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## Miss Smedley Speaks on China at Discussion Group

"We have frustrated the attempts of three fascist nations to impose their will and their vicious doctrine on us. This does not mean, however, that our fight against fascism is over. Fascism is a disease of the mind that is not confined to any particular nation, race, or social class. It feeds on greed, overweening ambition, ignorance, superstition, fear, and racial, religious and class prejudice . . ." These words of Col. Evan F. Carlson, of the U. S. Marines, speaking at the "Mobilization for Democracy Conference", Miss Agnes Smedley used as the keynote of her talk at the discussion group which met last Sunday night.

Miss Smedley, who lived and fought in China, and who is a correspondent and author, is considered an authority on the Far East. She traced the history of China's fight for a liberal government from the time of Sun Yat Sen, "the George Washington of China," (whom our government did not help) up to the present day and she gave a very thorough analysis of the political situation at present in China.

Miss Smedley suggested that the Japanese surrender on August 10th brought China's civil strife into focus. On one side is Chiang Kai-Shek's reactionary government and Army; and on the other side are the Chinese Communists (in no political way attached to Russia), the Chinese Democratic League which is an expression of the educated millions of China and their forces, and the 8th Route and the New 4th Armies.

The Sino-Russian treaty was not a blow to the Chinese Communists because Russia was in no way obligated to them. Miss Smedley saw this move as a desperate attempt to avoid a "third world war." The day after the treaty, Chiang ordered the secretary of the Communists to meet him, and eventually both sides did meet, but they have not proven to be compatible. Miss Smedley said that the demands that the Communists and Democratic League insist on are similar to our "Bill of Rights." They want an assembly to draw up a Constitution for a coalition Government with a joint high command.

Miss Smedley emphasized our importance in helping to form a fair government in China. She proved that throughout history the Americans have been motivated by mercenary interests in the Near East, not by humanitarian interests in the East. Today Hurley who replaced Gen. Stillwell (who would not tolerate Chiang's aspirations to fight the Communists and the Democratic League with our supplies) has "hurled out" the diplomats and replaced them with "green men." Miss Smedley suggested that by learning the truth about China (she advised the book, **The Challenge of Russia** by Stein) and by keeping in touch with our Congressmen we have a chance to get the kind of a government and foreign policy that we want.

As Col. Carlson said: "We must strive to live purposefully, with an awareness of our interdependence as well as of the fate which awaits humanity if we fail to achieve harmonious action . . . Responsibility for action belongs to each of us, individually, for we are the people and we set the policies which guide our nation."