturned to prettify emperors and kings, ministers and generals, scholars and beauties, bloodsuckers and parasites, and dressed them as "heroes" creating history, while it vilified the laboring people and described them as ignorant slaves who dare not to resist or to make revolution but let themselves be manipulated by others. Our great leader Chairman Mao, in his brilliant "Talks," ingeniously developed the

Marxist-Leninist literary and art theory and world outlook, and drew up the most perfect, the most thoroughgoing, and the most correct line of proletarian literature and art. He pointed out that literature and art must serve workers, peasants and soldiers, create works for them, and be their tools. He put back to order history which had been reversed, and established the workers, peasants and soldiers as masters on the arena of literature and art.

Since the founding of our nation, our worker-peasant-soldier masses, under the wise guidance of Chairman Mao, have demonstrated their militant will, gone all out, shown themselves as the masters, created great moving deeds, and in many cases emerged great heroes in the course of the three great revolutionary movements of class struggle, production struggle and scientific experiment. As required by Chairman Mao's proletarian literary and art line, revolutionary literature and art should give full expression to these heroic images, fully reflect the revolutionary struggle of the worker-peasant-soldier masses, so as to educate the masses, arouse their revolutionary zeal, serve socialist revolution and construction, and safeguard our lifeline -- proletarian dictatorship.

However, revolutionary revisionists Lu Ting-i, Chou Yang and his company, with the support of the top persons taking the capitalist road within the party, have for a long time frenziedly opposed Chairman Mao's proletarian literary and art line -- the only correct orientation of having literature and art serve workers, peasants and soldiers. They have promoted a counterrevolutionary revisionist black line of literature and art and let emperors and kings, ministers and generals, scholars and beauties, the dead, foreigners, and the bourgeoisie dominate the stages. They made use of literature and art to widely spread the poisonous weeds, and manufacture public opinion in a vain attempt to oust proletarian dictatorship and restore capitalism. Such criminal activities of theirs we the worker-peasant-soldier masses absolutely cannot tolerate!

In our factory the persons in authority taking the capitalist road have peddled the ware of Lu Ting-i and Chou Yang. They set up the so-called "spare-time theatrical troupe," spent more than 16,000 yuan on costumes and stage instruments, staged the operas, "Ssu Lang Visits His Mother," "Lung Feng Ch'eng Hsiang," "The Three No's" and other such bad operas, in order to bring forth emperors and kings, generals and ministers, scholars and beauties, the dregs of society, and shameless traitors in a vain attempt to blunt the revolutionary will of our workers and poison people's minds. Unfortunately, their stuff was resolutely boycotted by our workers, none of them going to see such operas.

The great proletarian cultural revolution has dragged out the counterrevolutionary revisionists Lu Ting-i, Chou Yang and company, as well as China's Khrushchev who gave them total support behind the scenes. This is a great victory for Chairman Mao's proletarian political line, a great victory for his proletarian literary and art line, and a great victory for the thought of Mao Tse-tung.

Illuminated by Chairman Mao's proletarian literary and art line and under the guidance of Comrade Chiang Ch'ing as well as under the efforts of our revolutionary literary and art workers, there have emerged a number of excellent specimens of revolutionary works, such as the revolutionary Peking operas "Take the Weihai Mountain by Strategem," "The Docks," "The Red Lantern," "Sha Chia Pang," and "Raid on the White Tiger Regiment;" the revolutionary ballets "The Red Detachment of Women" and "The White-Haired Girl," and the revolutionary symphony "Sha Chia Pang." We give them our warmest applause. We give them a thunderous applause. We give them a thousand applauses. We give them ten thousand applauses.

When the workers of our factory saw the revolutionary Peking operas on modern themes, they felt highly proud of them, saying excitedly: "This is the kind of Peking opera we like to see. It depicts us workers, peasants and soldiers. It gives us real satisfaction and also education." "Chairman Mao's revolutionary literary and art line is good. Revolutionary operas on modern themes fully mirror the images of us working class. The stuff peddled by Chou Yang and company is nothing but distortion and slandering of us workers, peasants and soldiers. It is really disgusting!"

We workers, peasants and soldiers must be the masters of the arena of literature and art. The arena of literature and art under socialism definitely belongs to us.

We the working class must grasp literature and art as our weapons. We should not only be models of "making revolution and spurring production" but also vanguards of the proletarian revolutionary literature and art. We must study and apply the "Talks" in a flexible way, hold high the great banner of the thought of Mao Tse-tung, pull up by the roots the counterrevolutionary revisionist black line, and take back the entire stage of literature and art occupied by the handful of counterrevolutionary revisionists. Any literature and art which is not compatible with the thought of Mao Tse-tung must be firmly opposed, criticized and repudiated. All literature and art conforming with the thought of Mao Tse-tung will be given firm support. We should also write up and show on the stage our heated struggles, and conduct with fanfare the mass movement of revolutionary literature and art. Let the heroic images of us workers, peasants and soldiers stand high on the stage of socialist literature and art forever. Let our literature and art forever be the powerful weapon for "uniting the people, educating the people, hitting the enemy and annihilating the enemy" forever, and for safeguarding and consolidating the proletarian dictatorship.

CSO: 3530-D

LONG LIVE CHAIRMAN MAO'S REVOLUTIONARY LITERARY  
AND ART LINE

[Following is a translation of an article by Han Ai-ch'ang, Member of the Standing Committee of the Peking Municipal Revolutionary Committee, and Chairman of the Revolutionary Committee of the Peking Institute of Aeronautics, in the Chinese-language periodical Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Peking, No. 8, 23 May 1967, pages 73-74.]

May 23 of this year marks the 25th anniversary of our great leader Chairman Mao's brilliant work, "Talks at the Yen-an Forum on Literature and Art." As the great proletarian cultural revolution gains its great victory today, we proletarian revolutionaries are commemorating this special occasion with full revolutionary zeal.

Chairman Mao's "Talks" is the most complete, penetrating, systematic and concise analysis and scientific summation of the struggles waged between the two classes, the two lines and the two world outlooks of the proletariat and the bourgeoisie in the nation's revolutionary literary and art movement since the May Fourth Movement and in the world proletarian revolutionary literary and art movement. The "Talks" is an epoch-making historic document, a programmatic document for the great proletarian cultural revolution, is the pinnacle of the literary and art theory and Marxist-Leninist world outlook, and the most powerful ideological weapon for conquering modern revisionism and all kinds of bourgeois concepts.

In this brilliant work of Chairman Mao, he has pointed out the road along which to march forward for the development of proletarian literature and art. He said, "All our literature and art must serve the broad masses of the people, first of all the workers, peasants and soldiers; should create for them, and be their tools." This literary and art line must be thoroughly revolutionary. The top party persons in authority taking the capitalist road and the small handful of counter-revolutionary revisionists have done all in their power to resist it or

outwardly to follow it but actually oppose it. For a long time they have usurped leadership over literary and art circles and stubbornly practiced a counterrevolutionary revisionist literary and art line. In the realms of drama, cinema, literature and art, they have unleashed a large number of poisonous weeds which are anti-party, anti-socialist and against the thought of Mao Tse-tung, in order to give green light to capitalism, revisionism and feudalism, and to recall the dead soul of the remnant feudal force and pave the way for the restoration of capitalism.

They enthusiastically promoted the feudal and capitalist literature and art, and allowed the stages to be dominated by emperors and kings, scholars and beauties, the dead and foreigners, demons and freaks, whereas the broad masses of workers, peasants and soldiers were given no place on the stage. The literary and art circles have talked about and staged in a big way the "famous, foreign and ancient" stuff, and have been filled with the foul atmosphere of favoring the old and slighting the new, worshipping what is foreign and negating what is Chinese, favoring the dead and ignoring the living. Such a poisonous mouldy air has eroded people's thought and also disintegrated and demolished the base of our socialist economy. They have dressed themselves as "authorities" and "big shots," to be offended and opposed by none. If there should be any opposition or "breach of discipline," they would immediately repress. Taking the reactionary stand of the bourgeoisie, they practiced bourgeois dictatorship and ruthless oppression and persecution of the revolutionary Left loyal to Chairman Mao's literary and art line.

This is a struggle between two classes and two roads. This is a struggle between those to seize power and those to lose power, between those for capitalist restoration and those against capitalist restoration.

The surging waves of the great proletarian cultural revolution personally started and led by Chairman Mao have washed down the bastion tenaciously held by a small handful of counterrevolutionary revisionists in literary and art circles and cleared up the dirty water of the counterrevolutionary revisionist literature and art circles. These counterrevolutionary revisionists, together with their master -- the top party person in authority taking the capitalist road -- have all been sunk and drowned. The literary and art line of Chairman Mao has been truly implemented.

Under the illumination of Chairman Mao's thought and the guidance of his literary and art line, the revolutionization of Peking opera has heralded the triumph of China's great proletarian cultural revolution. Under the direct guidance and concern of Comrade Chiang Ch'ing and through the arduous struggle of our revolutionary literary and art workers, a number of fine specimen revolutionary operas sparkling with the thought of Mao Tse-tung have appeared. Revolutionary Peking operas such as "Taking the Bandits' Stronghold," "The Docks," "The Red Lantern," "Sha Chia Pang," and "Raid on the White Tiger Regiment;" revolutionary ballets such as "The Red Detachment of Women" and "The White-Haired Girl,"



and the revolutionary symphony "Sha Chia Pang" have all broken down the various obstacles and emerged triumphant from the literary and cultural bastion under the control of the handful of bourgeois elements.

The blooming season for the hundred flowers of proletarian literature and art has come, and the broad masses of workers, peasants and soldiers have walked in large strides onto the stage. One class has taken the stage while another has bowed out. What a complete change it is! This is a great victory for the revolutionary literary and art line of Chairman Mao as well as a great triumph for the "Talks."

It is of particularly great significance that the 25th anniversary of the "Talks" is marked amidst the great proletarian cultural revolution and at a crucial time when a general attack is launched on a small handful of party persons in authority taking the capitalist road. We must learn in earnest this brilliant work of Chairman Mao, march along the road pointed up by him, unite with the worker-peasant-soldier masses, thoroughly remold our world outlook, and become a staunch revolutionary warrior of the proletariat. We must hold all the higher the banner of the proletariat for revolutionary criticism and repudiation, thoroughly criticize and repudiate the counterrevolutionary literary and art line of the revisionists. We must topple, discredit, thoroughly and penetratingly criticize China's Khrushchev who backs up the counterrevolutionary revisionists in literary and art circles, and carry the great proletarian cultural revolution through to the end.

Long live the revolutionary literary and art line of Chairman Mao!

CSO: 3530-D

## "TAKING THE BANDITS' STRONGHOLD"

[Following is a translation of a drama, entitled "Chih-ch'u Wei-hu-shan" (English version above), which was rewritten collectively by the Shanghai Peking-Opera Institute and published in the Chinese-language periodical, Hung-ch'i (Red Flag), Peking, No. 8, 23 May 1967, pages 75-97.]

### Dramatis Personae

YANG Tzu-jung - leader, certain reconnaissance platoon of the Chinese People's Liberation Army

SHAO Chien-po - Chief of staff, certain regiment of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (alias, 203)

SUN Ta-te - deputy leader, certain reconnaissance platoon of the Chinese People's Liberation Army

PAI Ju - Medic, certain unit of the Chinese People's Liberation Army

KAO Po - Guard, certain unit of the Chinese People's Liberation Army

TUNG Chung-sung - soldier, certain unit of the Chinese People's Liberation Army

LI Hung-i - soldier, certain unit of the Chinese People's Liberation Army

LUAN Chao-chia - soldier, certain unit of the Chinese People's Liberation Army

Several soldiers

LI Yung-chi - railway worker

LI's mother - mother of LI Yung-chi

CH'ANG Pao - daughter of a hunter

CH'ANG La-hu - father of CH'ANG

LI's wife - wife of LI Yung-chi

CHANG Ta-shan - railway worker

Several people of the masses

TSO Shan-tiao - head of bandits at Wei-hu-shan, and brigadier of the fifth pacification brigade of Kuomintang's puppet "Pin-Shui-Tu-Chia troops"

LUAN Ping - "Liaison officer" of Hsu-Ta-ma-pan, head of bandits at Nai-tu-shan

TA Ma-tzu - "Chief of staff" to TSO Shan-tiao, bandit head at Wei-hu-shan  
TA Pi-tzu - "Aide-de-camp" to TSO Shan-tiao, bandit head at Wei-hu-shan  
Bandit company commander -- from Wei-hu-shan  
Bandits

Act I MARCH UPON VICTORY

(Winter, 1946. In the Mu-tan-chiang area, Northeast China.  
(Lin-hai-hsueh-yuan, [Sea of forest and land of snow; name of novel])  
(A certain assault detachment of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, with full equipment, led by a red flag, appears in hot pursuit.  
LUAN Chao-chia. Reporting to 203, we are approaching a fork in the road!  
SHAO Chien-po. Cease the march!  
LUAN Chao-chia. Troops!  
(Troops respond. KAO Po presents the map.  
SHAO Chien-po. (Studies the map and observes the terrain) LUAN Chao-chia.  
LUAN Chao-chia. Here.  
SHAO Chien-po. Take a rest here.  
LUAN Chao-chia. Yes. LI Hung-i, stand guard.  
(LI Hung-i assumes sentry duty, exits.  
LUAN Chao-chia. (Turns to the rear and gesticulates) Logistics Officer! Take a rest on the spot!  
(Voice responds from behind. Horses neigh. Troops stamp their feet to warm themselves, and shake loose snow from their bodies.  
SHAO Chien-po. Is everybody tired?  
Soldiers. Not tired.  
SHAO Chien-po. Good! Comrades! Comrades YANG Tzu-jung and SUN Ta-te will proceed to the forward station to scout. This is our meeting point. These obstinate bandits of TSO Shan-tiao have now escaped into deep mountains and thick forests. We have marched under wind and snow for several days, but have not yet found them! We must be mentally prepared for continuous operations.  
Soldiers. Yes.  
SHAO Chien-po. Comrades, the regimental Party Committee hand picked the 36 of us to organize this assault detachment to penetrate this sea of forest and land of snow. In accordance with Chairman MAO's directive: "Building up a firm Northeast base," we will mobilize the masses and eliminate local bandits in the Mu-tan-chiang area to consolidate the rear and coordinate our efforts with the field army to pulverize the U.S.-CHIANG offensive. This is a task of great strategic significance. We will certainly be resolute, disregard sacrifice, overcome all difficulties, and strive for victory, as Chairman MAO has taught us to do.

Soldiers. We will resolutely fulfill our task!

LI Hung-i. (enters) Reporting to 203, Platoon leader YANG and the other return from scouting!

(YANG Tzu-jung and SUN Ta-te enter and salute,

YANG Tzu-jung. Reporting!

SHAO Chien-po. Comrade Tzu-jung, you have put yourselves out for us!

YANG Tzu-jung. We accepted orders and disguised ourselves for the reconnaissance mission. It was difficult to find anyone on the road. In a remote mountain gully, we rescued a dump boy. Following instructions from his father, we arrived at Hei-lung-kou, a juncture of the small-gauge forest railway, and gathered some intelligence on the movement of TSO Shan-tiao.

SHAO Chien-po. Very good.

YANG Tzu-jung. (Singing, in "Hsi-pi Yao-pang") There are bandits roaming frequently back and forth in this region / They use the designation of "First Regiment of the Fifth Pacification Brigade" / They plunder and sack all stations, large and small, along the railway / (Changing to "Hsi-pi Lui-shui") Hei-lung-kou suffered the scourge again last night at dark / The whole village was burned to the ground / TSO Shan-tiao is cruel and commits heinous crimes / After perpetrating the malignancy they all moved to Chia-pi-kou / It is judged that these bandits now escape and return to Wei-hu-shan

SHAO Chien-po. Comrades! We have located the whereabouts of TSO Shan-tiao, and must now follow up closely. LUAN Chao-chia, we will camp tonight at Hei-lung-kou. Comrade Tzu-jung!

YANG Tzu-jung. Here.

SHAO Chien-po. We should know more about our enemies. You lead SUN Ta-te, TUNG Chung-sung, and LI Hung-i; (the three respond and step forward) and continue further reconnaissance at the front. You must not overlook any clue concerning the bandits.

YANG Tzu-jung. Yes. Let's go! (YANG Tzu-jung, SUN Ta-te, TUNG Chung-sung, and LI Hung-i turn and exit abruptly.

SHAO Chien-po. Comrades! (Singing, in "Hsi-pi San-pan") The pursuit and assault detachment bear heavy duty for the people / We are dedicated to support the frontline and stabilize the rear, / Climb mountain ridges and cliffs, and overcome all dangers and difficulties / We are determined that the sunshine will illuminate the dark valleys and deep mountains!

(Chorus in response -- lights dim, curtains drop quickly

## Act II CALAMITY BEFALLS CHIA-PI-KOU

(At dusk. Outside of Chia-pi-kou. Chieftains of the Kuomintang "Pacification Fifth Brigade," TAO Shan-tiao, Ta Ma-tzu, and Ta Pi-tzu lead other bandits to spy on the village from a distance.

TA Ma-tzu. Third lord, on our way back to the mountain this time, we have scooped up a great deal. Since this Chia-pi-kou is located right here at our front door, let us not touch it this time.

TSO Shan-tiao. Never mind that! Chief of staff, get me some more of the poor devils and bring them back to build some works! Both men and women are wanted!

TA Ma-tzu. (Understandingly) This is very clear.

(TA Ma-tzu leads other bandits to enter the village. As TA Pi-tzu is about to move toward the village, he is called by TSO Shan-tiao.

TSO Shan-tiao. Aide-de-camp, how long ago was it when I-cho-mao went to see LUAN Ping?

TA Pi-tzu. Exactly 10 days. I am also concerned about this matter.

TSO Shan-tiao. I have heard that old CHIANG has arrived at Shenyang to personally take charge of war operations. A major offensive will soon begin against northern Manchuria!

TA Pi-tzu. When can we expect such a day?

TSO Shan-tiao. Have you forgotten? At the Mu-tan-chiang conference last time, Commissioner HOU said that the Americans are overtly calling for peaceful negotiations between the Nationalist and Communist Parties, but covertly they are helping old CHIANG in troop deployment, with the intention of eliminating all Communist troops within and beyond the Shan-hai-kuan within three months! I think it is now about time!

TA Pi-tzu. Good! We can then take a breath of fresh air!

TSO Shan-tiao. Ah, after we return to Wei-hu-shan, the first thing we must do is to expand our troops.

TA Pi-tzu. Yes. Once I-cho-mao contacts LUAN Ping and obtains HSU-ta-ma-pan's communications chart, the whole Mu-tan-chiang region will all be ours.

TSO Shan-tiao. That's right. Ah, I have heard that Commissioner HOU is also looking everywhere for this chart. But we must not let him get it!

TA Pi-tzu. Third lord, you can relax. I-cho-ma and LUAN Ping are sworn brothers. The communications chart will never fly away. Once the Nationalist Army arrives, you will certainly become the commander-in-chief of northern Manchuria!

TSO Shan-tiao. Ha, ha, ha! (Singing in "Hsi-pi San-pan") With sole domination of Wei-hu-shan for generations / The fame lasts through three dynasties.

TA Pi-tzu. This is very true! Marshal CHANG, Manchukuo, and old CHIANG all find your lordship indispensable.

TSO Shan-tiao. Well, well! (Singing follows) The United States and CHIANG are partners in the civil war / I intend to seize one half of the three rivers and four provinces!

(TSO Shan-tiao indulges himself in self-satisfaction and leads TA Pi-tzu to rush into the village.

(Fire breaks out everywhere in the village, with loud sound of crying and yelling.

(Li Yung-chi enters with hunting gun over his shoulder and game in his hand.

LI Yung-chi. (Singing in "Hsi-pi San-pan") Fire lights up the sky and noise is everywhere / (in "Hsi-pi Kuai-pan") Mothers call sons and sons yell for their mothers / Bandits are coming to burn, kill, and loot / One must risk his life to fight them off!

(Bandits take by force young villagers, both men and women, tied in ropes. LI Yung-chi tangles with the bandits. The people are beaten up and dragged away by the bandits.

(LI Yung-chi's wife is dragged on, while LI's mother holding a baby follows. The bandit company commander seizes the baby and smashes him to death against a rock. In a rage, LI Yung-chi fights with the bandits and is wounded in the left arm.

(TSO Shan-tiao enters and fires his gun at LI Yung-chi. Protecting her husband, LI's wife is hit by the bullet and dies. TSO Shan-tiao and the others exit.

LI Yung-chi. (With grief and indignation, looking at his wife) Mother of my child! Mother of my child! Mother of my...

LI's Mother. (Falls over and cries out in sorrow) Mother of my child!

LI Yung-chi. (Singing in "Hsi-pi Kuai-pan") Disaster strikes suddenly like thunder / The fire of indignation burns throughout the chest / I see with my own eyes my wife lying in blood / I myself witness the violent death of my son / This great enmity and deep hatred, I pledge, must be revenged -- TSO Shan-tiao! (continues singing) I will catch you and cut you to pieces to pay for the blood debt! (LI Yung-chi rushes forward to fight with his life. Bandits stop him and tie him up.

LI's mother. Yung-chi! (LI Yung-chi struggles with all his strength.

--Curtains down

### Act III INQUIRING ABOUT SUFFERING IN THE MOUNTAINS

(Afternoon. In a remote mountain gully. Sunshine filters through the forest, showing mountains in the distance. Small wooden house stands on one side. Bowls and chopsticks in disarray on the table.

(CH'ANG Pao is picking up the house. CH'ANG La-hu gazes afar outside and then returns into the house.

CH'ANG Pao. Father, that man and woman who came here a while ago were outrageous. They ate all the game we just obtained for ourselves.

CH'ANG La-hu. CH'ANG Pao, this is not the place to stay. We must leave quickly!

CH'ANG Pao. Go?

CH'ANG La-hu. Do you realize who the man and woman were?

CH'ANG Pao. Didn't that man say that he came from the Liberation Army?

CH'ANG La-hu. Ugh! Eight years ago when they abducted me to Wei-hu-shan, I saw him there. His name is I-cho-mao; and he is a bandit.

CH'ANG Pao. Oh!

CH'ANG La-hu. He didn't recognize me; but I have not forgotten him. Now, quickly take out those few pieces of hide you have been concealing. Let us go to your uncle Ta-shan in Chia-pi-kou.

CH'ANG Pao. Ai. (picking up things)

CH'ANG La-hu. (Thinking aloud) The two fur traders I met a few days ago said that the Communist Party has come to our native land and that they are helping the poor to free themselves. I don't know whether they were telling the truth or not!

CH'ANG Pao. My father, those two fur traders were good men and would not lie. Had it not been for them rescuing me from the snow, I would have long been frozen to death!

CH'ANG La-hu. That's right. We must go now to see what is going on.

(CH'ANG Pao takes up a fur jacket and hunting gun. CH'ANG La-hu packs a knapsack. As they are ready to leave, they hear footsteps approaching.)

CH'ANG Pao. Father, some others are coming!

(CH'ANG La-hu quickly clamps his hand over CH'ANG Pao's mouth.)

CH'ANG La-hu. Don't talk now! (The two withdraw into the house and listen intently.)

(YANG Tzu-jung, SUN Ta-te, TUNG Chung-sung, and LI Hung-i, in cape and wind cap with a red star over their military cap, approach through the snow. They carefully observe all sides on the road.)

YANG Tzu-jung. (Singing in "Hsi-pi San-pan") With enthusiastic instructions from the people all the way / We follow closely the trail of a suspicious couple / Their trail is lost in deep mountains and they disappear -- (observing the terrain) Lao SUN, is this not the house of the old hunder CH'ANG?

SUN Ta-te. Yes, you and I came here before.

YANG Tzu-jung. Right. (Sings) Once again we visit the hunder to solve problems / Comrades SUN Ta-te and LI Hung-i proceed on reconnaissance / With information we all return to meet here.

SUN Ta-te & LI Hung-i. Yes. (Exit)

YANG Tzu-jung. Hsiao TUNG, stand guard!

TUNG Chung-sung. Yes. (Exit)

YANG Tzu-jung. (Walking to the front of the house) Venerable fellow-countryman, venerable fellow-countryman! (CH'ANG La-hu nervously appears from the house.)

CH'ANG La-ju. (Observing the stranger facing him) Whom are you looking for?

YANG Tzu-jung. You have forgotten your fellow-countryman? I am the same fur trader who came here a few days ago.

CH'ANG La-hu. You were the fur trader?

(CH'ANG Pao comes out of the house. CH'ANG hastily attempts to stop, but finds it too late.)

YANG Tzu-jung. (to CH'ANG Pao) Little brother, your father has forgotten me. Did I not bring you mone that day?

CH'ANG Pao. (Wants to speak, but suddenly stops and merely nods)...

YANG Tzu-jung. (Detects something, but remains calm) What a bright boy.

CH'ANG La-hu. (Promptly interrupts) He is dumb.

YANG Tzu-jung. Oh, that's right.

CH'ANG La-hu. (Looks closely at YANG Tzu-jung and recognizes him) Ah, you are Manager YANG.

YANG Tzu-jung. Yes, I am.

CH'ANG La-hu. Come, come into the house, please. (All enter the house and sit down.)

YANG Tzu-jung. (To CH'ANG La-hu) Is she better now?

CH'ANG La-hu. (Quickly follows) Yes, better now. That's right. We did accept each other as fellow-countrymen. Tell me the truth. You were a trader before, and now become a soldier. Who are you, anyway?

YANG Tzu-jung. I was never really a trader. (Removes his wind cap to show the red star) I come from the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

CH'ANG La-hu. (With suspicion) You, too, come from the Liberation Army?

YANG Tzu-jung. Yes. Have you seen the Liberation Army before?

CH'ANG La-hu. (Attempts to gloss over) No, I... never did.

YANG Tzu-jung. Last time when I was here, I did not mention it. I also came from Shantung. Old CH'ANG, our native land now is different from that when you left to come!

CH'ANG La-hu. That is good. But, coming so far here, what do you do here, anyway?

YANG Tzu-jung. We come to fight bandits.

CH'ANG La-hu. To fight bandits? That's fine!

YANG Tzu-jung. Our large troops are in the rear! I can tell you that our Liberation Army has won several great victories in the Northeast. The entire Mu-tan-chiang region is liberated. The large groups of bandits are put to rout. Such remnant bandits, like TSO Shan-tiao, now escape into the forests and mountains. We will certainly eliminate them also, as soon as possible!

CH'ANG La-hu. That will be wonderful!

YANG Tzu-jung. Old CH'ANG, the people in the area have suffered a great deal from TSO Shan-tiao! You two now hide yourselves in this remote forest. You must have some deep grievance!

CH'ANG La-hu. (With sorrow and indignation) TSO Shan-tiao, Ugh!...

YANG Tzu-jung. Old CH'ANG, speak your mind.

CH'ANG La-hu. (Unwilling to touch the old grievance) It has been eight years now. Let's not bring it up again.

CH'ANG Pao. (Unable to control herself further) My father --!

CH'ANG La-hu. (Startled, painfully) CH'ANG Pao, you ...

YANG Tzu-jung. (With profound affection) My child, the Communist Party and Chairman MAO are behind you! Speak up!

CH'ANG Pao. Uncle! I'll speak, I'll speak! (Singing in "Tao-pan")

In an evening of wind and snow eight year ago, disaster descended from the sky! / (in "Yuan-pan -- Wa-wa-tiao") TSO Shan-tiao slaughtered my grandmother and abducted my parents. / Uncle Ta-shan of Chia-pi-kou accepted and brought me up, / Until later father returned, but mother committed suicide. / Hiding in the mountain Father was afraid that I would fall into evil hands / Since then I pretend dumb and dress like a man. / (Changing to "Kuai-erh-liu") Father and daughter hunt for a living on mountain ridges during the day, / Father thinks of grandmother and I remember mother at night. / We look at the stars and gaze at the moon, / We hope for the sun to shine over the mountains. / We hope for the day that we can speak our mind. / I hope for the time when I can again appear as a girl. / We always remember the blood debt during these eight years. / If we could have wings



to fly to the mountains and kill all animals with our hunting guns! (While CH'ANG Pao sings, CH'ANG La-hu also listens in grief.

YANG Tzu-jung. (Indignantly, singing in "Hsi-pi Yuan-pan") Little CH'ANG Pao charges the bandits with their crimes / Her words of blood and tearful voice arouse my deep hatred / The oppressed people through the world always remember their blood debts / They will seek revenge and demand repayment of blood for blood / (Changes to "Hsi-pi Liu-shui") Elimination of TSO Shan-tiao means liberation of the people / They will become masters and see the sun shining over the mountains / They will follow the Communist Party like they would the star of salvation / Mountains and rivers will appear in new forms / This area will change to look like our native land / Good days will then last forever! /

CH'ANG La-hu. (Excitedly) Old YANG! (All sit down) Old YANG, what you said touches my heart. Ah, but it is not an easy thing to fight TSO Shan-tiao. Several dynasties have changed in scores of years. Whenever the situation is uncertain, he escapes to Wei-hu-shan. There, the nine groups of 27 pillboxes and ground tunnels enable him to attack, to defend, and to escape. Nobody can reach him there.

YANG Tzu-jung. That's right. There are difficulties. I have heard that the path leading up the mountain alone is very difficult to pass.

CH'ANG La-hu. It is true. There is only one open path in the front, steep and winding. This is the case of "One person guarding against ten thousand persons invading." With posts and sentries on the way, nobody can move up the path!

YANG Tzu-jung. How did you come down from the mountain eight years ago?

CH'ANG La-hu. There is another treacherous path behind the mountain. There are high cliffs, tall grass, and thick forests everywhere. Nobody dares to go that way; and the bandits do not have any sentry there either. I came down that way eight years ago. However, I was fortunate to fall on a tree; otherwise, I would have been broken into pieces long ago.

YANG Tzu-jung. Old CH'ANG, the information you give us is very useful. So long as we are together, we can capture any mountain stronghold.

CH'ANG La-hu. Right! That is the day we all long for! Old YANG, Not that I regard you as an outsider, but a man and woman came here a while ago. The man was obviously a bandit, and yet he also claimed that he came from the Liberation Army.

CH'ANG Pao. Eight years ago, my father saw him at Wei-hu-shan. He is called I-cho-mao.

YANG Tzu-jung. I-cho-mao! What else did he say?

CH'ANG La-hu. He called the woman elder sister-in-law, and said that he was a sworn brother of LUAN Ping.

YANG Tzu-jung. (Interrupting) LUAN Ping?

CH'ANG La-hu. It seemed that the woman was LUAN Ping's wife. I-cho-mao was arguing with her, about a certain chart.

CH'ANG Pao. Communications chart.

CH'ANG La-hu. That's right.

(TUNG Chung-sung appears, on the watch, outside of the house.

TUNG Chung-sung. (Calling at the door) Platoon leader! (YANG Tzu-jung opens the door.)

TUNG Chung-sung. Old SUN and the others return. (SUN Ta-te and LI Hung-i enter the house.)

SUN Ta-te. (Greeting CH'ANG La-hu) Venerable fellow-countryman.

LI Hung-i. Old YANG, in the woods to the northeast from here, we discovered one blood-stained glove and nearby a corpse of a woman. (Handing the glove to YANG Tzu-jung)

SUN Ta-te. We searched the surrounding area, but didn't find the murderer, because the wind and snow had covered up all footprints.

YANG Tzu-jung. Old CH'ANG, have you seen this glove before?

CH'ANG La-hu. (Looking at the glove) Oh, this is I-cho-mao's glove.

YANG Tzu-jung. He probably committed the murder and took away the "communications chart." How is this related to LUAN Ping?

TUNG Chung-sung. (Pulling YANG Tzu-jung to one side) Platoon leader, that bandit whom you captured in Chiu-lung-hui, was not his name LUAN Ping?

YANG Tzu-jung. Right. That was him! Comrades, this is a very complicated case of murder, involving LUAN Ping now under detention. TUNG Chung-sung, Old SUN, Hsiao LI, and I will go after the murderer. You report the situation to 203. I suggest that we interrogate LUAN Ping about the communications chart!

TUNG Chung-sung. Yes (Promptly exits)

YANG Tzu-jung. Old CH'ANG, the matter now is urgent. I cannot long remain here. Please accept these dried provisions. (YANG Tzu-jung unties his dried provisions bag and hands it to CH'ANG La-hu, while SUN Ta-te and the others also untie provisions bags and give them to CH'ANG Pao.

CH'ANG Pao. (Touched) Uncle ...

YANG Tzu-jung. It seems that you cannot remain here any longer. Perhaps you should go somewhere for the time being. Once our troops arrive, everything will change then. Old CH'ANG, we will meet again.

CH'ANG La-hu. Old YANG, where are you going?

YANG Tzu-jung. We will pursue I-cho-mao.

CH'ANG La-hu. Not this way! I-cho-mao must be going to Wei-hu-shan. The road there has always been difficult to follow. Now, under heavy snow, it is even more difficult for strangers. Come, we two will guide you.

YANG Tzu-jung. Old CH'ANG, we thank you! (Curtains)

#### Act IV PLAN DECIDED

(Early morning. Camp site of the pursuit and assault detachment at Hei-lung-kou.

(Strong wind blows outside amid heavy snow. SHAO Chien-po gazes at a map, contemplates, and then looks through the window.

SHAO Chien-po. (Sings in "Erh-huang Tao-pan") The north wind blows in forests and its howling echoes rock the valley / ("Hui-lung") Looking at the flying snow dancing all over the sky and majestic mountains donning a silver garment / The scenery of the northern country is breathtaking. / ("Erh-huang Man-pan") The magnificent and beautiful mountains and rivers

in their unlimited variety of appearance / Will not continue to tolerate  
ravage by jackals after the tigers! / (Changes to "Erh-huang Yuan-pan") The  
Party Central Committee leads the way to progress / The burning flam of the  
revolution is beyond any control. / The Liberation Army operates over  
thousands of li and carries the hope of the people. / We must plant the red  
flags all over the fatherland. / (Speaking) Regardless of how the United  
States and CHIANG may collude with each other, pretend to talk but proceed  
to fight, and attempt all possible tricks, justice is on our side and hatred  
is in our heart. With one of us against ten of them, we pledge ourselves  
to thoroughly eradicate all reactionaries. (Sings in "Erh-huang Kuai-san-  
yen") Comrades-in-arm grow up under MAO Tse-tung's banner. / Thirty-six red  
hearts look to the sun. / Breaking through the wind and snow, we race through  
mountains like lightning / Cutting through thorns and brambles, we gain  
strength through combat. / We withstand the wind and the wave / And steel  
ourselves in the melting pot of revolution. / TSO Shan-tiao will merely accom-  
pany U.S.-CHIANG to the grave. / Regardless of how desperately he may strug-  
gle, he will never escape the doom.

(YANG Tzu-jung enters.)

YANG Tzu-jung. Reporting!

SHAO Chien-po. Enter. (YANG Tzu-jung enters the room.)

SHAO Chien-po. Comrade Tzu-jung, you have worked hard! Is the murderer  
captured?

YANG Tzu-jung. He is captured. Here are a letter and one communi-  
cations chart which he carried with him. (Hands over the Chart and letter)  
It is very difficult to find the way in this area. We were fortunate to  
have hunter Old CH'ANG as our guide. The murderer first pretended to be a  
scout from our military district headquarters. After hunder Old CH'ANG  
confronted him and our severe interrogation, he finally admitted that he  
was I-cho-mao from Wei-hu-shan.

SHAO Chien-po. Very good! The hunter was of a great help to us.  
Chairman MAO taught us long ago: "The revolutionary war is a war of the  
masses. Only by way of mobilizing the masses and of relying upon them will  
it be possible to prosecute the war." Deviating from the masses, we would  
not be able to move.

YANG Tzu-jung. That's true. The hunter Old CH'ANG also informed us  
of two ways to go up the mountain. Based on what he pointed out, I drafted  
a sketch. (Presents the sketch) I-cho-mao admits that there is an open path  
going up the front of the mountain. He claims that it would be very easy  
to go up this path because it is not defended. This is obviously a lie.  
He does not mention the treacherous path in the rear of the mountain.

SHAO Chien-po. Well, have you appropriately settled with the father  
and daughter of the hunter family?

YANG Tzu-jung. We gave the hunter family all the dry provisions which  
we carried. They intend to move to Chia-pi-kou, after we push forward.

SHAO Chien-po. Good. (Looking at the chart and the letter) Now,  
Old YANG, LUAN Ping has never mentioned this chart before.

YANG Tzu-jung. Right. I-cho-mao said that the communications chart  
shows three hundred secret contract points in various localities of the  
Northeast used by Nai-tou-shan. This is an important matter!

SHAO Chien-po. KAO Po has escorted LUAN Ping here. Let us interrogate LUAN Ping and clarify the communications chart.

YANG Tzu-jung. Good. I will go to bring LUAN Ping here.

SHAO Chien-po. Old YANG, LUAN Ping has been your opposite. It is better for you to interrogate him.

YANG Tzu-jung. Yes. (SHAO Chien-po exits to an adjacent room)

YANG Tzu-jung. (To the soldier on sentry duty) Hsiao CHANG, tell KAO Po to bring LUAN Ping here. (KAO Po escorts LUAN Ping; both enter the room. LUAN Ping is startled to see YANG Tzu-jung, but proceeds to greet him. YANG Tzu-jung points to a chair and LUAN Ping sits down.

YANG Tzu-jung. LUAN Ping, have you told us everything?

LUAN Ping. I am willing to be very frank. I will tell you whatever I know.

YANG Tzu-jung. There is one thing that you have not told us.

LUAN Ping. There is one thing?

YANG Tzu-jung. One very important thing.

LUAN Ping. Senior officer, besides what I wear, I do not possess anything else!

YANG Tzu-jung. Except knowledge of one chart.

LUAN Ping. Chart!

YANG Tzu-jung. One communications chart!

LUAN Ping. (Alarmed) Ah!

YANG Tzu-jung. Are you striving to earn credit to redeem yourself, or do you intend to remain hostile to the people?

LUAN Ping. (Forcing himself to remain calm) Don't hurry, let me think. (Pretending to think) Oh, yes, yes, now I remember. I have heard that HSU-ts-ma-pang did have a secret communications chart.

YANG Tzu-jung. You were not very thorough in telling us everything!

LUAN Ping. Senior officer, please do not misunderstand. This chart was a treasure of HAU-ta-ma-pang. I had never even seen it before.

YANG Tzu-jung. LUAN Ping, you should understand our policy.

LUAN Ping. I understand, I understand! Leniency to those who confess and severity to those who resist.

YANG Tzu-jung. Let me ask, what did you do in Nai-tou-shan?

LUAN Ping. This you already know. I was the aide-de-camp for liaison!

YANG Tzu-jung. Ugh! As the aid-de-camp for liaison, you neither tell us about the contact points, nor even admit that you had seen the communications chart. You are very good at pretending! It seems that you have no intention to tell the truth. KAO Po, take him away!

KAO Po. Let's go!

LUAN Ping. (Frightened and flustered) I'm damned, I'm damned! I let your Senior Officer down! Now, I'll tell the truth. There was a chart, called the secret communications chart. On the chart are the secret contact points of HSU-ta-ma-pang which total three hundred, in the various localities of the Northeast. It is now in the hands of my wife. How about this: you let me go to find my wife and get this chart. I'll present the chart to your Senior Officer to earn credit to redeem myself and to win a lenient settlement.

YANG Tzu-jung. Besides contacting these three hundred places, were you dealing with anywhere else?

LUAN Ping. The only other was TSO Shan-tiao. However, TSO Shan-tiao always intends to solely dominate Northern Manchuria. He and HSU-ta-ma-pang were friendly on the surface, but very unfriendly at heart. I had very little contact with him. At TSO Shan-tiao's birthday last year, there was an invitation for me to attend his hundred-chicken banquet; but I did not go.

YANG Tzu-jung. (Studies LUAN's confession, but decides not to pursue the subject further) You must carefully think it over, and write for me all information regarding those contact points. Take him away!

KAO Po. Let's go! (Escorting LUAN Ping, they exit) (SHAO Chien-po enters from the adjacent room.

YANG Tzu-jung. This fellow is very tricky.

SHAO Chien-po. (Humorously) Even a tricky fox cannot escape a good hunter. Regarding the communications chart, his confession today agrees that of I-cho-mao.

YANG Tzu-jung. He unintentionally also mentioned the hundred-chicken banquet. In this letter, TSO Shan-tiao again invites him to the banquet. It seems to me that there is more to this.

SHAO Chien-po. Right.

SUN Ta-te. (Enters) Reporting.

SHAO Chien-po. Enter. (Sun Ta-te steps further into the room.) Comrade Ta-te, what is the matter?

SUN Ta-te. 203, we have been here for a few days. All comrades now have written petitions for combat.

SHAO Chien-po. It must be you who leads them.

SUN Ta-te. I ...

SHAO Chien-po. Ha-ha, ha-ha! The feeling of our comrades is quite understandable. The situation now is: the fraternal troops have sealed off all crossings and major roads in the Mu-tan-chiang region. TSO Shan-tiao can never escape! In order to support the southward advance of our Army and to assure security in the rear, we must eliminate these bandits, as soon as possible.

SUN Ta-te. Everybody, therefore, is anxious!

SHAO Chien-po. Comrades, TSO Shan-tiao is not easy to deal with. We have discussed the situation several times, have we not? To apply a large force in the assault would be like using a first against a flea, useless. As there are complicated works built on Wei-hu-shan, we cannot employ the tactics of a surprise attack like we did at Nai-tou-shan. Since our task is urgent, we cannot wait to draw them down from the mountain, and eliminate them little by little. This is a unusual battle. We must remember Chairman MAO's teaching: to slight the enemy strategically, and to seriously regard the enemy tactically. Comrade Ta-te, please call another democratic conference and urge all comrades to carefully discuss the situation, based on the new information.

SUN Ta-te. Yes. (Exits) (YANG Tzu-jung is about to leave.

SHAO Chien-po. Old YANG, what are your thoughts about attacking Wei-hu-shan?

YANG Tzu-jung. My thinking is not yet mature.

SHAO Chien-po. Old YANG, you are awaiting a more mature opportunity!

YANG Tzu-jung. I would like to interrogate I-cho-ma again to further clarify the situation of the hundred-chicken banquet at Wei-hu-shan.

SHAO Chien-po. Fine. I shall wait for your suggestions.

YANG Tzu-jung. Yes. (Exits)

SHAO Chien-po. (Singing in "Hsi-pi Kuai-san-yen") The achievements have been considerable during the last few days in learning about the enemy / By careful analysis and repeated thinking we draw the operational plan. / Wei-hu-shan depends upon fortresses and tunnels. / It appears that victory can best be won by wisdom. / We shall pick a capable man and disguise him as a bandit to infiltrate the enemy camp, / In order to establish cooperation between those within and those without to destroy the enemy base. / Who is best qualified to bear this heavy assignment? / (Deliberating, continues to sing in "Hsi-pi Yuan-pan") Yang Tzu-jung has the qualifications to shoulder this task! / He comes from a hired peasant background of good quality. / He suffered much on the life-and-death line since childhood. / His old father was forced by a landlord into hanging himself. / His old mother became insane and died in the wilderness. / With deep hatred and grievance he sought the star of salvation, / And eventually found the Communist Party and embarked upon the road of revolution. (Changing to "Hsi-pi Kuai-erh-liu") After army enlistment he vowed to eradicate the root of exploitation. / Fighting in many battles he repeatedly won merits in combat. / He single handedly destroyed enemy castles, / He burned down enemy ammunition dumps and warehouses. / Through wisdom and alertness he penetrated enemy territory to gather intelligence. / He also entered enemy camps to rescue many comrades-in-arms and compatriots. / Wading into the sea of forest he contacted bandits on many occasions. / He captured LUAN Ping, arrested Hu Piao, and seized I-cho-mao alive. / If we send him alone into the enemy camp again, / I am convinced that his resolution, loyalty, and enthusiasm will assure us the defeat of bandit TSO Shan-tiao.

(SUN Ta-te enters the room.

SUN Ta-te. 203!

TSO Shan-tiao. Old SUN, how did the democratic conference go?

SUN Ta-te. After carefully studying the enemy situation, everybody thinks that we cannot attack by force, but must win by wisdom. We should dispatch a comrade to infiltrate the enemy camp...

SHAO Chien-po. What you say is correct.

(YANG Tzu-jung enters the room and salutes in bandit style. SHAO Chien-po observes him, while SUN Ta-te stares startled.

YANG Tzu-jung. HU Piao comes to present the chart!

SHAO Chien-po. HU Piao? Old YANG, have you thought of everything?

YANG Tzu-jung. (Smiles and nods) ...

SHAO Chien-po. Let's all sit down and talk about it. (All sit down) Speak, what do you have in mind?

YANG Tzu-jung. 203, to attack Wei-hu-shan, it is best, in my opinion, to take it by wisdom.

SHAO Chien-po. That is correct.

YANG Tzu-jung. The enemy's hundred-chicken banquet will be a good opportunity for us.

SHAO Chien-po. Have you learned all about the hundred-chicken banquet?

YANG Tzu-jung. Yes, I have. In the evening of the 30th in the 12th month every year, to celebrate TSO Shan-tiao's birthday, chickens from 100 families are used to prepare for a banquet, called the hundred-chicken banquet. I suggest that we dispatch one comrade to infiltrate the enemy camp to learn all about the pillboxes and tunnels. We can take advantage of the hundred-chicken banquet where all bandits will meet at the Wei-hu-ting for drinking ...

SHAO Chien-po. The pursuit and assault detachment will rush up the Wei-hu-shan to attack them unprepared!

YANG Tzu-jung. Right. 203, I am a veteran scout. Please delegate this task to me.

SUN Ta-te. The comrades have nominated old YANG to assume this task.

SHAO Chien-po. This is also the way that I think. This is truly an agreement without consultation! Ha-ha, ha-ha! Comrade Ta-te, (passing the communications chart) take this chart and reproduce a copy for reference. Old YANG and I will discuss the matter in greater detail.

SUN Ta-te. Yes (Exits)

SHAO Chien-po. Old YANG, are you sure that you can disguise yourself as a bandit to infiltrate Wei-hu-shan?

YANG Tzu-jung. I have four conditions in my favor.

SHAO Chien-po. Which four? Let's have them.

YANG Tzu-jung. First, I can speak the language of bandits, know well the situation in Nai-tou-shan, and thus am well prepared for this task.

SHAO Chien-po. What is the second?

YANG Tzu-jung. HSU-ta-ma-pang was routed recently. I can disguise myself as his aide-de-camp in charge of horses, HU Piao. This man is now in our hands. And TSO Shan-tiao has never met him before. The flaw is not so obvious.

SHAO Chien-po. (Approvingly) Very good!

YANG Tzu-jung. Third, I shall bring with me the communications chart as a present to TSO Shan-tiao. This will certainly win his trust.

SHAO Chien-po. Right.

YANG Tzu-jung. The fourth condition is the most important ...

SHAO Chien-po. This is the absolute loyalty of a revolutionary military man toward the Party and the people!

YANG Tzu-jung. 203, you understand me.

SHAO Chien-po. Old YANG, this is an unusual task, very different from any in the past!

YANG Tzu-jung. Comrade Chien-po! (Singing in "Hsi-pi Yuan-pan") A Communist Party member must always respond to the calls from the Party / And choose only the heavy tasks to perform; / For he is determined to smash the chains and shackles of thousands of years, / And to open up the fountain of happiness for future generations of the people. (Changing to "Hsi-pi Liu-shui") The path of progress is known to be treacherous. / But the more dangerous the path the greater the determination to strive for progress. /

Regardless of how the winds and clouds may change, / The wisdom of revolutionaries is always invincible. / Once the old man's ambition to remove mountains has been established, / It can overcome difficulties of all descriptions. / The heart is red and burns like fire. / It can also transform itself into a sword to cut down evil.

SHAO Chien-po. Old YANG, I have complete confidence in you. You go riding on HSU-ta-ma-pang's blue maned horse, and follow the path pointed out by the hunter Old CH'ANG to the northeast ...

YANG Tzu-jung. Find the winding path to go up the mountain.

SHAO Chien-po. After you are gone, the pursuit and assault detachment will advance to station themselves at Chia-pi-kou. They will mobilize the masses, train themselves in snow skiing, prepare for combat, and await your intelligence report!

YANG Tzu-jung. I shall place the intelligence report in the pine forest to the southwest of Wei-hu-shan and arrange the signal for pick up.

SHAO Chien-po. On the 26th this month, I will dispatch SUN Ta-te to pick up the intelligence report.

YANG Tzu-jung. I will assure delivery on schedule.

SHAO Chien-po. Good. Once the pursuit and assault detachment receives your intelligence report, it will depart immediately. Between you in there and we out here, we shall eliminate these bandits of TSO Shan-tiao!

YANG Tzu-jung. 203, this is a complete plan of operation! Let us decide upon it as it is.

SHAO Chien-po. Comrade Tzu-jung! Be brave and careful! (Singing in "Hsi-pi Kuai-pan") I am convinced that you can fulfill this heavy task. / This is a matter of great importance and extensive involvement. / We must also call the Party Branch Committee into conference to make a decision, / And apply our collective wisdom to defeat the enemies.

YANG Tzu-jung. That is right! (The two "liang-hsiang" / Actors freeze in positions showing their character/ --- lights dim and curtains fall.

#### Act V HUNTING TIGER AND ASCENDING THE MOUNTAIN

(Several days after the last Act.

(At the foot of Wei-hu-shan, thick forest and snow.

YANG Tzu-jung. (Singing behind the stage in "Erh-huang Tao-pan") Passing through the sea of forest and over the land of snow with ambition soaring to the sky --- (YANG Tzu-jung, in a different costume, enters on horseback amid wind and snow.

YANG Tzu-jung. (Singing in "Hui-lung") Facing the mountains with vigorous bravery and flourishing resolution / (Dismounts) (Singing in "Erh-huang Man-erh-pan") Wishing for the red flag to fly and flutter simultaneously on all four seas and five continents / I will not retreat from advance, be it a sea of fire or a mountain of swords. / Would that the flying snow quickly melt into spring water / To greet the advent of spring and a change among mortals. (Turning to "Hsi-pi Kuai-pan") The Party gives me wisdom and courage / To surmount difficulty and avoid danger of all sorts with ease. / For extirpating bandits I first disguise myself as a bandit, / To stick into Wei-hu-shan like a sharp knife. / I pledge to bury TSO Shan-tiao in a mountain brook. / This soaring ambition shakes the high mountains



and deep rivers. / When the comrades-in-arm converge upon the hundred-chicken banquet, / They will smash the bandit hive and turn the heaven and earth upside down!

(Noise of a tiger screaming.

YANG Tzu-jung. Tiger! (Yang Tzu-jung trains his gun at the tiger and fires. The tiger falls and dies. The horse neighs.

(Noise of guns comes from afar. YANG Tzu-jung vigilantly looks in the direction of the gunshot noise.

YANG Tzu-jung. Ah, the noise of gunshot! The bandits have come down from the mountain. (Calmly) One was just killed, and a group now comes. You, too, will not escape the doom of extinction!

(TA Ma-tzu yells from behind the stage: "halt!" Leading other bandits, he enters. YANG Tzu-jung moves forward and salutes in bandit fashion.

TA Ma-tzu. "Where are you going? And what are you doing here?"

YANG Tzu-jung. (Stands erect and does not answer) ...

Bandit One. (Discovers the tiger which YANG Tzu-jung has killed) Alas! A tiger!

(Other bandits fluster and fall back.

YANG Tzu-jung. Ha-ha, how brave, that is merely a dead tiger.

Bandit One. (Observes closer) Good shooting! The forehead is shattered!

TA Ma-tzu. Did you kill the tiger?

YANG Tzu-jung. It hid against my gunsight.

TA Ma-tzu. Where is your gun?

YANG Tzu-jung. Don't be scared. (Throws his gun to Bandit One)

TA Ma-tzu. Smart man! Which mountain are you from? What do you come here for?

YANG Tzu-jung. (Counter-questioning) It looks like that you are from Wei-hu-shan?

TA Ma-tzu. That is understood. (Realizes what he says) Well! From what mountain do you come, anyway?

YANG Tzu-jung. Never mind that. I want to see Brigadier TSUI in person to report something important.

TA Ma-tzu. How come that you don't even know the customs and ways of the mountains? You are not a loafer, but a fake!

YANG Tzu-jung. A fake would not dare to come to Wei-hu-shan.

TA Ma-tzu. Ha-ha, ha-ha. (YANG Tzu-jung does not reply.

Bandit One. Speak!

YANG Tzu-jung. (Arrogantly) Until I see Brigadier TSUI, you will find out nothing from me!

TA Ma-tzu. Well then, let's go! (Tucks his gun under his armpit)

(YANG Tzu-jung motions the others to carry the tiger and lead his horse, and walks in a dignified and fearless manner. Exits.

TA Ma-tzu. Pick up the tiger, and lead the horse! (Other bandits carry the tiger and lead the horse.

-- Curtains down

#### Act VI INFILTRATING THE BANDIT HOLE

(Immediately following the previous Act.

(Curtains rise amid one depressed and despondent sound of a gong. The

Wei-hu-ting is well lit. TSO Shan-tiao squats on a tiger-skin covered seat. The "Eight Ta-chin-kang" stand to both sides in a disorderly fashion. Other minor bandits stand to the left rear of the hall.

(TSO Shan-tiao motions for TA Ma-tzu to bring people.

TA Ma-tzu. Orders from the third lord, bring the loafer!

Bandits. Bring the loafer!

(Yang Tzu-jung walks in stride with head hold high.

YANG Tzu-jung. (Singing in "Hsi-pi Kuai-pan") Although I am alone to rush into the tiger's den and dragon's lair, / Millions of class brothers seemingly are here beside me. / TSO Shan-tiao may appear to be menacing and ferocious. / To combat evil for the people I am resolute and powerful.

(YANG Tzu-jung proceeds to salute in the bandit style.

TSO Shan-tiao. (Abruptly) "The prince in heaven overshadows the tiger on earth."

YANG Tzu-jung. "The holy pagoda represses the river spook!"

TSO Shan-tiao. "What now? what now?"

YANG Tzu-jung. "Speaking at high noon, nobody has a home!"

TSO Shan-tiao. "Why the flush on the face?"

YANG Tzu-jung. "The glow of elation and high spirit!"

TSO Shan-tiao. "Why then it is also yellow?"

YANG Tzu-jung. "It is the wax for protection against cold weather."

(TSO Shan-tiao fires a shot at the wick to extinguish the oil lamp. YANG Tzu-jung borrows TA Ma-tzu's handgun and hit the wicks of two oil lamps with one shot. Other bandits begin to murmur.

TSO Shan-tiao. According to what you said, you are a subordinate of Brigadier HSU?

YANG Tzu-jung. HU Piao, aide-de-camp in charge of horses in the service of Brigadier HSU.

TSO Shan-tiao. HU Piao? Since you served Brigadier HSU, let me ask you, when did you first follow Brigadier HSU?

YANG Tzu-jung. When he was the police commissioner.

TSO Shan-tiao. How many items does Brigadier HSU have, from what you heard?

YANG Tzu-jung. There were two precious items.

TSO Shan-tiao. What were the two precious items?

YANG Tzu-jung. A good horse and a sharp sword.

TSO Shan-tiao. What is the horse?

YANG Tzu-jung. It is the blue-maned horse.

TSO Shan-tiao. What is the sword?

YANG Tzu-jung. A Japanese command sword.

TSO Shan-tiao. Who presented him the sword?

YANG Tzu-jung. The Imperial Army.

TSO Shan-tiao. Where was that?

YANG Tzu-jung. At Wu-fu-lou in Mu-tan-chiang.

TSO Shan-tiao. (Pauses a moment) As you said that you were the aid to Brigadier HSU in charge of horses, at the meeting called by Commissioner HOU last time, why was it that I met only Aide-de-camp LUAN Ping, but have never seen you?

YANG Tzu-jung. Brigadier TSUI, under Brigadier HSU, I, HU Piao, was merely a lackey. How could I compare my self to Aid-de-camp LUAN Ping. He

appeared in all functions requiring outside contacts!

TSO Shan-tiao. What do you plan to do in coming to Wei-hu-shan?

YANG Tzu-jung. I come to join Brigadier TSUI for a better future of advancement, step by step. On this first day of call, however, I find all you elders showing little trust in me. This is not really upholding the righteousness, is it?

TSO Shan-tiao. Uh, Uh, Uh, Uh! This is all for the security of our mountain stronghold. (TSO Shan-tiao motions. Chin-kang One presents wine, and Chin-kang Two offers tobacco. YANG Tzu-jung accepts both in bandit manner.

TSO Shan-tiao. When you come to join me, regardless of how desperately poor you are, you must have something to show your respect.

YANG Tzu-jung. I bring with me Brigadier HSU's precious horse. At the foot of the mountain, by the grace of your prestige, I also picked up a strong spotted tiger!

Bandit Chin-kang. On the occasion of the 50th birthday of the third lord, there are presents from everybody.

(TSO Shan-tiao is delighted. Other bandits break into laughter.

TSO Shan-tiao. HU Piao, when did Nai-tou-shan fall?

YANG Tzu-jung. On the third day of the twelfth month.

TSO Shan-tiao. How did you spend so many days on the way here?

YANG Tzu-jung. Brigadier TSUI, it has not been easy for HU Piao to come here this time. When Nai-tou-shan was taken, I escaped through La-chu-tai and hid myself in Li-shu-wang for a few days.

TSO Shan-tiao. Li-shu-wang?

YANG Tzu-jung. It was at the home of the third uncle of LUAN Ping.

TSO Shan-tiao. Did you see LUAN Ping?

YANG Tzu-jung. Yes, I saw him.

TSO Shan-tiao. How about I-cho-mao?

YANG Tzu-jung. I-cho-mao? Never saw him!

TSO Shan-tiao. Never saw him? I-cho-mao has been gone from the mountain for over half a month. Why has he not come back yet? HU Piao, now that you have come, what about LUAN Ping?

YANG Tzu-jung. LUAN Ping? Ugh! It is better not to mention him!

TSO Shan-tiao. Why is it?

YANG Tzu-jung. I ... (TSO Shan-tiao motions. Minor bandits withdraw, exit.

TSO Shan-tiao. Hu Piao, what about Aide-de-camp LUAN Ping, anyway?

YANG Tzu-jung. (Balls his fist) There is too much to say all at once! (Singing in "Hsi-pi Hsiao-tao-pan") One cannot suppress anger when LUAN Ping is mentioned --

TSO Shan-tiao. What about him?

YANG Tzu-jung. (Continues to sing in "Hsi-pi Yuan-pan") He totally disregards the importance of "righteousness" in our world.

TSO Shan-tiao. Ai, that fellow LUAN has always been an outsider. How did he disregard righteousness?

YANG Tzu-jung. (Continues singing) When Nai-tou-shan fell, we two fortunately escaped. / I advised him to change organizations and join Wei-hu-shan.

(Bandit chin-kang's are elated.)  
 TSO Shan-tiao. Is he coming here?  
 YANG Tzu-jung. (Resumes singing) Everybody has his own mind and cannot be forced. / He should not -- / He should not speak vicious words to hurt others.  
 TSO Shan-tiao. What did he say?  
 YANG Tzu-jung. He said ...  
 TSO Shan-tiao. (Becomes impatient) Old HU, say it, you say it quickly!  
 YANG Tzu-jung. (Resumes singing) Even TSO Shan-tiao must also listen to orders from Commissioner HOU!  
 TSO Shan-tiao. (In rage) Oh! I listen to his orders!  
 Bandit Chin-kang. Damn him! What is he!  
 YANG Tzu-jung. LUAN Ping had more to say!  
 Bandit Chin-kang. What did he have to say?  
 YANG Tzu-jung. (Resumes singing) The Eight Ta-chin-kang are nameless rats unworthy of any mention.  
 Bandit Chin-kang. (In great anger) Oh! That rabbit!  
 YANG Tzu-jung. (Singing in "Hsi-pi Liu-shui") He proclaims himself a phoenix which must occupy a branch on high. / Commissioner HOU is more reliable, for his tree is larger and his roots deeper.  
 Bandit Chin-kang. (Interrupts) Damn him!  
 YANG Tzu-jung. (Resumes singing) While he talked he also showed a chart!  
 TSO Shan-tiao. (Interrupts) A chart?  
 YANG Tzu-jung. (Changing to "Hsi-pi Yao-pan") With the chart presented to the Commissioner, a high position is assured.  
 TSO Shan-tiao. Was that the communications chart?  
 YANG Tzu-jung. Right. It was precisely that secret communications chart.  
 TSO Shan-tiao. (Anxiously) It follows, then, that the communications chart was presented to Commissioner HOU?  
 YANG Tzu-jung. You should not be so impatient. (Singing in "Hsi-pi Yao-pan") He was elated and nearly closed his eyes in laughter. / From the house he took out -- (Changing to "Hsi-pi Liu-shui") One jug of wine / I served him eight large bowls in a row. / LUAN Ping was drunk and like a pile of mud. / I thought then that the opportunity had come!  
 Bandit chin-kang. Right. Take him!  
 YANG Tzu-jung. At that time, while he was drunk and unconscious, I ...  
 TSO Shan-tiao. Kill him!  
 YANG Tzu-jung. I could not do that, since we had been friends for many years!  
 TSO Shan-tiao. (Changes his tone) Right, right. Friendship is important. Friendship is important. Old HU, continue with what you are saying.  
 YANG Tzu-jung. He had his plans and I had wine.  
 TSO Shan-tiao. What did you do then?  
 YANG Tzu-jung. I -- (Begins to sing) I took the opportunity to change my clothes, / And mounted the blue-maned horse to ride through the heavy snow. / In one breath I rode to Wei-hu-shan.  
 TSO Shan-tiao. Then, you have the communications chart?

YANG Tzu-jung. (Laughs lightly) Ha, ha, ha! (Begins to sing) Brigadier TSUI please raise your head to look / (Raises the chart) The precious chart is now being presented to you. (TSO Shan-tiao accepts the chart and looks at it. Other bandits gather to look.

Bandit Chin-kang. Old HU is quite a man!

TSO Shan-tiao. (Overjoyed) Ha-ha, ha-ha! (Sings in "Hsi-pi San-pan") I have longed for the Communications Chart day and night. / (Changes to "Hsi-pi Liu-shui") Now my fond dream has been fulfilled / Men and horses on all routes will come under my control. / I will dominate and rule over the Mu-tan-chiang. / HU Piao you are a friendly and righteous man. / Your merit has been truly unusual. Good, Old HU, you are perfect.

YANG Tzu-jung. Brigadier TSUI, once we have the communications chart, the entire Mu-tan-chiang region will all be ours!

TSO Shan-tiao. Right, right, right. Old HU is right in what he says. Once the National Army arrives, I will be the commander. You can all become a division or brigade commander.

Bandit Chin-kang. We all depend on the third lord. Ha-ha, ha-ha!

YANG Tzu-jung. (Grins) Ugh, ugh, ugh, ugh!

TSO Shan-tiao. Old HU, you have performed a great merit for Wei-hu-shan. I bestow upon you the honor of Number Nine of Wei-hu-shan.

YANG Tzu-jung. I thank the Third Lord.

TSO Shan-tiao. Wait! (Pauses a moment) Since we are the National Army, we must have an official title. I now appoint you a colonel deputy regimental commander in the Fifth Brigade of the Pin-shui-tu-chia Pacification Command.

YANG Tzu-jung. (Salutes in bandit fashion) I thank the Third Lord for your favor. In future, I shall depend on the help of all you elders.

Bandit chin-kang's. Well spoken, well spoken.

TA Ma-tzu. Bring wine! (Other bandits serve wine.) We will all drink to celebrate the honor of Number Nine!

Bandit Chin-kang's. Congratulations to Number Nine!

TSO Shan-tiao. Presenting the chart is a great merit. This has been a difficult and outstanding feat!

YANG Tzu-jung. (Sings in "Hsi-pi Liu-shui") Today I drink to celebrate the success. / But I will never stop until the fulfillment of my ambition. / The days ahead are long and replete with opportunities for achievements. / I am willing to shed blood to write history. (YANG Tzu-jung smiles because of his success, and finishes his drink in one gulp. --Lights dim. Curtains fall.

#### Act VII MOBILIZING THE MASSES

(Chia-pi-kou. LI Yung-chi's home. Two rooms in the house. Burns remain on the wall. The time is noon, strong wind and heavy snow. LI's mother stands in front of the stove, takes off the pot cover, shakes her head and sighs, when she sees that the pot is empty. After a gust of wind, she shivers and limps to the table.

LI's Mother. (Sings in "Erh-huang San-pan") The cold wind and snow penetrate the wall and pierce the bones. / Worries are heavy, while clothes are thin and provisions exhausted. / My calls to my son and daughter-in-law go unanswered. / The sea of blood debt and hatred will never run dry.

(CHANG Ta-shan enters.)

CHANG Ta-shan. Venerable Aunt.

LI's Mother. Ta-shan! (LI's mother opens the door; and CHANG Ta-shan enters the house.)

CHANG Ta-shan. Venerable Aunt, are you better today?

LI's Mother. This morning I am even more dizzy than before.

CHANG Ta-shan. Your sickness is caused by worry and hunger. I still have some potato roots at home. You can have them first.

LI's Mother. Ta-shan, I am always troubling you. I don't feel at ease.

CHANG Ta-shan. Venerable Aunt, when Yung-chi is here, he can take care of you. When he is not here, there are still all of us here. (CHANG Ta-shan boils the water. LI's Mother brings the potato roots to the inner room. LI Yung-chi enters, pushes the door, and enters the house.)

CHANG Ta-shan. (Startled) Yung-chi!

LI Yung-chi. Ta-shan! (LI's Mother appears from the inner room.)

LI's Mother. Yung -- chi --! (Singing in "Erh-huang San-pan") Is this a dream that I meet my son. / How can your mother not feel pain when you are covered with wounds. / After you were gone, I cried and became ill through indignation!

LI Yung-chi. (Begins to sing) I thought of my mother day and night at the bandit hole.

LI's Mother. (Sings) Your mother was fortunate in sickness -- (Changing to "Erh-huang Chin-yuan-pan") to have neighbors to care for her.

LI Yung-chi. (Continues singing) I thank the neighbors for their deep affection!

LI's Mother. (Sings) How did you ever escape alive from the tiger's mouth?

LI Yung-chi. (Continues singing) I jumped down cliffs and climbed over mountain ridges to rush out of the pack of jackals.

LI's Mother. (Sings) Mother and son reunite in a mixture of joy and sorrow. / Greater joy arouses a deeper memory of my daughter-in-law and grandson!

LI Yung-chi. (Continues to sing in "Erh-huang To-pan") So much hatred and so much more grievance, / And every bit of it is remembered at heart. / Today I manage to remain alive. / Tomorrow I will strive to kill my enemies! (Masses yell behind the stage: "Large numbers of soldiers have entered the village!")

CHANG Ta-shan. Ah! TSO Shan-tiao is coming again?

LI Yung-chi. Are they coming after me?

CHANG Ta-shan. You should hide quickly. I'll go out to take a look.

(Exits)

LI's Mother. What should we do!

LI Yung-chi. If they are really coming after me, I'll fight them off!

LI's Mother. My son, if anything happens to you, how do you expect your mother to live! Please go to hide yourself!

LI Yung-chi. Hide? My mother, where can I go to hide? Anyway, when they come, I intend to fight them to the end!

LI's Mother. Yung-chi, this is not the thing to do!

(TUNG Chung-sung and LI Hung-i enter.)

LI Hung-i. Let us go and try this family.

TUNG Chung-sung. (Knocks at the door) Is there any venerable fellow-countryman in the house?

LI Yung-chi. Yes! We have not yet all died!

LI's Mother. Yung-chi!

TUNG Chung-sung. Venerable fellow-countryman, venerable aunt, please open the door! (LI Yung-chi abruptly opens the door. Following a gust of cold wind, TUNG Chung and LI Hung-i enter the house. TUNG Chung-sung closes the door. LI's Mother is startled and embraces LI Yung-chi.

LI Hung-i. Venerable aunt, don't be afraid. We are ...

LI Yung-chi. Never mind that!

TUNG Chung-sung. Venerable fellow-countryman, please don't misunderstand! We are the Chinese People's Liberation Army!

LI Yung-chi. Liberation Army?! (Observing his opposite) Ugh! This "Army" and that "Army" I have seen so many of them. Who knows what army you are! Whatever you want, say it straight! You want money? We don't have any. You want food? You have taken away all our provisions long ago. You want our life ...

LI Hung-i. Our Liberation Army is the fraternal troop of the people, and dedicated to protect the people!

LI Yung-chi. Such nice talk!

LI's Mother. Yung-chi! You ... (Starts to faint)

LI Hung-i. The venerable aunt is sick? We will find someone to take care of her.

LI Yung-chi. Never mind that! (Helps his mother to the inner room)

(TUNG Chung-sung motions LI Hung-i to leave. Both exit through the door and close it. SHAO Chien-po and KAO Po enter.

SHAO Chien-po. What is the situation?

TUNG Chung-sung. We went to several households. It was all alike. But this family seems to show the greatest grievance!

LI Hung-i. There is a venerable old woman in this family who is sick.

SHAO Chien-po. Oh! LI Hung-i, quickly call the medic and tell her to bring some provisions with her!

LI Hung-i. Yes! (Exits)

TUNG Chung-sung. Alas! It is really difficult to work among the masses here!

SHAO Chien-po. Why, Hsiao TUNG, have you again become impatient? The venerable fellow-countrymen of Chia-pi-kou do not understand us, perhaps because they were cheated before. Have you forgotten? I-cho-mao impersonated our scout, did he not? Once they understand the situation, they will transform their hatred into an enormous force!

TUNG Chung-sung. 203, this I know, but ...

SHAO Chien-po. Hsiao TUNG, we must show concern for the sufferings of the masses. You should realize: unless we mobilize the masses, we will never be able to stand on a firm ground and to eliminate TSO Shan-tiao. And unless we can rout the bandits, we likewise can never truly mobilize the masses.

TUNG Chung-sung. I understand.

SHAO Chien-po. You go to tell everyone: we must patiently publicize Party policies, strictly enforce the three major disciplines and eight points

of caution, and create a situation through concrete action!

TUNG Chung-sung. Yes! (Turns and intends to leave)

SHAO Chien-po. Ah, you may also find out whether the hunter Old CH'ANG has arrived.

TUNG Chung-sung. Yes! (Exits) (PAI Ju enters)

PAI Ju. 203, I have brought the provisions. (Hands over the food bag) Where is the patient?

SHAO Chien-po. At this household. Comrade PAI Ju, let us go in to take a look.

PAI Ju. Yes! (Knocks at the door) Venerable fellow-countryman!

SHAO Chien-po. Venerable fellow countryman, our physician has come. Please open the door!

(LI Yung-chi indignantly rushes up with a dagger in his hand; LI's Mother follows to stop him.)

LI's Mother. Yung-chi, you should not ...

LI Yung-chi. What am I afraid of? With this, I can fight them to the end! (Throws the dagger and plunges it in the table)

LI's Mother. (Greatly alarmed) Yung-chi, I beg of you! (Faints away)

LI Yung-chi. (Quickly holds her up) Mother, Mother!

(SHAO Chien-po pushes the door open by force, and enters the house with PAI Ju and KAO Po. LI Yung-chi embraces his mother, and stares angrily at SHAO Chien-po.)

SHAO Chien-po. PAI Ju, quickly come to her rescue!

(PAI Ju removes her overcoat to cover LI's Mother, and helps to move her into the inner room, followed by LI Yung-chi and KAO Po. SHAO Chien-po empties some dry provisions from the bag into the pot to cook congee. A while later, LI Yung-chi returns from the inner room to get water. SHAO Chien-po goes to the inner room.)

LI Yung-chi. (Discovering the congee in the pot, deliberates) Liberation Army? (Singing in "Erh-huang Man-yuan-pan") These soldiers help others in distress, treat sickness, and rescue lives; / They talk, inquire about the welfare of others, and behave in a good and cordial manner. / Soldiers have always joined bandits to oppress the people. / In spite of what happens today, it is difficult for the people to dispell their doubts! / Is it true that the star of salvation we are expecting has arrived?

LI's Mother. (Calls from the inner room) Water! (LI Yung-chi carries congee and water. KAO Po appears from the inner room to accept the congee and water. SHAO Chien-po appears from the inner room.)

SHAO Chien-po. Venerable fellow countrymen, the venerable aunt has revived. The sickness is not serious. You can relax!

LI Yung-chi. Oh ...

SHAO Chien-po. Venerable fellow countryman, what is your name? And what do you do for a living?

LI Yung-chi. My name is LI Yung-chi. I was formerly a railroad worker.

SHAO Chien-po. A worker? Very good! You are just one of us! How long have you lived here?

LI Yung-chi. We have been here for two generations.

SHAO Chien-po. How many are there in your family?

LI Yung-chi. (Touched, does not know how to begin and is at a loss for words.) Ai!



SHAO Chien-po. (Takes the provisions bag) Venerable countryman, I understand that you are short of food. This small amount of provisions... (Realizes that LI Yung-chi will not accept them, so places them on the table and discovers the dagger.) Venerable fellow countryman, you don't have to use this with us! We are of the same family!

LI Yung-chi. (Observing SHAO Chien-po carefully) What troops are you, anyway? Why do you come here to the old forest and deep mountain?

SHAO Chien-po. Venerable fellow countryman! (Singing in "Erh-huang Kuai-san-yen") As fraternal soldiers of workers and peasants we come to the mountains / To eliminate the reactionary and to change the atmosphere. / For years we have promoted revolution and fought here and there, / With the Communist Party and Chairman Mao guiding us forward. / We carry one red star over our head / And plant the revolutionary red flag on both sides. / (Changes to "Erh-huang Chin-yuan-pan") Wherever the red flag points the dark clouds disappear, / And the people of the liberated areas overthrow the landlords and free themselves. / The People's army shares the difficulties with the people. / We come here to eradicate Wei-hu-shan!

LI Yung-chi. (Excitedly, sings in "Erh-huang Peng-pan") We have waited day and night and gazed with both eyes. / How do I know that today our own troops have arrived / In this deep mountain to rescue the poor from their miseries! / Our dear ones! I should not have confused the black and white / And regarded friends as enemies -- I am ashamed beyond words! / For thirty years we have lived like cattle without seeing the sky and the sun / And touching upon the wounds and smothering our fire of hatred, / We struggle in a deep bottomless pit. / The fellow countrymen can hardly vent their sorrow, indignation, grievance, and hatred. Fellow countrymen grit their teeth and control their anger when they look at Wei-hu-shan. / They can only complain of their fate of boundless miseries. / Who could expect that an iron tree would blossom and that dried branches would germinate today! (Changes to "Erh-huang Ching-yuan-pan") Henceforth I will follow the Communist Party to fight tigers and jackals. / I am willing to go into water and fire and sacrifice myself! / Regardless of how difficult and dangerous it may be, / (Changes to "Erh-huang San-pan") I will be the first in the battle to eradicate that Wei-hu-shan!

(SHAO Chien-po holds LI Yung-chi's hand. PAI Ju and KAO Po assist LI's mother out of the inner room.

LI's Mother. Yung-chi, this girl has cured my sickness!

LI Yung-chi. They also brought us food.

LI's Mother. (Moved by gratitude to tears) ... (SHAO Chien-po helps LI's Mother sit down. LI Hung-i enters.

LI Hung-i. 203, the venerable fellow countrymen are coming to see you!

(The masses crowd the soldiers and enter. TUNG Chung-sung and CHANG Ta-shan, accompanied by CH'ANG La-fu and CH'ANG Pao, walk ahead of them.

TUNG Chung-sung. (To CH'ANG La-fu) This is our leading officer.

SHAO Chien-po. (Advances to shake CH'ANG La-fu's hand) You must be the hunter old CH'ANG! Do you come from the mountain?

CH'ANG La-fu. We could not remain in the mountain valley. We two have decided to come here to join her uncle (Points at CHANG Ta-shan).

SHAO Chien-po. (Pats CH'ANG Pao on the shoulder) Good girl!

CH'ANG La-fu. You know the situation well!

LI Yung-chi. Brother, old CH'ANG!

CH'ANG La-fu. Yung-chi! Venerable aunt! We finally have seen the star of salvation!

CHANG Ta-shan. Leading officer, in our village everyone's heart is burning with fire. We are all anxious to attack Wei-hu-shan!

SHAO Chien-po. Venerable fellow countrymen! Our people's liberation army has won great victories at the front! The Mu-tan-chiang region has also been liberated! There is no way that TSO Shan-tiao can escape!

CHANG Ta-shan. Let's go to destroy his old stronghold. Leading officer, please give us weapons quickly!

The Masses. Yes, give us weapons quickly.

LI Yung-chi. With weapons, everyone in Chia-pi-kou can take two or three of them.

SHAO Chien-po. Weapons will certainly be distributed among all! (Touches the ragged clothing of the masses) However, now that our fellow countrymen have no winter clothing to wear and not enough food for another day, how can they go to the mountains and forests to fight the bandits?

The Masses. What shall we do then?

SHAO Chien-po. In Chia-pi-kou, there are herb medicines everywhere and timber piled like mountains. Once the small forest train starts to operate, it will bring back food and clothing.

CH'ANG La-fu. That is correct. There is the saying: "When the train whistles, the granaries are full; and when the train operates, food and clothing will come."

The Masses. Well, this was what we expected! In fact, however, "When the train whistles, TSO Shan-tiao comes to plunder; the people are poor, and the Kuomintang becomes rich!"

LI Yung-chi. Uncle, now we have the Liberation Army, we are not afraid of even ten TSO Shan-tiao's.

SHAO Chien-po. Right! With us here, we can organize the militia. The small train will certainly begin to operate. When we have food and clothing, we will have greater energy to fight against TSO Shan-tiao!

LI Yung-chi. When can we start to repair the railroad?

SHAO Chien-po. We can follow our words with deeds, and start to work together right now.

CHANG Ta-shan. Leading officer, this is a task of heavy labor!

TUNG Chung-sung. Ugh! What do you think of us! We have all known hard work before. Now, taking up guns we become soldiers; and picking up tools, we can work!

LI Yung-chi. Very good! Leading officer! We are truly of the same family! (Singing in "Erh-huang to-pan") People of the mountains always speak the truth. / The sincerity is obvious to the heaven! / We will follow you to the ocean to catch a dragon, / And accompany you to high mountains to capture a tiger. / The spring thunder shakes the heavens and the earth! / TSO Shan-tiao!

All. (Singing in chorus in "Erh-huang San-pan") How much longer can you survive!

--- lights dim and curtains fall.

Act VIII PLANNING FOR DELIVERY OF INTELLIGENCE

(At dawn. A flat opening on Wei-hu-shan. There is a fork in the road here. To the right is the important path leading down the mountain, with pillboxes visible in the distance. To the left, in the rear, is the way to YANG Tzu-jung's living quarters. To the left, in the foreground, is the way to Hu-wei-ting.

(Curtains rise. TSO Shan-tiao and TA Ma-tzu appear on stage, walk to the center from the left front corner.

TSO Shan-tiao. Old Nine is often here practicing shadow boxing?

TA Ma-tzu. Yes, he is.

TSO Shan-tiao. Where else has he been?

TA Ma-tzu. He has roamed all five mountain valleys.

TSO Shan-tiao. What! You even let him see the nine groups and twenty-seven pillboxes and tunnels?

TA Ma-tzu. As a brother among us, it was an eye-opening opportunity for him!

TSO Shan-tiao. Ugh!

TA Ma-tzu. Third Lord, Old Nine is sharp and capable, and also loyal. Why are you so concerned?

TSO Shan-tiao. Ah! The situation these days is not so good. There is an atmosphere of tension down below. I-cho-mao has never returned. HU Piao comes here at this time. I must be cautious with him. (TA Pi-tzu enters from the right.)

TA Pi-tzu. The Third Lord, everything is prepared according to your instructions.

TSO Shan-tiao. Good! Whether he is a fake or not, we shall let him have it straight, according to what we discussed last night.

TA Ma-tzu. The Third Lord, HU Piao knows what he is doing, as he is also loyal to you. What if the plan fails and he has lost face?

TA Pi-tzu. Elder brother, you have never had any contact with him before. As the saying goes: "One knows a man and his face but cannot tell about his heart."

TSO Shan-tiao. Right! Chief-of-staff, none of us has ever seen HU Piao before. -- Aide-de-camp, follow instructions and carry out the plan.

TA Pi-tzu. Yes. (Exits to the right) (TSO Shan-tiao and TA Ma-tzu see something, and quickly exit to the left front.

YANG Tzu-jung. (Singing from behind the stage in "Erh-huang Tao-pan") Cutting through brambles and fighting-- (Appears on stage) in the heart of enemy territory! (Singing in "Hui-lung") Gazing afar and thinking of the comrades-in-arm and the people, hand in hand, ready to march, / The battle against tigers and jackals has further aroused my soaring resolution for combat! (Changing to "Erh-huang San-yen") The Party has placed boundless expectation in me. / Comrades at the Party Branch Committee conference spoke affectionately in careful words. / Their repeated instructions provide me with strength. / A red fire heart warms my chest. (Changes to sing in "Erh-huang Kuai-san-yen") I must remember to be bold and careful, / And depend on both bravery and wisdom to excel. / The words from the Party invariably assure victory. / MAO Tse-tung's thinking is forever bright and brilliant. (Changes to "Erh-huang Yuan-pan") Wei-hu-shan is truly defended

at every level, / With open pillboxes and secret tunnels built everywhere, / The leadership made appropriate arrangements to take it by wisdom, / To attack by force would be to incur heavy losses, / After seven days I know well the enemy situation, / As I have also written the military intelligence report and carry it with me, / Taking advantage of dawn I pretend to loaf to deliver the report, / (Discovers something) Why are there suddenly more sentry posts-- / (Changes to "Erh-huang San-pan") This is an unusual situation! / This intelligence report -- / (Resumes singing in "Erh-huang Yuan-pan") Any failure to deliver this report will mean missing our opportunity and will destroy our plan, / I would then fail the people and the Party, / (Changes to "Erh-huang Ching-yuan-pan") The New Year's Eve is near and permits no delay or hesitation, / I must rush, be it a forest of swords, / And surmount all difficulties to descend the mountain, / The high mountain cannot block the way, / The sunshine in my heart can resist severe cold and melt the snow, (Thinks aloud) Today is the twenty-sixth. This intelligence report must be dispatched somehow!

(Voice from behind the stage: "Hi, move quickly!" Another voice: "Are they coming!")

(YANG Tzu-jung vigilantly removes his overcoat, and pretends to practice shadow boxing, as a cover. Bandits Two and Three appear on patrol and greet YANG Tzu-jung, then exit. YANG Tzu-jung ends his practice. Noise of gun fire.

YANG Tzu-jung. The noise of guns!

(From afar a voice: "Charge! Kill! Voice from nearby: "Communist troops are coming! Communist troops are coming!" (Noise of gun fire closer.

YUNG Tzu-jung. What! Are the comrades coming? No, 203 would never come until he has received my intelligence report.

Noise of gun fire increases in frequency and voices shouting are closer.

YANG Tzu-jung. The noise of guns is different! Ah! Another test! I shall go along with their scheme and send out my intelligence report this way. (Yells to the left) Brothers! (Four minor bandits enter.) Communist troops are coming. Follow me to attack them! (The four minor bandits follow. TSO Shan-tiao and TA Ma-tzu silently enter. TA Pi-tzu greets them.

TSO Shan-tiao. Old Number Nine, hold it.

YANG Tzu-jung. (Shouts to the right) Halt!

TA Pi-tzu. (Also shouts to the right) Stop firing! (Four minor bandits respond from behind the stage; "Ah!")

YANG Tzu-jung. How come?

TSO Shan-tiao. This is a military maneuver which I arranged.

YANG Tzu-jung. Ah, had it not been for your stopping it promptly, this clip of bullets would have killed quite a few.

TSO Shan-tiao. Ha, ha! Ha, ha!

YANG Tzu-jung. Third Lord, you arranged for the military maneuver, without telling me about it! What is your ...

TSO Shan-tiao. Ha, ha. Number Nine, don't think so much. I did not tell anyone about this maneuver. If you don't believe me, you can ask him.

TA Pi-tzu. It is true. I also thought that the communist troops were coming.

YANG Tzu-jung. Ugh, Ugh, it would be good if they come. I am just

waiting for them here!

TSO Shan-tiao. Number Nine, you are fine! Ha, ha! Ha, ha!

Bandit Company Commander. (From behind the stage) To. (Bandit Company Commander pushes minor bandit one; they enter.) The Third Lord, this loafer ran into a wall outside!

TSO Shan-tiao. What?

Ta Ma-tzu. How did he run into a wall?

Minor Bandit One. (Shaken with fright) Your Third Lordship, we followed orders to descend the mountain and saw from a distance that the small train was running. Before we entered Chia-pi-kou, we ran into Communist troops!

TSO Shan-tiao. Chia-pi-kou? (Deliberates) How many men?

Minor Bandit One. There were many, maybe several hundred men!

TSO Shan-tiao. (Suspiciously) And you are the only one coming back?

Ta Pi-tzu. Eight out of ten, you were captured by the Communist troops and then released to return here?

Minor Bandit One. No, no!

TSO Shan-tiao. (Touching his gun and staring at Minor Bandit One) You devil!

YANG Tzu-jung. (Blocking the way) Third Lord, why all this. Had he really been captured by the Communist troops, he probably would not dare to come back.

Ta Ma-tzu. That is right. Everybody knows that his Third Lordship hates the most those who were captured by the Communist troops!

TSO Shan-tiao. Oh!

YANG Tzu-jung. (To Minor Bandit One) Why don't you go away instead of staying here to irritate his Third Lordship.

Minor Bandit One. Yes.

TA Ma-tzu. Get out of here!

Minor Bandit One. (Moving to one side, speaking softly) His Ninth Lordship is good! (Exits)

TA Ma-tzu. (To bandit Company Commander) Pass the orders to increase protection of the mountain.

Bandit Company Commander. Yes. (Exits)

TSO Shan-tiao. The prestige of my mountain again suffers a setback. I shall never give up!

TA Ma-tzu. Your lordship, there are now only a few days before the New Year's Eve. I shall send men to descend the mountain to scoop a little to maintain our mountain prestige and to celebrate the hundred-chicken banquet.

TSO Shan-tiao. That is a good idea. But, Communist troops are not easy to deal with. We cannot go into Chia-pi-kou. Well, now that the small train is running, we can first work on their train outside of the village!

TA Ma-tzu. I understand. (Exits)

YANG Tzu-jung. (After careful thought) Third Lord, it seems that the Communist troops in Chia-pi-kou are there to come for us. In terms of defense our Wei-hu-shan is superb. However, we must not merely wait for them to attack us.

TSO Shan-tiao. According to you, what should we do?

YANG Tzu-jung. As the saying goes, whoever moves first is the stronger.

We can now practice attack and train our troops well. After the hundred-chicken banquet, we can attack Chia-pi-kou!

TSO Shan-tiao. (Overjoyed) Number nine, you are a good man! Ha, ha. Ha, ha! (Sings in "Hsi-pi Yao-pan") You have unusual talents, and both wisdom and courage. / You rank as the first among all in this mountain stronghold. / To me, you are also absolutely faithful-- (Speaking) Number nine, I appoint you to lead the brothers to practice attack tactics.

YANG Tzu-jung. Yes.

TSO Shan-tiao. (Resumes singing) Henceforth I assure you of promotion, step by step. Ha, ha. Ha, ha! (TSO Shan-tiao and Ta Pi-tzu exit.)

YANG Tzu-jung. This fool! (Sings in "Hsi-pi Yao-pan") The stupid but tricky TSO Shan-tiao thinks he is clever, / And plays tricks which give me opportunities. / Now I can advance in stride to deliver the intelligence report-- / TSO Shan-tiao intends to ambush Chia-pi-kou and sabotage the small train. / I must add this to the end of the intelligence report. (Speaks) Comrade Ta-te (Resumes singing) I depend on you to follow signals and accept the report.

--Curtains fall.

#### Act IX IMMEDIATE MARCH OUT

One morning toward the end of the year. Curtains rise amid long train whistles. On the ground outside LI Yung-chi's house.

Chia-pi-kou villagers carry bags of provisions and cheerfully watch the train leave. LI's Mother puts down the food bag.

LI's Mother. (Singing in "Hsi-pi Yao-pan") The military and the people are of one family, with hearts entwined, / In an atmosphere of joy prevailing over the mountain village / The snow flies in season and men are joyful, / They distribute clothing and food to celebrate emancipation.

(SHAO Chien-po enters.)

SHAO Chien-po. Venerable aunt, is there enough food and other necessities for the rest of the year?

LI's Mother. Enough. I could not even dream of such a good year in Chia-pi-kou! Had it not been for you being here, I wouldn't even know to live this year!

SHAO Chien-po. There are better days ahead.

LI's Mother. We all depend upon the Communist Party and Chairman Mao!

SHAO Chien-po. Let me carry that for you to the house.

LI's Mother. Let me do it. (SHAO Chien-po carries the food bag on his back. LI Yung-chi enters.)

LI Yung-chi. Leading officer! (LI's Mother accepts the bag of food from the hands of SHAO Chien-po, and enters the house.)

SHAO Chien-po. Comrade Yung-chi.

LI Yung-chi. Leading officer, the two criminals, LUAN Ping and I-cho-mao have been sent away. The reinforcement troops have also arrived. It seems that we will soon launch the attack against Wei-hu-shan, won't we?

SHAO Chien-po. Well, TSO Shan-tiao will not live many more days.

LI Yung-chi. We finally can expect this day to come!

SHAO Chien-po. Are all arrangements made for the militia men?

LI Yung-chi. All arrangements are completed. In accordance with your

instructions, the militia men have been divided into two groups: one group will remain to protect the village, and the other group is prepared to follow the troops out. I will be the guide!

SHAO Chien-po. We depend on you as the leader of the militia men! Comrade Yung-chi, you are familiar with the mountain path on Wei-hu-shan. In this operation, we depend a great deal on you.

LI Yung-chi. You flatter me. It is our responsibility to attack TSO Shan-tiao. Talking about attacking TSO Shan-tiao, all our militia men are eager to go, especially CH'ANG Pao who refuses to remain behind in spite of all persuasion.

SHAO Chien-po. Ha, this girl is determined and enthusiastic! Comrade Yung-chi, it is also important to protect the village. You should try to talk to her again.

LI Yung-chi. Yes (LI Yung-chi exits. SHAO Chien-po paces and deliberates. LI Hung-i and TUNG Chung-sung enter.

TUNG Chung-sung. 203, the 30th will soon be here. SUN Ta-te has not returned from fetching the intelligence report. Are we going to wait in vain?

SHAO Chien-po. What do you have in mind?

TUNG Chung-sung. In our training in skiing we have reached the required standard for speed. There is also LI Yung-chi to guide our way...

LI Hung-i. Furthermore, the upper-level has also sent us reinforcement troops, and supplemented our supplies and ammunition...

TUNG Chung-sung. In my opinion, if the intelligence report does not come, we start immediately and can win the battle just the same!

SHAO Chien-po. Comrades! (Singing in "Hsi-pi Yao-pan") TSO Shan-tiao can never escape the fate of extinction. / Confronted by difficulties, we should be patient and not impetuous. / Return to quarters and be prepared to follow orders--

TUNG Chung-sung. Yes. (TUNG Chung-sung and LI Hung-i exit

SHAO Chien-po. (Resumes singing in "Hsi-pi Yuan-pan") Although persuading them, I find it difficult to settle myself. / Time flies like an arrow and the date is drawing near. / And yet SUN Ta-te has not returned with the intelligence report. / Suppose there is a change -- / (Changing to "Hsi-pi Liu-shui") I must then decide on an alternative. / The hundred-chicken banquet remains an excellent opportunity. / LI Yung-chi pointed out a treacherous path to the rear. / In a surprise attack by the dangerous route we can storm Wei-hu-ting.

(LI Yung-chi and CH'ANG La-hu enter.

LI Yung-chi. Leading officer, everything is prepared. Are we going to launch the attack now?

SHAO Chien-po. Let's wait a little longer. Comrade Yung-chi, if we take the treacherous path to the rear of Wei-hu-shan, are you sure that we can reach there in one day and one evening?

LI Yung-chi. Although the path in the rear is eight-tenths longer than the path in the front, nevertheless, the bandits are not defending the rear. Judging by the skiing speed of our comrades, I guarantee that we can reach there in one day and one evening.

CH'ANG La-hu. The rear of the mountain is full of hanging cliffs and

high walls, very difficult to scale!

SHAO Chien-po. Old CH'ANG, no amount of difficulties can block the People's Liberation Army! (Just as CH'ANG La-hu is about to reply to SHAO Chien-po, CH'ANG Pao and PAI Ju enter.

CH'ANG Pao. Uncle, I have long asked to follow the troops to storm Wei-hu-shan. Today when we are about to start, why am I chosen to remain here?

SHAO Chien-po. The defense of the village is also a duty of our militiamen!

CH'ANG. I hate TSO Shan-tiao so much that I must kill him myself. I am not going to remain here.

SHAO Chien-po. Well, now, you seem to disagree with me! CH'ANG Pao, you are still young.

CH'ANG Pao. I am not young! I am now sixteen! You see, I am not much shorter than her (Pointing to PAI Ju). Elder sister PAI Ju ...

PAI Ju. 203, CH'ANG Pao has class consciousness. She skies well, shoots accurately, and can also help me take care of the wounded. Let her go along.

SHAO Chien-po. Well, then, you two think alike!

CH'ANG La-hu. Leading officer, will you please let her go along.

SHAO Chien-po. Comrade Yung-chi, what do you think?

LI Yung-chi. Let it be, then

SHAO Chien-po. Good, then. As the leader of your militiamen has approved the request, please go and prepare.

CH'ANG Pao. Yes! (Jumps with joy) (CH'ANG Pao and CH'ANG La-hu exit. LUAN Chao-chia enters.

LUAN Chao-chia. 203, Old SUN has returned! (SUN Ta-te enters.

SHAO Chien-po. (Moves forward) Comrade Ta-te!

SUN Ta-te. Reporting! (Hands over the intelligence report) Here is the intelligence report!

SHAO Chien-po. (Accepts the intelligence report) We have been expecting you. You must be tired. Take a rest now. (LUAN Chao-chia, SUN Ta-te, PAI Ju, and LI Yung-chi exit.

SHAO Chien-po. (Anxiously reading the intelligence report) "... there is a treacherous path in the rear of the mountain leading straight to Wei-hu-ting. the enemy defense along this path is weak...look for lighted torches on pine trees as the signal ..." (Excitedly) Old YANG, heroic! (LI Yung-chi enters.

SHAO Chien-po. Comrade Yung-chi, that treacherous path to the rear of the mountain which you mentioned, does it lead straight to Wei-hu-ting?

LI Yung-chi. Right. It goes straight to Wei-hu-ting.

SHAO Chien-po. We depend on you entirely to lead the way!

LI Yung-chi. Leading officer, you can relax. When I escaped from Wei-hu-shan, that was the way I came down. I am familiar with the path.

SHAO Chien-po. Good. You can go now to assemble the militiamen and prepare for the departure.

LI Yung-chi. Yes. (Calls to all directions) Militiamen, Assemble! Militiamen, Assemble! (Exits) (Militiamen enter in succession.

SHAO Chien-po. (Carefully reading the back of the intelligence report)



"...the bandits intend to stage a sneak attack against Chia-pi-kou and destroy the small train during the next few days!" (Alarmed) Oh!

(KAO Po shouts from behind the stage: "203 --" KAO Po hurriedly enters. Soldiers, CHANG Ta-shan, CH'ANG La-hu, LI's Mother, and masses enter.

KAO Po. Reporting to 203, when the small train reached Erh-tao-ho, we discovered that the bridge there was damaged. As we disembarked from the train to repair the damage, the bandits attacked us unexpectedly. We routed the enemies, but the small train was dynamited!

SHAO Chien-po. What happened to the two criminals?

KAO Po. I-cho-mao was killed by dynamite!

SHAO Chien-po. What about LUAN Ping?

KAO P. We pursued the bandits; and LUAN Ping got away!

SHAO Chien-po. LUAN Ping got away? If he escapes to Wei-hu-shan, he will inevitably cause danger to Comrade YANG Tzu-jung and disrupt our plan for eradicating the bandits! -- LUAN Chao-chia, assemble!

LUAN Chao-chia. Yes. (Exits)

SHAO Chien-po. Comrade Ta-shan, you and comrade Old CH'ANG take care of cleaning up the small train.

CHANG Ta-shan. Yes. (The pursuit and assault detachment and militiamen enter.

SHAO Chien-po. Comrades! (Singing in "Hsi-pi San-pan") To prevent the plan from turning into a bubble and a shadow, / We must urgently strive to grasp every minute and every second. / Comrades in full battle dress will advance with speed / To rush to eliminate the enemies on Wei-hu-shan! (SHAO Chien-po and soldiers, and the masses bid farewell to one another. SHAO Chien-po ascends to a high spot to direct the troops.

SHAO Chien-po. Forward! (The pursuit and assault detachment and militiamen proceed quickly.

(Lights dim. In blinding wind and snow, two or three comrades of the pursuit and assault detachment race ahead in search of the path covered by snow. Guided by LI Yung-chi, the pursuit and assault detachment and the militiamen approach from afar, accompanied by the music: "March of the Chinese People's Liberation Army." They brace themselves against the wind and snow, advance rapidly, and display an overwhelming power. Reaching the foot of an overhanging cliff, they remove skis and climb up the wall. They bravely climb up the mountain. Like numerous eagles, they pass over mountain ridges and on skis advance rapidly with full confidence.

-- Lights dim gradually. Curtains fall.

#### Act X FORCES JOIN AT HUNDRED-CHICKEN BANQUET

(New Year's Eve, at Wei-hu-ting on Wei-hu-shan.

Minor Bandit three. He said that he is LUAN Ping, Aide-de-camp at Nai-tou-shan.

TSO Shan-tiao. LUAN Ping?

Bandit Chin-kang. This little fellow has come; we can never forgive him!

TSO Shan-tiao. Bring him in.

Minor Bandit three. Bring the loafer! (Two minor bandits escort LUAN Ping, enter.

LUAN Ping. Your Third Lordship.

TSO Shan-tiao. Aide LUAN, what do you come to me for?  
 LUAN Ping. Your Third Lordship, I come here -- to wish you longevity on the occasion of your birthday.  
 TSO Shan-tiao. Ugh! How dare you come to see me!  
 LUAN Ping. Your Third Lordship, I ...  
 TSO Shan-tiao. Shut up! Say, where did you come from?  
 LUAN Ping. I ... I...  
 Bandit Chin-kang. Speak up!  
 LUAN Ping. I ...  
 Bandit Chin-kang. Open your mouth, quickly!  
 LUAN Ping. I will tell you. I ...come from Commissioner HOU.  
 TSO Shan-tiao. (Grins) Ugh, ugh, ugh! You come from Commissioner HOU.  
 HOU. Ask Number Nine to come here!  
 TA Pi-tzu. (To a minor bandit) Ask the Ninth Lordship to come here.  
 Minor Bandit. Your Ninth Lordship is requested (YANG Tzu-jung enters.  
 YANG Tzu-jung. (Singing in "Hai-pi Yao-pan") Arrangements are completed with great excitement for the hundred-chicken banquet / Awaiting fire to light up the mountain for annihilating the enemies. (Speaking) Third Lord, all arrangements have been properly completed. (Silence on the stage.  
 TSO Shan-tiao. Old Nine, see who is here?  
 YANG Tzu-jung. (Startled at seeing LUAN Ping, but calms down immediately and decides to move first to control the situation) Ah! Whom do I think it is? It is elder brother LUAN. I have not seen you often! (LUAN Ping stares and is tongue-tied.  
 YANG Tzu-jung. Elder brother LUAN, I, HU Piao, came here first. How did it go? What position do you have, after joining Commissioner HOU? I, HU Piao, wish you steady advancement!  
 Bandit Chin-kang. (Sarcastically) That's right. You probably have become a regiment commander, have you not? Ha, ha, ha! (LUAN Ping is flabbergasted and does not know what to do.  
 TSO Shan-tiao. Yes, What position has Commissioner HOU appointed you to? Why, then, do you come to me again?  
 LUAN Ping. (Realizes the situation, stares at YANG Tzu-jung, and grins) What a HU Piao! You ... You are not ...  
 YANG Tzu-jung. I am not? (Solemnly) Was it me, or was it you? I, HU Piao, have always been a friend and have upheld righteousness! Not like you called LUAN! I had advised you to come to join Brigadier TSUI. But you insisted that I must also go to join Commissioner HOU. You should not blame me for upholding righteousness! (Menacingly) Now, under his Third Lordship's questions: What position has Commissioner HOU appointed you to? What official business do you have now for coming here?  
 LUAN Ping. (Avoiding YANG Tzu-jung) Your Third Lordship, I meant to say...  
 YANG Tzu-jung. Forget about the nonsense! Today is the 50th birthday of his Third Lordship. Nobody has time to listen to your foolish talk!  
 LUAN Ping. Your Third Lordship ...  
 TSO Shan-tiao. Never mind all the silly talk! I will ask you only one thing: What do you come here for?

LUAN Ping. I come to join your Third Lordship and to make a fresh start.

YANG Tzu-jung. Did you not go to Commissioner HOU to seek a position?

LUAN Ping. (At a loss for an answer) ... (Silence for a moment. TSO Shan-tiao and the others stare with anger at LUAN Ping.)

YANG Tzu-jung. You named LUAN, what did his honor HOU send you here for? Tell the truth!

Bandit Chin-kang. Right. What did you come for?

LUAN Ping. I did not come from Commissioner HOU!

TA Ma-tzu. This little fellow admitted that a while ago, but now disclaims what he said! What is going on here! (Bandits roar in laughter.)

LUAN Ping. Don't laugh! You all fall into a trick! He is not HU Piao, but a Communist officer! (Bandit Chin-kang takes out his weapon and aims at YANG Tzu-jung.)

YANG Tzu-jung. (Changes from tension to calmness) Ha, ha. Ha, ha. Good! You said that I am a Communist officer. So, all right, I am a Communist officer. Now, in front of his Third Lordship and all the other elders, you can talk about the background of this Communist officer.

TSO Shan-tiao. Right. You said he is not HU Piao, but a Communist officer. How did you know him before?

LUAN Ping. (Hastily) He ... he ... he...

YANG Tzu-jung. Third Lord, today this fellow LUAN speaks with great hesitation and contradicts himself. I think he must be hiding something!

TA Ma-tzu. Eight out of ten, he was captured and then released by Communist troops!

LUAN Ping. No, no!

YANG Tzu-jung. Did the Communist troops release you? Or did they send you?

LUAN Ping. I ... I ... I...

TA Pi-tzu. Right! Did the Communist troops send you here?

Bandit Chin-kang. Speak! Speak!

LUAN Ping. (Staring and tongue-tied...)

YANG Tzu-jung. Third Lord, our Wei-hu-shan is well guarded and defended. The Communist troops can never come in. It is strange that this fellow should come here now!

LUAN Ping. (Quickly attempts to defend himself) No! No!

YANG Tzu-jung. Regardless of what you may say! (Singing in "Hsi-pi Kuai-pan") Such contradiction, duplicity, and treachery / And hesitation and deviousness to conceal the scheme! / Breaking into the mountain stronghold and leaving footprints / With the intention of drawing Communist troops to the mountain. (Speaks) Eight Company Commander --

Bandit Company Commander. (Enters) Here!

YANG Tzu-jung. (Resumes singing) Increase sentries and strengthen guard duties / No one should leave his post without orders!

TSO Shan-tiao. Right, without orders from Number Nine, no one is permitted to leave his post!

Bandit Company Commander. Yes! (Exits) (Bandit Chin-kang's nod in approval.)

TSO Shan-tiao. (Leaving his seat) You mad dog! You tried before

to persuade Number Nine to go to join Commissioner HOU. Now you again come here to sow dissension and also attempt to bring the Communist troops in here. Do you expect me to tolerate you?

LUAN Ping. Your Third Lordship, he is not HU Piao. He is truly a Communist officer! (Kneels) (All bandits look down on LUAN Ping.)

YANG Tzu-jung. (Realizes that the opportunity is ripe) You named LUAN, you are vicious! You attempt to use his Third Lordship's sword to slaughter me. I regret that I did not kill you first at Li-shu-wang!

Bandit Chin-kang. Right, right!

YANG Tzu-jung. Third Lord, I, HU Piao, can never put up with this. Today, for the sake of your lordship, I incur displeasure from this mad dog. He has now turned vicious and ferocious! If you think that I am a Communist officer, you can settle that immediately! -- If you regard me as HU Piao, then, let me go away from this mountain. Today, it is either he or I, either one of us. Either he dies, or else I will not live. You can have your choice between us! (Removes his duty officer band and throws it to TSO Shan-tiao.)

All Minor Bandits. Your Ninth Lordship must not leave. Your Ninth Lordship must not go!

Bandit Chin-kang. Number Nine, you must not leave!

TSO Shan-tiao. (Confused, hesitates for a while, and then takes up the duty officer band) Number Nine, why do you behave like a child, and act like this mad dog? The Third Lordship will not mistreat you. Now, come, put this back on, put it back. (TA Ma-tzu accepts the duty officer band from the hands of TSO Shan-tiao and places it back on YANG Tzu-jung.)

LUAN Ping. (Senses the unfavorable situation and moves ahead to beg) Your Third Lordship ...

TSO Shan-tiao. (Shakes his sleeve) Ugh! (Returns to his seat)

LUAN Ping. (Prostrates himself in front of YANG Tzu-jung) My wise younger brother HU Piao!

YANG Tzu-jung. (Ignores him) ...

LUAN Ping. (Slapping himself) I am not a man, I am not a man!

YANG Tzu-tung. (Without looking at LUAN Ping, calls to all bandits) The time has come. It is time to wish his Lordship longevity! (All minor bandits respond with "Yes, yes.")

TA Ma-tzu. Third Lord, your 50th birthday must not be disturbed by this stray dog.

TA Pi-tzu. Unless we do away with this ill fated star, it will be bad luck for our mountain stronghold!

Bandits. Right, we must do away with him!

LUAN Ping. All elders, wise younger HU Piao, and our Third Lordship, spare my life! (A terrifying silence prevails over the hall.)

TSO Shan-tiao. You mad dog! Unless we kill you today, you will spoil my 50th birthday; nor can I face up to Number Nine HU! To kill you, the ill fated star, is to take a turn to good luck. To kill an owl will prolong my life! Ha, ha! Ha, ha!

LUAN Ping. Your Third Lordship ... Spare my life!

TA Pi-tzu. Take him away!

YANG Tzu-jung. Give him to me! (YANG Tzu-jung escorts LUAN Ping out of Wei-hu-ting. LUAN Ping is frozen with fright.

YANG Tzu-jung. (Singing in "Hsi-pi Kuai-pan") Perpetrating crimes for scores of years, / You have accumulated many blood debts. / To execute you on behalf of the fatherland, / I intend revenge for the people. (YANG Tzu-jung drags LUAN Ping, exits. Noise of a gun shot. YANG Tzu-jung re-enters.

YANG Tzu-jung. Third Lord, all preparations are now completed. We should now celebrate your birthday.

TSO Shan-tiao. Number Nine, you are the officer of the day. You give the orders.

YANG Tzu-jung. Brothers, light up all lanterns in the hall, and burn torches on the mountain, to celebrate His Third Lordship's birthday! (Bandit Company Commander enters.

Bandit Company Commander. Light up lanterns in the hall, and burn torches on the mountain, to celebrate His Third Lordship's birthday!

Bandit Chin-kang's. Celebrating His Third Lordship's birthday! (Bandits prostrate themselves to wish TSO Shan-tiao longevity.

YANG Tzu-jung. Brothers, today we must enjoy this feast, eat much and drink more, and get drunk before we stop!

Bandits. Right, we must not stop before we are drunk.

YANG Tzu-jung. Will the Third Lordship please be seated at the banquet.

TSO Shan-tiao. Perhaps all brothers should go first.

YANG Tzu-jung. It is your 50th birthday, you should be the first.

TSO Shan-tiao. (Overjoyed) Ha ha, ha ha! (Bandits enter the cave for the banquet.

YANG Tzu-jung. Eight company commander, withdraw all brothers on sentry duty, and drink more.

Bandit company commander. Yes! (Exits) (Bandits drink and play finger game at the table, in great confusion and excitement. YANG Tzu-jung looks around.

YANG Tzu-jung. (Singing in "Hsi-pi Kuai-er-liu") Lanterns and torches light up the whole mountain stronghold on New Year's Eve. / I have lit up signals also to burn over the mountain. / The hundred-chicken banquet has been arranged according to plan. / As the bandits are now drinking themselves into confusion and unconsciousness. / I hope that comrades will soon appear / To smash the enemy camp and annihilate all. / In anxiety, the time seems to pass slowly. / Why is there not a sign of my comrades-in-arm's movement. / Unable to control the excitement, I must go out to take a look -- / (Changes to sing in "Hsi-pi Yao-pan") At the critical moment, one must remain calm. / Let me guard this secret tunnel. (Pointing to TSO Shan-tiao's seat.)

(TSO Shan-tiao, TA Ma-tzu, and the others enter, staggering in drunkenness.

TSO Shan-tiao. Number Nine, why don't you come to join us? Even though you are a newcomer, you have done a great deal for our mountain stronghold. We must all pay respects to you by at least two toasts.

YANG Tzu-jung. This is your great 50th birthday. I must pay my respects to you. Come, fill up His Third Lordship's cup. (Minor bandit fills the cup.

TSO Shan-tiao. (Quite drunk) Number Nine, I cannot take any more.  
YANG Tzu-jung. This wine will bring you longevity. You cannot refuse!  
TSO Shan-tiao. Good, good, good. If you say so, I will drink it.  
YANG Tzu-jung. You must also allow the Chief-of-staff to accompany  
you in three drinks.

TA Ma-tzu. Of course. (All continue to drink.

(Noise of machine gun fire. All drop their cups. Bandit Chin-kang  
Two enters, wounded.

Chin-kang Two. Machine gun fire from the Communist troops have blocked  
Wei-hu-ting! (Liberation Army shouting from behind the stage: "Surrender  
your arms! and you will be spared!"

TSO Shan-tiao. Number Nine, you quickly follow me to go through this  
secret tunnel! (TSO Shan-tiao turns over the chair, but YANG Tzu-jung  
pushes him aside.

YANG Tzu-jung. Don't move! (Several members of the Liberation Army  
rush in shouting: "Surrender your arms! You will be spared!"

TSO Shan-tiao. Ah! you are ...

YANG Tzu-jung. I come from the Chinese People's Liberation Army!

TSO Shan-tiao. Ah! (TSO Shan-tiao intends to shoot. YANG Tzu-jung  
strikes down his gun. TSO Shan-tiao escapes, while other bandits run into  
mountain caves.

YANG Tzu-jung. Comrades! This is a secret tunnel. Rescue the vener-  
able fellow countrymen and capture TSO Shan-tiao alive! (Pursues, exits)  
(Soldiers of the Liberation Army pursue, exit.

(SUN Ta-te tangles with one Bandit Chin-kang, and kills the bandit.  
TA Ma-tzu enters and is wounded by SUN Ta-te, runs, with SUN Ta-te in pursuit.

(LUAN Chao-chia pursues one Bandit Chin-kang; and the two tangle. CH'ANG  
Pao pursues one bandit, they enter, in combat; and she captures the bandit.  
LUAN Chao-chia and CH'ANG Pao escort the bandits, exit.

(LI Yung-chi, PAI Ju, soldiers, and militiamen rescue the masses im-  
prisoned by the bandits at the mountain, Passing over the stage, they  
exit.

(Bandit Company Commander enters. LI Yung-chi shoots and kills the  
bandit.

(TSO Shan-tiao enters in fright, with two minor bandits following and  
YANG Tzu-jung in hot pursuit. YANG Tzu-jung kills the two minor bandits,  
and tangles with TSO Shan-tiao.

(TUNG Chung-sung and a soldier pursue TA Pi-tzu. Other bandits enter,  
in battle scene.

(YANG Tzu-jung sizes a gun and kills several bandits.

(SUN Ta-te, LI Yung-chi, PAI Ju, and KAO Po, and militiamen enter in  
succession. All bandits are captured.

(LI Yung-chi, in great indignation, intends to strike TSO Shan-tiao.  
SUN Ta-te stops him.

(The man and woman villagers who were liberated embrace the militia-  
men.

(SHAO Chien-po enters.

SHAO Chien-po. (Grasping YANG Tzu-jung's hand, excitedly) Old YANG!  
(SHAO Chien-po introduces LI Yung-chi to YANG Tzu-jung. The two grasp each  
other's hand.

-- Curtains fall. End of drama