

II - 66 - 25. Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury, February 25, 1944.
Favor In China Seen Turning Towards Wang.

Preparations for collaboration with the Japanese:

1. In January, in Chungking, General Ho Ying-ching, Minister of War, or a military spokesman speaking in his name, stated that the Government guerrillas which had just turned over to the Japanese in Shantung Province, were doing it for patriotic motives. He added that when the time comes, they will rise against the Japanese. Other Government guerrillas in the eastern war zone, have also turned over to the Japanese.
2. On January 21st, the Catholic newspaper, Yih Shih Pao, published an article on the Chinese Quislings, the chief of them Wang Ching-wei. This article, like all other articles permitted to appear in China, was censored by the Government, so it has Government approval. It stated

Seeking Chinese Sympathy, Shanghai Japs Now 'Go Easy'

(From the Chungking Edition, Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury.)

CHUNGKING — Japanese occupants of Shanghai have instituted a "go easy" policy with Chinese residents in the hope of winning sympathy following what many believe is the foregone conclusion of an ultimate Japanese defeat, according to recent arrivals in Chungking.

Apparently as part of a detailed plan, the Japanese attempted to change their arrogance of the last six years into smiling friendship. (Please turn to page 10)

Little success has met their efforts.

According to some who left Shanghai recently, many Japanese there are convinced the war is as good as won by the Allies. All the evidence reaching Shanghai indicates that in Japan proper there is still complete confidence in a final Japanese victory but, arriving in China, Japanese have greater access to Allied claims and are able to see for themselves many of the obstacles Japan faces. The result has been disillusionment.

Want Chinese Friendship

Growing out of this many Japanese in the city have sought to win the friendship of Chinese residents in the expectation that the treatment accorded them after the Japanese defeat will be mitigated. The Wang Ching-wei puppets, rather than the Japanese themselves, have been employed for much of the dirty work of squeeze, blackmail, torture and profiteering.

Prices are high and rice is scarce, these arrivals say, underlying similar stories from the occupied regions. There are still luxury goods available but the prices are astronomical. Dance halls, night clubs and cafes are open and are thronged with those who have grown rich through profiteering.

Motion picture theaters still run — now with Japanese pictures and some French and German ones — and superficially the former Paris of the Orient is not greatly changed. Autos are few and buses

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Information from a variety of sources in Free and Occupied China adds up to a somewhat more kindly feeling towards Wang Ching-wei than has hitherto been registered. Up to a year or so ago, Government spokesmen and other Chinese outside the occupied area lost no opportunity to denounce Wang as a traitor. Now there appears to be a growing sentiment that perhaps he may still have use for his native country.

An interesting editorial published by the Catholic Yih Shih Pao in Chungking on Jan. 21 has just reached America. After dealing with the various political parties and the "puppet" groups, it says with reference to the future:

Politically "Broadminded"

"The Chinese people have always been noted for their political broad-mindedness. Instances are by no means lacking in Chinese history where traitors who reformed themselves were forgiven and given a chance for self-redemption. If puppets and traitors like Pu Yi and Wang Ching-wei can one day disassociate themselves from the Japanese invaders and perform deeds of patriotism, it is not impossible that they will be given a chance to become Chinese anew and further they may be given freedom of assembly, association, speech and publication."

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The Government spokesman, Dr. K. C. Wu of the Foreign Office, was questioned about this editorial and after disassociating the Government from any direct connection with the views expressed (and passed by the city censorship) he said that Wang cannot be called a traitor "because you can do that only after he is judged guilty." He further expressed expectation that Wang will be "tried" in due course.

Brooks Atkinson of the New York Times recently sent a dispatch saying that Chinese of the occupied areas regard Wang as a custodian of their interests, although they are anti-Japanese.