

II - 66 - 12. News Article: "Reds and Japanese In China" - New York
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that integration and flexibility of command which can make the maximum use of all forces available.

Reds and Japanese in China

While no final settlement of the differences between the Chiang Kai-shek government and the Chinese Communists has been reached there is speculation among well informed observers over the possibility that a temporary military agreement may have been in effect for the last month. It is based on the appearance at the front below Kweiyang of government troops which until recently were being used to blockade the Communist areas in northwest China.

As there is no railway between the two areas and little gasoline for the few trucks available it seems probable that these men walked most of the 800 miles from the border region to Kweichow Province. If their appearance in Kweichow indicates, as it seems to, that Chungking arrived at an emergency understanding with the Chinese Communists some weeks ago it is an encouraging sign, not only for the present but for the future. So far as the immediate situation is concerned, every ounce of strength that can be found (for there are not too many ounces available) is needed to keep the enemy from driving the Chinese out of the war. As for the future, anything which gives hope of a final solution of the Communist problem in China is of high consequence. A sane and permanent solution would remove the danger of a long threatened civil war that might, in comparison, make the present bloody affray in Greece look like a Sunday school picnic.

There is at least encouragement to be found in this speculation and perhaps a bit more to be had from reports that the Japanese, prodded by Allied bayonets, are quitting North Burma. This may soon make possible the opening of the Ledo Road from India to China. There also is cause for satisfaction in indications that Sino-American co-operation is more real and effective than it has been for a considerable time. But the situation in China still is one of the utmost danger, and recent minor successes of the Chinese Army have done nothing to change the essential picture. There is no doubt that the Chinese face complete disaster unless Americans do their best to give what aid is possible and, of equal importance, unless Chinese of all political persuasions do their utmost to save themselves.