



December 9, 1950

Letter from Zhou Enlai to Mao Zedong

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Summary:

Zhou Enlai reports to Mao Zedong on his talk with Zakharov about their strategic intentions and plans to cross the 38th parallel. Zakharov insists that one army should be moved to the Wonsan area to cover the southward-advancing flank, despite Zhou's disagreement with this move.

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关于与沙哈罗夫商谈志愿军作战方案 情况给毛泽东的信

(一九五〇年十二月九日)

主席：

沙哈罗夫〔1〕来谈，他很担心元山海港有再遭敌截击我南进后路的危险。我已将过三八线的战略意图及战役设想告诉了他，并说明宋〔2〕兵团的作战，在这次战役中应一直包括到解放咸兴、元山；如宋兵团在休整后继续南进，十九兵团将于一月中开去担任咸兴、元山、平壤等守备。沙听后仍提出在目前应以一个军（他举出六十六军）开往元山地区活动以掩护我南进侧翼。我说，如此则分散主力，而且目前敌人正将元山部队撤往咸兴，等宋兵团一个星期，恐即将逼近咸兴。届时，我十三兵团向南进攻，如元山有敌以一个师掩护翼侧，即可。他仍不同意，我允为报告主席，他始满意而去。

周恩来

十二、九日夜

根据手稿刊印。

注 释

〔1〕 沙哈罗夫，又译沙哈诺夫、扎哈罗夫，当时是苏联政府派驻中国的军事总顾问。

〔2〕 宋，指宋时轮，当时任中国人民志愿军第九兵团司令员兼政治委员。

Chairman [Mao Zedong]:

Zakharov came for a talk. He was worried about the danger that the enemy may attack Wonsan Harbor to obstruct the rear lines of our advance to the south. I told him of our strategic intentions and our campaign's tentative plans to cross the 38th Parallel. (I) also explained that the operations of Song [Shilun]'s Army in this campaign to include liberation all the way to Seisin and Wonsan. If Song's Army continues to advance south after its rest and reorganization, the 19th Army will move to Seisin, Wonsan and Pyongyang in mid-January for garrison duty. After Zakharov listened to this, he still suggested that one army (he mentioned the 66th Army) should be moved to the Wonsan area for operations to cover our southward-advancing flank. I said that this would disperse the main force. Furthermore, currently the enemy is withdrawing its Wonsan armies to Seisin. If [we] wait for Song's army for a week, [I am] afraid [the enemy] will then press on towards Seisin. When that time comes, our 13th Army will attack towards the south. It will be fine to have one division cover the flank if there are enemies at Wonsan. He still would not agree. It was not until I consented to report it to the Chairman that he was satisfied and departed.

Zhou Enlai

Night of December 9 [1950]