

X - 78 - 45. Agnes Smedley: "China Has A Great Future Author Tells  
Audience Here" - unidentified news clip.

## China Has A Great Future, Author Tells Audience Here

CHINA, struggling through nearly seven weary years of bitter warfare, is looking forward to a greater place in the world's affairs after the conflict is ended. Miss Agnes Smedley, author, lecturer and former Chinese Red Cross worker, stated Tuesday in speeches delivered before the Anniston Rotary Club at noon and at the Jacksonville Forum meeting at 8 p. m.

Miss Smedley, who spent many years in the field with troops during the long war with Japan, brought to her audiences grim pictures of the handicapped Chinese as they struggled against an enemy equipped with superior weapons. "They will never give up, and they are confident of ultimate victory," the lecturer stated.

The use of high school and college students as political educational leaders, stationed with troops in the field, was described as one of the major reasons the army and the

people of China have attained a state of morale and of mind to fight the long and decimating war.

At the Jacksonville meeting, Miss Smedley devoted the major portion of her talk to the women of China. She recalled many incidents of courage and valor during the past seven years, and stated that the feminist movement "has advanced 100 years in the last seven." She told of doctors, nurses and war field workers who are helping to defeat Japan.

The upsurge of China as an important world power and as an effective war ally, however, has created many internal problems, she asserted. Chief among these at present is the battle between Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist government, including the Kuomintang ruling party, and the Communist group that is insisting on installation of a democratic form (Please Turn to Page 7, Column 3)

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of government before national unity can be established. General Chiang, she stated, sent a crack army to the north to blockade the Communist armies, formerly known as the Eighth Route Army but now known as the 18th and 4th Armies, in an effort to get them to lay down their arms. This Communist army, she averred, has met approximately one-third of all Japanese armies in China, and has wiped the Japs from a large sector of the northwestern part of the country. Miss Smedley's sympathies clearly lay with the Communist army, and, as she said, "with the people, who want political freedom that the Kuomintang is delaying as long as possible." Only about 10 to 20 per cent of the troops in the Communist armies are Communists, she added.

America can have a great influence on the future of China, Miss Smedley said. American money has assisted in the establishment of 2,400 Chinese industrial cooperatives, and can assist in the future political development, the speaker said.

Miss Smedley gave her audiences close, intimate pictures of the Chinese situation, and exhibited a wide knowledge of the entire situation, obtained from her long work in the country.