

VI - 73 D - 82. "Miss Smedley Terms The Chiang Government Autocratic"
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Miss Smedley Terms Chiang Government Autocratic

Agnes Smedley, author and authority on Chinese affairs, took the Rotary Club behind the political scene in China yesterday and pictured an autocratic government so intent on retaining power that it has battled other Chinese instead of the Japs.

Speaking at the midweek luncheon in the New Worden she asserted lease-lend goods from the United States were used by the Chiang Kai-Shek government against the so-called Communist guerilla forces even as Japanese armies were threatening to split China in two. Army trucks from the United States intended for the defense army, were used by civilian officials to cart off their household furnishings in the path of the advancing Japs.

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This situation, she said, was at the bottom of the demand by Chi-

ang for the recall of General Joseph W. Stilwell, who was commanding general of the U. S. forces in China and chief of staff to General Chiang. General Stilwell had been refused adequate Chinese troops for training, and had sought to supervise the distribution and use of lease-lend supplies in China. Chiang turned these requests down. Meantime there was available in North China a force of half a million men in the Communist-guerilla ranks whose appeal for a united China was rejected by the Chiang administration, the author declared.

Miss Smedley spent a dozen years in China as a correspondent. Four of these were with the Chinese troops at the front. She expressed the hope there might eventually develop a strong, united, democratic China. Meantime, she said, the nation is ruled by a clique as autocratic as any ruler in Fascist Europe.