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Agnes Smedley Hits American

China Policy

The Daily Record
Daily Record (NY)
America's current policy in China has been "split wide open" by the recent resignation of Major General Patrick J. Hurley, former ambassador to our wartime ally, Agnes Smedley, Far Eastern authority and war correspondent, declared last night in the Mechanic st. school auditorium. A stinging critic of General Hurley, she said the "real Chinese problem" will not be unveiled by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee investigating his charges of sabotage of the U. S. diplomatic policy unless, she added, "real experts of China are called before the committee."

Miss Smedley's appearance in the borough was sponsored by the Red Bank Jewish Community Center. Drawing 300 people, Miss Smedley is the third and concluding lecturer in this series. Noted radio commentators Cecil Brown and William S. Gailmor, who spoke in October and November, were the other two speakers contracted by the center.

Because of our "hush-hush" attitude today about our policies in China, Miss Smedley believes that

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Smedley

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we are laying the groundwork in the Far East for a third World War. To avoid another global conflict she appealed that we "demand of our congressional committee a complete investigation of China." She feels that America's policy prevailing in China today is "following in the historical footsteps of various imperialist nations."

Important Testimony

She named General Joseph W. Stilwell, who was relieved of his post in 1944 as Chief of Staff to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, and Col. Evans F. Carlson, famous as the leader of "Carlson's Marine Raiders," as men whose testimony, in her eyes, would be of importance to America's future.

Miss Smedley, who spent twelve years prior to Pearl Harbor in China as an active correspondent and field worker for the Chinese Red Cross was favorably impressed by the 8th Route Army's attempt and progress to educate every soldier and peasant under their jurisdiction. Miss Smedley grew into so forceful a spokesman for China that Japanese secret police sought her life. Col. Carlson distinguished her for being "the only foreigner to witness operations in Central China during the years from 1938 to 1940."

Answering the query during the question period of the reason for the Soviet's recognition of Chiang Kai-Shek's government, Miss Smedley regarded the act as a form of appeasement provoked by America's control of the atomic bomb which we are employing as a "threat," she thinks. Russia, she said, suffered severe losses of manpower in World War II, as borne out by our intelligence reports.

Outstanding Force

Miss Smedley's contention that the 8th Route Army was an outstanding fighting force was contested by a U. S. Army captain, who refused to divulge his name because he is still on active duty, who averred that neither the Chinese Reds nor Nationals were warriors at all. The war correspondent, who became riled at this view because she said she lived with the 8th Route Army and was very familiar with its fighting record, explained that American soldiers could perform no better on the battlefield if they were ill-equipped and poorly fed. Another serviceman, Cpl. Arnold Goldberg, who was assigned in China and to the American Combat command for 15 months, contradicted the officer by remarking that the Chinese displayed "remarkable courage" by being able to walk into the face of deadly machine-gun fire, sometimes, Cpl. Goldberg said, without rifles.

Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek was described by Miss Smedley as a "woman who talks Democracy but does not know how to live democratically."

Mrs. Joseph Hunter, Fair Haven, president of the Monmouth County Branch of the American Association of University Women, introduced Miss Smedley who lives in Saratoga Springs, New York.