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By WINSTON WEISMAN

The Chungking government shook up its cabinet yesterday in a political crisis brought on by the Japanese drive into Kweichow Province which threatens to knock China out of the war.

Foreign Minister T. V. Soong was named to replace Generalis-

simo Chiang Kai-shek as president of the Executive Yuan subordinating Dr. H. H. Kung who was recently appointed vice president. The move was made, according to Chungking sources, to permit Chiang to devote his entire attention to the war against Japan. It is understood that Kung has resigned as vice president of the cabinet.

Soong's appointment is looked upon as a forward step by Chinese observers here. They point out that Soong is an able economist who has long stood for resistance against the Japanese. He is a member of the liberal wing within the Kuomintang Party and is strongly pro-Anglo-American.

No Following

These same sources are of the opinion, however, that the Soong appointment does not radically change the reactionary character of the present Chungking setup. The new cabinet president, they explain, has virtually no political following and no influence in the army and may be window dressing to be eliminated when the crisis has past.

This was borne out, in effect, by the influential conservative Chungking newspaper *Ta Kung Pao* when it demanded that Chiang reorganize his government "from top to bottom" and take direct command of the armies in order to stave off the Japanese spearhead rolling toward the Chinese capital.

In one of the frankest editorials yet published, *Ta Kung Pao* called for a settlement of the Government's differences with the Communists and urged closer cooperation with the western Allies. The editorial was written as observers in the Chinese capital declared that the next 40 days may decide whether China will be able to continue the fight against Japan.

Apparently some progress has

been made toward settling the Kuomintang-Communist problem. Crack Chungking troops, estimated at 500,000 men, who have been blockading the Communist 18th Group armies in Shensi Province are said to be on their way south to meet the Japanese columns driving toward Kweichow in Kweichow Province. Chou En-lai, Communist envoy to Chungking, it is understood has given Chiang assurances that the 18th Route Army will not exploit the military crisis but will stand guard on the northwestern approaches to Chungking against a possible enemy push from Honan Province (see map A.)

In the south, the Chinese admittedly faced the gravest threat in eight years of war. The invaders have driven to within 70 miles of the Burma Road junction of Kweichow. Superior supply lines have permitted the Japanese to constantly reinforce their spearheads.

The Last Stand

If they succeed in knifing through to Chungking, 250 miles northwest and Chengtu, U. S. B-29 base beyond, they will virtually knock China out of the war.

Szechwan Province in which Chungking and Chengtu are situated is the last big rice and wheat producing area remaining in Chinese hands. West of Szechwan are the mountains of Tibet and the deserts of Sinkiang.

What the Chinese must do is to hold on at Kweichow until Allied forces in Burma can reopen a supply line to Chungking—a job which may take from three to six months more.

Loose

BBC says "about 50,000 prisoners of war and foreign workers are roaming freely in southern Germany."

Soong Named

(Continued from page one)

in the previous shake-up, and it is understood that he has resigned as Vice-President of the Cabinet. This would mean that Kung, brother-in-law of Madam Chiang, would be entirely out of the government, in which he so long had been a key figure.

Chiang remains in the supreme post of chairman of the national government under the new set-up. Soong, who concurrently retains his position as Foreign Minister, is highly respected throughout China and abroad, and as No. 2 man in the government assumes increased stature.

Meanwhile, substantial progress has reportedly been made toward a settlement of the differences between the Kuomintang government party and the Communists. Chiang has conferred several times recently with the Communist envoy to Chungking, Chou En-lai.

[The Associated Press said that the attitude of Soong toward the Communists is known to be moderate, and that his accession to greater influence might make easier a compromise so urgently needed to achieve Chinese unity.]

The National Supreme Defense Council, of which Chiang is chairman, at first agreed during a lengthy session to appoint Soong as Acting Vice-President, and later decided to elevate him to Acting President. Soong's appointment will be submitted next week to the standing committee of the Central Executive Committee for the formality of approval.

Paper Demands Action

The Generalissimo, addressing the new Cabinet Ministers, admitted that the present situation was "extremely difficult," but said that the "military developments at the front are within our anticipation," and that the enemy inside Kweichow must be given a crushing blow and completely annihilated.

The influential independent newspaper "Ta Kung Pao" printed a strong editorial today in connection with the military crisis in Kweichow Province—where the enemy is within striking distance of Kweiyang on the road between Chungking and Kunming—and suggested that urgent measures be taken to relieve the situation.

The newspaper, suggesting government reforms, said: "Those whom the whole nation hates must be dismissed. Non-members of the Kuomintang must have a chance to participate in national affairs and policy-forming, thus giving the government new life."

The Japanese invaders of Kweichow Province, bolstered by reinforcements, drove north along the Kwangsi-Kweichow railway to within seven miles of Tuhshan, seventy-seven air miles from Kweiyang on the Kunming-

Chungking highway, a Chinese communique admitted today.

[The Tokyo radio claimed the capture of Tukshan, Lipo, fifteen miles to the southeast, and Pachai, thirty miles to the northeast. Pachai is only sixty-four air miles from Kweiyang and thirteen from Tuyun, terminus of the Kwangsi-Kweichow railway.]

The Chinese communique said that two Japanese columns were repulsed seventeen miles south of Tuhshan on the railway with the loss of 420 dead and much booty, but added that the Japanese troops received reinforcements and yesterday drove across the Chinalao River seven miles from Tuhshan, where they are being engaged by the Chinese.

[Chinese troops besieging the Japanese stronghold of Bhamo, in northern Burma, isolated the air strip from the enemy garrison, the Southeast Asia Command headquarters at Kandy, Ceylon, reported.]