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THE CELEBRATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DAY AND
THE DEFENCE OF SIAN AND THE NORTH-WEST

(Editorial of the Liberation Daily, Yenan, June 14th, 1944)

To-day is the third anniversary of the United Nations Day. In Yenan, a mass meeting will be held, not only for the commemoration of this memorable day but also for the mobilization of the people for the defence of Sian, Shensi and the North-west. Since President Roosevelt designated June 14th as the United Nations Day in 1942, this day has been celebrated by all the anti-Fascist nations of the world every year, and it is now the third time of such celebration. The past two years were years of great changes in the world situation. Of these changes, the following are the most important. First is the counter-offensive of the Soviet Red Army in Stalingrad in November 1942 which formed a turning point in world history, and the Anglo-American offensive in North Africa and the Pacific, which has changed the situation of the Allies from passive defence and retreat to active offensive. Of these, the victory of the Red Army played the decisive role. The second important change is the opening of the second front by Great Britain and the United States on June 6th, which has brought the Allied offensive to the stage of decisive battle. The brave Allied troops are fighting bitterly but triumphantly in the French territory. Its influence will spread all over the world. In commemorating the United Nations Day in China to-day, we must not forget the hard struggle of the people of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States, must not forget the brilliant leadership of Marshal Stalin, President Roosevelt and Premier Churchill as well as the correctness of the road they pointed to us.

Europe as well as the Pacific is now seeing the offensive of the Allies, and the former has even entered the stage of a decisive battle. But the Japanese robbers are also launching an offensive upon China, who not only shows no sign of preparing for an offensive, but also cannot stop from retreating. This is the new situation in China to-day. Since April 18th, the Japanese have been launching offensives in Honan, Hunan and Kwangtung, capturing Lo-yang and endangering Changsha. The fight in Honan is the most serious one. Before the fall of Loyang, the chief aim of the enemy operations was to attack the 300,000-odd troops under the command of Chiang Ting-wen and Tang En-po in the first war zone, and this battle ended with the fall of Loyang. Then at the beginning of this month, the enemy again launched a second offensive, this time upon General Hu Chung-nan's troops stationed along the line of Lingbao, Haoluo and Kuan-taokow in the eighth war zone. From informations so far received, that line has been broken through by the enemy, who is now marching toward Tungwan, apparently aiming to enter Shensi. Sian is said to be evacuating, and the North-west is under grave threat. It is unfortunate that in this day, the situation in China should be the opposite of that in Europe and the Pacific. There, we see advances, here, we see retreat.

Two opposite conditions also exist within China--offensive in the theatre behind the enemy lines, and retreat in the frontal theatre. Since the beginning of the war of resistance, there have always been two war theatres in China--the theatre behind the enemy lines and the frontal theatre. In the period from July 1937 to October 1938, i.e. from the beginning of the hostilities to the fall of Hankow, the main forces of the enemy were put in the frontal theatre, but the Eighth Route and the New Fourth Armies marched right into the rear of the enemy and developed several big war arenas there. After the fall of Hankow, the enemy began to change his policy, laying stress on political enticement toward the Kuomintang, and military operations became auxiliary actions in the front-

al theatre. On the other hand, the enemy gradually shifted his main forces to the theatre in his rear to cope with the Chinese Communists. For these five and half years (up to this March), the main blow of the enemy has been falling on the Chinese Communists and the people behind the enemy lines. At one time, the Chinese Communists engaged nearly three fourth of the 600,000 enemy troops and 800,000 puppet troops in the bases isolated and divided by the enemy, with no replenishments of whatever nature. In these same five and half years, there were only several fightings of tactical significance in the frontal theatre, fightings of minor importance, with no strategic significance and not aiming at the expansion of occupied territories. The policy of the Kuomintang rulers in this period was to "defend passively" and to "watch the war". When the enemy strived, they resisted inertly; when the enemy was gone, they remained idle as usual. Their whole attention was concentrated in oppressing the people, suppressing the democratic movement, and opposing the Chinese Communists. This policy of theirs has been executed by all the party, governmental and military organs, and held on stubbornly up to the present.

But the conditions of the enemy have changed! After April 17th this year, the old policy of the enemy, i.e. the policy with emphasis on political enticement, is changed into one laying stress on military offensive. The reason why the enemy brought about this change is nothing other than to avoid death. The enemy still has his fighting strength intact, but our Government and the Kuomintang, owing to the long execution of an inappropriate policy, have lost much of their fighting strength, and are therefore in a helpless position. Our Kuomintang troops retreated after slight engagement with the enemy, or dispersed even before fighting. There was discord between the officers and the soldiers as well as between the troops and the civilians. The result is that in only fifty-odd days after the enemy started his operations, the Kuomintang troops have retreated into Lungkwan and are still retreating. Sian is endangered.

We see a different picture in the theatre behind the enemy lines. The years 1941 and 1942 were the hardest times for the people in this theatre. Under the heavy blow of the enemy's main forces, the population of the various anti-Japanese bases has once decreased from 100,000,000 to 50,000,000, the number of our troops was reduced, and the area of our bases diminished. But we held on to the fighting, firmly executed the various appropriate policies laid down by the Central of the C.C.P., repelled all the attacks of the enemy, and finally succeeded in stabilizing our positions. Since 1943, we have been launching offensives upon the enemy everywhere, recovering a large area of land from the bloody hands of the enemy, and liberating a great number of people; and the population in the anti-Japanese bases once again reached 80,000,000. Now the Eighth Route Army and the New Fourth Army have not only recovered from their losses, but also have expanded. The total number of our regular troops and guerrillas in North, Central and South China now reaches 470,000, excluding the 2,000,000 men of the people's militia. Most important of all, the experience of our troops is enriched, and their quality improved. The original plan of the enemy, i.e. the plan to destroy first the theatre in the rear before attacking the frontal theatre, is no more feasible. He is forced to shoulder the two theatres at the same time in order to avoid death.

This is indeed a favorable situation for us. Only if our Government and the Kuomintang have the wish to alter their policy, it is easy to raise the morale of the troops and repulse the attack of the enemy. With the coordination of such a strong and extensive war theatre behind the enemy lines, any forceful counter-attack from the frontal theatre will be enough to drive out the enemy, whose forces in Honan, Hunan and Kwangtung are not great and cannot be more than ten odd divisions. Who would believe that with all the forces of our nation, we cannot repulse such a small

number of the enemy troops? But actually we cannot even stop from re-treating up to the present time!

It is entirely beyond imagination why the Chinese Communists can stand firmly and launch offensives upon the enemy (although these offensives are not yet strategically-significant and cannot break into the big cities) and the Kuomintang cannot.

The reason is very simple. It is because that the Communists insist on solidarity and democracy. The Communists have united the people of ~~xxx~~ various circles in the regions behind the enemy lines in North, Central and South China, carried on a democratic program, relied on the people, and are filled with patriotism and youthful vitality. They are also struggling for solidarity in a nation-wide scope, and are always willing to improve the relations with the Kuomintang, no matter how reactionary the latter's policies are. But the ruling members of the Kuomintang, up to to-day, have not shown the least sign of self-reproach, or the least intention of heading for the right path, and have no plan for solidarity or for democracy; on the contrary, they accuse the C.C.P. as "traitorous party", the Eighth Route and the New Fourth Armies as "traitorous armies", and the anti-Japanese bases as "traitorous regions". Their self-important attitude is well known throughout the world. They know only how to ask for help from the Allies, rely on the Allies to beat off the Japanese for them, without the least mind or intention of self-resuscitation. Isn't it just like "seeking for fish in the trees" to expect to win the enemy with this attitude of the Kuomintang?

We are facing a very serious situation in the frontal theatre. We hope that our Government and the ruling members of the Kuomintang will immediately carry on solemn self-criticism, correct their policy and begin a new life from now on. It is still not too late. The most urgent task at present is to defend Sian, Shensi and the North-west. This is the only international route left now, and Szechuen will be endangered if this route is lost. We Communists always wish to see the Kuomintang step on the right path. We and the people all hope that the two parties will improve their relations, solved the old problems and enter into a new stage of cooperation. We hope that our Government and the ruling members of the Kuomintang will not let the people disappoint this time. This is also the hope of the Allies. Now that the Bress Party has come to Yenan, and Vice-President Wallace will arrive in China soon, we hope that they will play the propelling role, help the Chinese people to solve the problem of solidarity and democracy, so that the crisis in the frontal theatre can be overcome. There is no other remedy for China's ailment except solidarity and democracy, apart from which we can find no solution for the military crisis. On this memorable United Nations Day, we Communists venture to express our aspirations as above.