

mintang from *without* as well as from within, and *from without* the pressure came from Japan, Germany, England and the United States. The ruling circles of all four powers, despite their quarrels, agreed to press upon Chiang the demand for military liquidation of the Chinese Communists.

VI. CRIME AGAINST CHINA

THE American loan of a hundred million dollars to China and Roosevelt's promise of much greater aid have brought the immediate result of the Kuomintang slaughter of four thousand soldiers of the New Fourth Route Army, its disbandment, and the arrest of Yeh Ting, its famous commander—a step into renewed civil war for which Chiang Kai-shek is reported to accept responsibility.

The *New York Herald Tribune* for February 1 carries a long and sober editorial on this development, which concludes:

At this juncture, when Japan is prepared to go marauding in the "South Seas" and when the Chinese should be ready, in their own interests as well as in those of their friends, to put all they have into immobilizing as big a Japanese force as possible, it is indeed a pity that they are working up a bitter domestic feud. We are confident that Chiang Kai-shek is too big to foster it; and we hope that he is big enough to bring it under control.

Yet the *Herald Tribune* writer says nothing about that which he surely knows—*why* Chiang permitted a break which he has opposed since 1938, when Kuomintang-Communist co-operation was re-established. That reason is that Chiang was given to understand that American help required him to deal with Chinese Communists as the Roosevelt Administration deals with American Communists, that American help required him to draw away from the Soviet Union and approximate Roosevelt's hostility toward that country. It is utter nonsense to speak as if this break originated in China, or with Chiang. It was pressed upon the Kuo-

WHY IT IS "TREASON" TO WIN VICTORIES

The Chinese Embassy in Washington on January 21 made public a cable from the Waichiaopu (Foreign Office) in Chungking, under date of January 19, giving the official explanation for the slaughter and the disbanding of the New Fourth Route Army. This is one of the most extraordinary state documents in history!

"For defiance of military orders and plot to stage a revolt" is the charge against Yeh Ting and his army. The evidence? That the Fourth Route Army, authorized at forty-five thousand men, had achieved such astounding successes that its ranks had swelled to five hundred thousand; and the Waichiaopu officially states the Government seriously considered it an *imminent danger* that Yeh Ting and his army would succeed in "*setting up a base at Nanking, Shanghai, and Hangchow, thus forming a triangular area to defy the Government.*" This is all territory won, or to be won, in battle against the Japanese and their puppet regime of Wang Ching-wei. The Kuomintang armies had entirely lost this region to the Japanese and failed to regain any of it; but when the Fourth Route Army won spectacular victories for the Kuomintang government, and threatened to retake the entire area without even a minimum of help from Chungking—at that moment they are charged with mutiny and with plotting revolt, they are massacred and dispersed by their own Government!

The Kuomintang armies came into the area to smash the New Fourth Route Army in agreement and apparent collaboration with the Japanese forces. They had no collisions with the Japanese. When they had completed their first attack, they stood aside and looked on while the Japanese took up the battle to smash the Fourth Army. When the fighting was over, the Japanese and Wang

Ching-wei had regained the territory won by the valor and genius of Yeh Ting and his associates. *And the national unity of China which had held back the Japanese invaders for more than four years had been given a shattering blow!*

What the high generals of the Kuomintang could not forgive the Chinese Communists was precisely the victories won, which exposed their own consistent defeats; what above all they could not forgive was the qualities and virtues which made those victories possible, exposing the corruption and incapacity of the ruling generals.

Even the reactionary anti-Communist *Herald Tribune* must write of the Communist armies in the following terms:

A dozen correspondents and at least one competent American military observer have been behind their lines and have paid enthusiastic tribute to their splendid spirit, their amazing cleverness in getting through, between, and behind the Japanese lines at their pleasure, their good discipline and spartan mode of life and their excellent relations with the country folk, whom their agents have organized for guerrilla operations in every district the Japanese have allegedly conquered.

No one can write in such terms about armies in China, except when describing the Eighth Route and New Fourth Route armies.

But, in China, to win victories against the Japanese invaders is being interpreted as treason! That is because the capitulators, the Chinese bourgeoisie and generals have seized control again, with the understanding that Washington and London, as well as Berlin and Tokio, will back them up in delivering China again to the flames of civil war, and thus to the mercy of the Japanese invaders.

Those who do not agree should so tell Chiang Kai-shek—and the world.

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