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The Knickerbocker News, September 23, 1946.

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ference in Chungking in December and January last, and that signed the Jan. 10 agreement for the organization of a coalition democratic government. The President of the Chinese Democratic League is Professor Lo Lung-chi, and the membership is largely professional men and women. The organization operates in the territory of the Chinese government, not in Communist territory. As for the origin of this league, I might refer your readers to Leland Stowe's book, "They Shall Not Sleep," or to the November selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club, "A Point in Time," by Theodore White, until recently China correspondent for LIFE magazine.

As for Russian weapons for the Chinese Communists, I refer your readers to a series of articles in the New York Herald-Tribune, by Mr. A. T. Steele. On the 16th of September, Mr. Steele wrote from Harbin, North Manchuria, stating that "despite the proximity of North Manchuria to the Soviet frontier, there is still no evidence of direct material aid by the Russians to the Communists forces. The Communists have had to get along with what stockpiles of Japanese supplies they could find in the wake of the Soviet invasion."

Apart from such press despatches, we also have facts gathered by American military observers in China. Not one American military man has stated that the Chinese Communists possess Russian "heavy field pieces, tanks and some planes." Yet there is the great Peking Military Truce Headquarters of Chinese and Americans, whose truce teams operate in the field and inspect Communist armies. Before the Peking headquarters was established early this year, we had 30 American military observers in Communist headquarters at Yen-an in the northwest, while other Americans operated in the field with the Communist armies. Brig. Gen. Evans F. Carlson, U. S. M. C., operated in the field with the Communist-commanded armies during the war. No informed American who has ever seen the Chinese Communist armies could

make such statements as those made by the author of the letter in your daily. The Communist armies have always been predominantly guerrilla, not even wishing heavy field pieces or tanks. Those armies could not use such weapons in the kind of warfare waged against the Japanese. Armed with light weapons only, they operated swiftly, moving along small paths, generally at night. Even captured trucks could not be used by them, for trucks require gasoline and roads and there were few roads.

American jeeps and trucks operated on American gasoline flown over the hump into China during the war. Some Chinese trucks and busses operated on alcohol, but this was not made from sugar cane! It is also untrue that there are eleven different political parties in China.

When a man denies that the Chinese Democratic League is an independent organization, though Gen. George C. Marshall deals with that league, what can one think?

AGNES SMEDLEY.

(Author, "Battle Hymn of China.")  
Saratoga Springs, Sept 17.

#### ARMS AND THE CHINESE

To the Editor of The Knickerbocker News #173 C-2

Please give me space to reply to a letter of Sept. 16 by someone who uses the initials "N. C." The author says he spent 17 years in China, yet he makes statements which no person from China, and no person in this country who is informed about China, could make.

For instance, he says there are eleven Chinese political parties "which count for nothing," and two governments, one headed by Chiang Kia-shek and one by Mao Tze-tung and called the Communists "or mis-called by their agents abroad, Democartic League." The author also makes a variety of other statements, including one to the effect that "jeeps and trucks in China ran on alcohol made from sugar cane." He also states that the Chinese Communists were a "rabble" until VJ Day, after which "Russia supplied them with good weapons—heavy field pieces, tanks and some planes."

The Chinese Democratic League is not the Chinese Communist Party. Instead, it was one of the groups which officially took part in the People's Consultative Con-