

The government once more tried negotiations; but as MA demanded, in addition to what he already had under him, also the Altai district, there could be no talk of peace.

The Governor of Ili, General CHANG PEI-YUAN, who had taken part in the murder of old YANG in 1928 but considered himself to have been unjustly treated in connection with the sharing of the spoils, now approached MA.

During high summer there was a general atmosphere of uncertainty in the province. Urumchi was cut off in all directions. There was only *one* line of communication with China proper, and this was by air with the machines of the Eurasia.