

A Brief Biographical Chronology of Siao-yu and His Relationship with Mao Tse-tung

1894

Siao-yu was born on July 20 (lunar calendar) in Siangsiang District of Hunan Province. Mao Tse-tung was born eight months earlier in Siangtan District forty miles away.

1911

(Last year of the Ch'ing Dynasty.) Siao-yu entered the new Provincial Normal School of the Central Zone in Changsha. Schools were temporarily closed in the latter part of the year due to revolution.

1912

(First year of the Republic of China.) Schools reopened in February. Siao and Mao began their friendship as fellow students in the same school.

1914

During the course of an all-night discussion, Siao-yu and Mao Tse-tung planned the organization of the *Hsin Min Hsueh Hui* (The New People's Study Association).

1915-1918

Siao-yu completed his studies and became a teacher, first in the Hsiu Yeh School and later in the Ch'u Yi School.

1917

During the summer, Siao-yu and Mao Tse-tung journeyed together as beggars through Hunan Province.

1918

Fall, Peking: Siao sought a way for Hsin Min members to study abroad. He accepted the post of Secretary of the French-Chinese Society of Education which was offered to him by Ts'ai Yuan-p'ei, President of the National University of Peking and also President of the Society. Mao Tse-tung joined Siao-yu and lived with him while in Peking, but decided to remain in China when Siao sailed for France early in the following year.

1919

From headquarters at Paris, Siao-yu dealt with the problems of nearly 3,000 Chinese student-workers then in France.

1920

Siao-yu worked toward establishing a French-Chinese Institute and a Belgic-Chinese Institute. Late in the year he presided over a meeting of Hsin Min in Montargis Forest before returning to Peking to report on conditions in Europe. Throughout 1919 and 1920, Siao-yu carried on an extensive correspondence with Mao Tse-tung.

1921

Siao-yu remained at Peking to confer about petitioning France and Belgium to apply the Boxer indemnity to the education of Chinese students in Europe. In the spring he traveled to Changsha and lived there with Mao and other Hsin Min members. Siao-yu traveled with Mao to Shanghai, where the first secret conference of regional delegates to organize the Communist Party was held, and to Chiahsing, where the conference reconvened in a boat on South Lake. Throughout this period, Siao-yu disputed Mao's adherence to Russian Communism, and refrained from attending the meetings.

1922

Mao Tse-tung became the secret leader of the Changsha Communists. Siao-yu remained in Peking.

1923

Siao-yu returned to Paris to carry on his work as Secretary of the French-Chinese Society of Education and as European correspondent of the National University of Peking.

1924

Siao-yu returned to Peking in the winter to accept the post of First Secretary of the Minister of National Education.

1925

When a change of government prevented his becoming First Secretary at that time, Siao-yu accepted a position as Professor in the French-Chinese University of Peking. He also became editor of *Ming Pao* (News of the People), the organ of the Kuomintang in Peking. Two months later, because of an article against the Military Government, the paper was forcibly closed, his colleague imprisoned and Siao forced to hide for some months in the Foreign Concession of Tientsin. When the government changed in the autumn, Siao-yu became First Secretary of the Ministry of National Education. The correspondence between Siao and Mao continued throughout this period.

1926

Siao-yu was appointed General Censor of all school books in the Ministry of National Education. As the secret work of the revolution progressed, secret police surveillance over him increased. Siao's mail was censored and correspondence with Mao came to an end.

1927

From within the diplomatic concessions at Peking, Siao worked actively in the revolutionary movement against militarism. When the Kuomintang army under Chiang Kai-shek ousted the Military Government in July, Siao and four other members of the National Party were for several weeks the highest authority in Peking. After the establishment of the new government of the Republic at Nanking under Chiang Kai-shek, Siao became Consul of the Ministry of Agriculture and Mines and High Commissioner of Agriculture and Mines in Hopeh Province.

1928-1930

Siao-yu was alternately at Peking and Nanking in the following positions: Vice Minister of Agriculture and Mines of the Republic, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Director of the National Museum of Natural History, President of the University of Hwa Pei, Professor in the French-Chinese University, and General Secretary of the Mixed Commission on French-Chinese education.

1931-1932

With the change of government, Siao-yu withdrew from the political sphere, but continued in his educational posts. He accepted a commission from the Central Government to study agriculture and forests in Europe.

1933

In June at Shanghai Siao married Phyllis Ling-cho. In August they sailed for Europe.

1937

Sino-Japanese war was declared. In winter Siao returned to China alone to aid the national defense from headquarters in Hongkong.

1938

In September Siao left Hongkong for his fourth journey to France.

1941

Siao was elected Vice President of the Institute of Higher Chinese Studies at the Sorbonne.

1943

When France and China broke diplomatic relations, Siao, in his post as University Professor, became China's sole representative in France. He served four years as President of the Committee of Aid for Chinese Students. In Lyons, Siao, as Vice President, directed the French-Chinese Institute.

1945-1948

After returning to Paris, Siao traveled to London to attend UNESCO conferences. Four times he was the chief delegate from China to assist at general assemblies of the World Federation of United Nations Associations, and was elected vice president of this federation when Jan Masaryk was president.

1947

Elected Vice President of the French-Chinese Society of Education in Paris.

1948

Elected Director of the Sino-International Library at Geneva.

1951

Preparations started to transfer Library to Montevideo on the invitation of the government of Uruguay.

1953

In June the Siao-yus arrived at Montevideo.

1957

Mrs. Siao passed away on May 21.