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Civil War Danger In China

Nation Is Divided Between Government And Communists

Civil war in China was seen as one of the postwar possibilities if the National Government does not live up to its promises to provide the Chinese people with a democratic administration, said Agnes Smedley, author and lecturer, who has spent more than ten years in China. She spoke at the People's Forum, Montreal High School, last night.

Government by the people, she said, was promised within one year after peace is won, but she expressed doubt the pledge would be kept. Miss Smedley declared that such action would mean the end of the Kuomintang and the ruling class. She said the present government was fascist in character, and when asked if Chiang Kai-Shek was a fascist, she said:—"I do not think he is democratic."

Refusing to delve any deeper into Chiang's political composition, the speaker said the Chinese leader was at present a fusing element of all political parties, which was invaluable to their struggle against Japan.

PEOPLE DEMOCRATIC

Two main camps existed in China today, Miss Smedley said. They were the government and the communists. She said she could divide the country into two parties because the only ones which have any voice are those having an army behind them. Only the two mentioned are in such a position, she said. She added however, the people are strongly democratic in spite of government suppression.

The speaker said that the rape of Peking was the incident which electrified the nation into a consciousness of its potential importance in the world scheme. She said the horrible actions which took place there bound the entire country into one force aimed at the destruction of the hated Japanese.

Education accompanying military training was described as perhaps one of the greatest things to come out of the war.