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IN FAR-OFF SHENSI THE DRAMATIC EVENTS

described elsewhere in this issue by Agnes Smedley seem rapidly to be approaching a climax. Angered by efforts on the part of the fascist clique to take advantage of the compromise settlement dictated by Chiang Kai-shek, the rank and file of the former Manchurian army recently mutinied and killed four officers who were accused of having sold out to the fascists. Large sections of Chang Hsueh-liang's former troops are reported to have joined the ranks of the Red Army, and others are likely to go over if the government does not make good its promises to resist Japan. There is every indication that Chiang Kai-shek himself has attempted to live up to the pledges that he gave on the occasion of his release from Sian, but that he is being sabotaged at every opportunity by the semi-fascist, pro-Japanese clique led by Ho Ying-chin, the War Minister. Letters from China tell of a veritable wave of terror in the cities under the control of this faction against the advocates of a People's Front. With the meeting of the plenary session of the Kuomintang scheduled for the middle of the month at Nanking, a showdown may be expected, though it is not at all certain that that hand-picked body will reflect the tremendous increase of sentiment throughout China for a common front against Japan.

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