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CHEE LAI!

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AGNES SMEDLEY

The most important expression in China is "Chee Lai", meaning "arise" or "awaken". "Chee Lai" is more than just a slogan--it is truly a call to arms. With the cry of "Chee Lai" resounding in their ears, the Chinese countryside rallied millions strong to fight off the Japanese armies in 1937; the masses of the people were inspired to seek a democratic government for the first time.

The Kuomintang Party, the medium through which the Chinese people advanced, is controlled by a clique of speculators, corrupt politicians, and reactionary bankers. It no longer strives to further the democratic interests of the people.

Instead the Kuomintang has turned its energies to a civil war against the democratically-controlled 1/3 of China, where a good educational system, the right to vote, equal status for women, abolition of land taxes, and other democratic reforms inspire 160,000,000 people with a desire to shout "Chee Lai" to the remainder of the Chinese people.

The Kuomintang has, at present, a tremendous amount of our Lend-Lease material plus the assistance of the US Marines. The Marines were to assist in transporting the beaten Japanese armies back to their homeland. That has already been accomplished, yet we now learn that the US Marine force is being strengthened, instead of being withdrawn.

Civil war is raging in China today. Four Marines have already been killed. If we do not withdraw these troops and our moral support from the Kuomintang, we may find ourselves in World War III.

These are some of the things which will probably be brought out by Miss Agnes Smedley in her talk on China on Sept. 5 at 8 p.m. at the Joseph Henry Memorial Bldg. Miss Smedley, a war correspondent in China for some 12 years and an AVC member, is being sponsored by the Albany Chapter, AVC. The public is invited to attend.

Perhaps Miss Smedley will succeed in bringing the message of "Chee Lai" to the people of Albany, in order to rouse them to the danger of our actions in China.