

VI - 73 D - 80. "Miss Smedley Replies" The Nation, December 16, 1944.

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the book I took pains to explain how a nation like China, which was so unprepared for war, could put up the most effective resistance only when it had established complete internal political unity. That was why Chiang played, trading, as he said, "space for time." That was part of his embracing a masterly strategy, which I used a whole chapter to expound (chapter 37). I quote a few sentences from Chiang's speech on July 17, 1937: "While there was the slightest hope of peace, we would not abandon it; as long as we had not reached the limit of endurance, we would not talk of sacrifice. . . . There is only one thing to do when we reach the limit of endurance: we must throw every ounce of energy into the struggle for our national existence and independence. When that is done, neither the nor circumstances will permit our stopping midway to seek peace. . . . Once that stage is reached, we can only sacrifice and fight to the bitter end." Less than a fortnight later, after the Japanese occupied Peiping and Tientsin, Chiang issued another message in which he said: "Now we have reached the point when we can endure it no longer; we will give way no more. The whole nation must rise like one man and fight these Japanese bandits until we have destroyed them and our own life is secure." And so China to this day is fighting against the Japanese. These are classic statements on the war. Is it possible that Miss Smedley is ignorant of them? I am surprised that an "authority on China" must be reminded of these elementary and basic historical facts.

Miss Smedley quoted a rather long passage trying to show that I am for having the common man in China pressed into the service of the puppet regime. She did not quote the complete sentence as she meant to convey an entirely different meaning from what I intended. She did not even insert a few dots to indicate to her readers that parts of the sentence were being left out. What I wrote on page 288 was: ". . . if conditions are such that they [the common men] cannot serve China, what difference does it make for the moment if they are pressed into the service of the puppet regime so long as they are clear in their hearts that they are Chinese?" By the same token the millions of Europeans quietly fighting for the liberation of their respective countries are patriots even though temporarily they have to live under Hitler.

Miss Smedley ended her review by a personal attack on me. She referred to an episode during my diplomatic career in Europe. But before doing so she should have found out the facts. She should know that while I was Minister in Poland the Chinese consular official in that country was involved, along with his Polish typist-secretary in a shady munitions deal in behalf of the Spanish revolutionary party. She should know also that the case was thoroughly investigated by the Chinese government through its court at Chungking and that it was clearly established that the consul was respon-

sible for his own activities, which had nothing to do with his superior official. The judgment is on record and is public property.
H. H. CHANG
Hollywood, Cal., September 19

Miss Smedley Replies

Dear Sirs: Dr. Chang protests not so much because of my alleged ignorance of Chinese affairs as because I am not a propagandist and apologist for the dictatorship that rules China today. Many Americans are today campaigning for that dictatorship and are stuck up everywhere as "friends" of China, though they know little about the country. An American business man made a three months' trip to China last year, was made a general in the Chinese army, and is now a sort of high adviser to the official Kuomintang propaganda headquarters in New York!

Dr. Chang is right: I should have completed that fatal sentence of his on page 288. The total sentence is inexcusable. One can forgive a poor, ignorant man who is pressed into the Japanese puppet service but not one who "is clear in his heart" that he is a Chinese.

Dr. Chang is fortunate to have had a trial and been absolved of blame in that shady munitions deal with "the Spanish revolutionary party." But why does he call one Francisco Franco's outfit a "revolutionary party"? Franco and his henchmen were and are running dogs of Hitler and Mussolini.

AGNES SMEDLEY
Saratoga Springs, N. Y., October 10

A Few Remarks

Dear Sirs: May I offer a few remarks on Agnes Smedley's review of my book "Chiang Kai-shek, Asia's Man of Destiny," which you published on August 26?

One of the points Miss Smedley raised was what she calls Chiang Kai-shek's "appeasement of Japan." Throughout