

X - 78 - 39. Smedley, Agnes: China's Communists - letter to the editor -  
Los Angeles Times, August 13, 1941.

China's Communists *Los Angeles*

*Aug. 19/41*  
May) I correct some misstatements in your editorial entitled "The Reds Come Back"? Tientsin has never been "the seat of Communist control in North China." It has been one of Japan's chief garrison points in China since its occupation in July, 1937.

The New Fourth Army (not the Fourth Army) did not revolt and fight several pitched battles with the Central Government's troops. The latter surrounded one detachment of the army and tried to annihilate it. Original news reports said the army had revolted but official accounts gave a different interpretation later. The demands of the 18th Group Army and the New Fourth Army were made after the battle, in the middle of January of this year, and not in December of last year.

Gen. Chou En-lai is not the commander of the 18th Group and New Fourth Armies (nor did The Times so state—Ed.) but is their representative in the Central Government in Chungking. I have been in China for 12 years, up to June 1 last, and have been with all the armies mentioned, and others.

AGNES SMEDLEY.

The editorial referred to was based on news reports from veteran Far Eastern correspondents of the Associated Press, United Press and New York Times. However, The Times desires to thank Miss Smedley for her correction.