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I-ning Affair and the Racial Movement in Sinkiang

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In September 1944 the Kazakhs and Uighurs of Ili (Kuldja) rose in revolt against the Kuomintang Government, and, after taking hold of the whole district of Ili, they declared the independence of the East Turkestan Republic in January 1945. Then the districts of Tarbagatai and Altai were annexed to their republic, thus causing a menace to Urumtsi. Thereupon the Kuomintang Government, making a peace overture to them through the mediation of the Soviet Union, sent a delegation headed by *Chang Chih-chung* and had it open a negotiation with the delegates of the Ili Group including Akhamedjan, Kasimov and Rahimjan. Both parties finally came to terms in June 1946, according to which the Ili Group had to relinquish their independence but, instead, acquired a wide range of autonomy. A joint government was then organized under Provincial Governor *Chang Chih-chung* and two Deputy Governors Burhan and Akhamedjan. Soon afterwards, however, dissension arising from the problems of army re-organization and the appointment of Masud Sabri as a new Governor by the Kuomintang Government led the Ili Group to withdraw their members from Urumtsi and to organize the three districts of Ili, Tarbagatai and Altai into the Union in Defence of Peace and Democracy in Sinkiang. Amidst the antagonism between the governments of Ili and Urumtsi, people saw the birth of the People's Republic of China in October 1949.

The present writer examines the causes and the development of the *I-ning* Affair (or Kuldja Revolt), the details of the peace negotiation, the organization and disintegration of the joint government, and the relationship between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, and further refers to the classification of the tribes in Sinkiang Province and their racial movements.