Analysis of the Development and Significance of the New China Military Sports Club

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Abstract. By reviewing the formation and development process of the new China’s military sports clubs, this paper discusses the importance of it in strengthening military sports exchanges between countries and enhancing the combat effectiveness of the army. In addition, from the aspects of management system, training system and personnel training, this paper outlines the guidelines and strategies of the new China’s military sports clubs, and emphasizes that our military sports must be guided by scientific theories and correct directions, so that we can continue to develop and innovate.

Introduction of the Development of New China Military Sports Club

From November 1950 to January 1951, the Chinese youth delegation to the Soviet Union had been conducting a comprehensive survey of the “Soviet Branch Association”. The main goal is to examine the “Soviet Union support for land, sea and air volunteering”. After returning home, the delegation suggested to the Central Committee that we should establish similar institutions in our country, hoping that the youth would accept internationalism, patriotic education and military technology training, so as to enhance the national defense reserve force. In January 18, 1951, Liu Shaoqi instructed Xiao Hua and Liu Yalou to set up similar organizations like the Soviet Union’s aeronautical chemistry Volunteers Association (referred to as “Branch Association”) to train aeronautics, tank operators and other military technicians. He wrote to the leaders of the armed forces: “As for the training of air crew, tank hands and other military technical personnel, I remembered that the Soviet Union once had the National Aeronautical Chemistry Association as a general training organization in the folk. How was this kind of experience?...Please study the experience of the Soviet Union.” According to Liu Shaoqi’s proposal, the Central Committee in conjunction with the PLA General Political Department and other relevant departments to study, submitted a “preliminary opinions” to carry out Preliminary Opinions on Carrying Out Military Education at the Present Stage to the Central Committee, and suggested that “Chinese people’s voluntary association for the support and defense of the people”, funded by the national defense expenditure. Feng Wenbin proposed the use of the “People’s Defense Club”.

In July of the same year, according to the situation at home and abroad, the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League and the General Political Department of the PLA jointly convened various units, arms, National Federation of trade unions, women’s federations and other units. Based on Comrade Liu Shaoqi’s suggestion and the experience of the Chinese youth delegation visiting the Soviet Union to investigate the Soviet Union’s support for the volunteer association of land, sea and air, the joint research was carried out, and a preliminary opinion on military education at this stage was put forward in the report to the Central Committee. In the “opinions”: the majority of the people especially the youth military education, education of military technology and military sports. The purpose is to train a large number of strong, brave, resolute, smart and reserve forces of the national armed forces with a certain level of military knowledge and skills. It proposes the establishment of “People’s Chinese Defense Volunteer Association, the establishment of “Central Defense Club” in Beijing, the focus of military technology pilot of amateur training activities, funded by the national defense expenditure.
In September 1951, Zhou Enlai instructed: Because of the initial construction of the country, we do not establish a national Top-down Association at all levels temporarily, agreed to pilot a “Central Defense Club”, but in the organization, it was with the “China Sports Federation”, together with the total budget funds processing. According to Zhou Enlai’s instructions, the central defense club was formed by the Central Committee of the league in February 1952. The Central Defense Club was subordinate to the National Sports Federation of China, so it was renamed “the central defense sports club”. Plus the two words of “Sports”, it was also to weaken the political color of national defense and military affairs. However, although the “Central Sports Club” added the word “Sports”, the significance of national defense was far greater than that of sports from its original purpose. But it was because of the word “Sports” and the attribute of sports that a series of military training projects could be reused and redeveloped in different periods. And the word “national defense sports” was beginning to appear from that time.[1]

In June 24, 1952, the central national sports club was founded in Beijing by the minister, Deputy Secretary General of the national assembly and the central defense sports club director Comrade Huang Zhong. The central national defense sports club was expanded by the central Ministry of military sports, and at the beginning, it had only a minister, a secretary and other 3 cadres, following by the air force and Navy deployed 11 cadres composed of secretary, technical education, 3 aviation model groups.

In the “universal and regular” policy, and under the impetus of the “guardian system”, China’s national defense sports have been further developed. In February 22, 1955, the Central Committee of the Communist Party Central Committee pointed out in the wholesale on the convening of the national sports work conference: Over the past few years, the aviation model competitions, performances and exhibitions have been held for more than 80 times, and about 70000 teenagers have been publicized by the aviation industry. In 1954, in cities of Beijing, Qingdao, Chengdu and Chongqing, more than 30 thousand and 5 people took part in activities such as skydiving, motorcycle, shooting, radio, rowing, sailing and military camping. In order to solve the problem of the source of pilots, a set of gliding technology was introduced from Poland in 1955, and the first gliding school in China was established in Zhangjiakou. The central defense sports club was responsible for carrying out gliding training and glider production. At the same time, the proposal of the Soviet Union was accepted by the Soviet Union, and the shooting range was built with the help of the Soviet experts. According to statistics, during this period our country has established 163 various places defense sports activities, more than 1.19 million people attended the event, more than 9500 part-time instructors were trained, set up a number of projects of the national sports team like sailing, diving, motor boats, radios, and held a socialist country international shooting friendship competition. Overall, national defense sports in 50s and 60s are mainly national defense. Because of the domestic economic level, national defense sports development level was relatively low, with universal primary knowledge and military technology, and the equipment was simple. But the widespread procedure of the popularization of national defense sports in this period could not be compared to any other period in the later time.

Significance of the New China Military Sports Club

The military sports exchanges with the socialist countries have been strengthened and friendship has been deepened.

Sports as a product of the development of human society, with the evolution of different periods endowed different functions of sports. As an important part of the development of new China’s sports, military sports has actively participated in the national foreign exchange, and has played an important role in the new China’s external exchanges, which is not only reflected in sports diplomacy of competitive sports. The military sports diplomacy has also achieved remarkable achievements. During the early days of the founding of the PRC, many of the PLA’s special sports teams had
participated in international major sporting events on behalf of the state and the army for many times, and achieved excellent results.

In 1955, the women’s volleyball team of the PLA defeated Bulgaria to become the first sports team to win the foreign team in New China. In 1955, the men’s volleyball team of the PLA defeated the world runner up Romania by 3:0, and won the championship in the Tenth and Eleventh International Military Sports Organization volleyball tournament. In 1959, the PLA men’s basketball team defeated the former Soviet champion team Dinamo Tbilisi. In 1962, the former Soviet Union champion was defeated. In 1979, they defeated the American national team coming to visit our country for two times. In 1981, they got first in the First World Men’s basketball club championship tournament in Asia.

According to incomplete statistics, over the past 30 years before 1984, military sports teams have conducted more than 100 visits to more than 50 countries and regions of the world’s five continents. At home, they played a friendly match with more than 200 sports teams from more than 50 countries or regions. Our army has become the CISM member nations, and established close ties with the international military sports council. To cooperate closely with the armed forces of other countries in the world, an international sports academic exchange with a wide base has been established. Only the PLA Institute has trained more than 100 foreign students for national military and sent a large number of sports to foreign experts. Our army has sprung up a number of experts and professors of sports experts with high popularity at home and abroad. In the field of international sports academic research, the experts and scholars of the sports field of our army also have a place. At the Olympic Science Conference and the Asian Games science conference, they all left out the figure of our sports experts and scholars. [2]

Victory in the war to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea smashed the dream of American imperialism in an attempt to invade the new China by the DPRK as a springboard, defend the independence of the Korean nationality, defended the national security of new China, enhanced the friendship with North Korea, guaranteed the smooth progress of the new China’s economic recovery work, counterattacked America’s hegemonism, and provides valuable time for the peaceful development of new China. At the same time, the victory of the anti-American aggression and aid Korea also reflected the achievements of the development of the new China’s military sports. July 27, 1953, in Panmunjom, the “agreement” signed an armistice with North Korea representative signaling the end of the Korean War which lasted 3 years and 32 days. North Korea’s armed forces killed hundreds of people. Among them, 390 thousand US troops, more than 12200 pieces of enemy aircraft being shot down and hit, 257 sinking or damaged enemy ships, and various combat materials. At this point, the Chinese people's movement for anti-American aggression and aid Korea ended, and the security problem of China has also been basically guaranteed. During this period, the central national defense sports club has also been continuously developed and expanded.

**Policy and Strategy of the New China Military Sports Club**

**Management System.** There has been a new development in the organization and leadership. In 1950, the Military Commission and the General Political Department issued a directive to “vigorously strengthen the sports activities of the army” and made a clear division of labor for the management institutions: The cultural departments at all levels are responsible for leading the mass sports activities, and the training departments at all levels are responsible for the military sports training of the troops. The Revolutionary Military Committee of the company set up a sports committee to be in charge of the team’s sports work. The units above the regiment set up the sports and Sports Guidance Committee to strengthen the leadership of the sports work. In 1955, the director of training set up a sports bureau to manage the sports training and sports teams of the whole army. In 1957, the mass sports work was also attributed to the unified leadership of the Sports Bureau and formed a systematic and systematic management system.

**Training System.** In 1954, the Department of Defense issued a fatwa written reference materials, sports, film assassination, instrument gymnastics, athletics, football and other exercises in teaching
film under the army, in order to guide the military sports training and sports activities. The director of training promulgated the program of Sports Training Program, Guide for sports work and the annual plan of sports training for cadres and soldiers. At that time, the sports workers also translated a large number of Soviet military sports systems and norms. Based on absorbing the experience of the Soviet Union, they compiled and published the suitable books for China’s National People’s army military sports development like Labor Health System, Sports, Sports Manual, and Sports Fatwa Training Materials, which provides the basic basis for the military sports education and training, standardizes the training method and unifies the standard of assessment.

**Personnel Training.** In 1953, for the training of the PLA sports backbone and management of cadres, to further promote the sports work, China founded the people’s Liberation Army Military Sports School in Guangzhou (It was renamed the Chinese PLA Institute of Physical Education in 1961), marking the official formation of China people’s Liberation Army “standardization of military physical education”.

**Conclusion**

The new China military sports club has promoted the rapid development of military sports and training. In the early 60s, the Lanzhou and Tibet military areas carried out the adaptability training of plateau, severe cold and mountain forest land, which improved the operational capability of the troops. Under the call of Mao Zedong, the whole army carried out swimming training. In 60s force contest, many military projects and technology has made considerable development, showing a very high level. Regularized military physical education has trained a batch of qualified talents for the whole army, which promoted and standardized the mass training and competition activities of the whole army, and strengthened the fighting capacity of the army. [3] The establishment of the new Chinese Central Military Club marks that the Chinese nation again is not a slaughter any more. History tells us that the military sports of our army must be continuously developed and innovating under the guidance of scientific theory and the correct direction. In the new historical period, military sports must be guided by the thought of military construction in the new period of general secretary Xi Jinping, conscientiously carry out the important thought of “Three Representatives”, build a people’s army with a good style of winning the war with the party’s command, carry out military sports training and sports activities in military camp, and play an active role in the modernization of the army.

**References**

