

X - 78 - 68. Unidentified news clip letter to the editor dated January 28, ----  
concerns Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and the New Fourth Army.

Chungking, Jan. 28.

A lengthy statement by General Chiang Kai-shek on the disbandment of the New Fourth Army (Communist) forces on the south bank of the Yangtse River early this month and a vigorous denial of Japanese reports of civil war or an unfavourable turn in international events, were contained in an address delivered at yesterday's weekly memorial meeting and released to-night. Referring to reports of civil war the Generalissimo declared that in China to-day there is absolute unanimity of purpose among the people and the armed forces.

Referring to the Powers' assistance to China, the Generalissimo stated, "The record of four years of sympathy and assistance from friendly nations has shown them to be uniformly desirous of seeing strict discipline enforced in our armies as a means of enhancing efficiency in resistance. There was never an instance of their being discouraged by our taking the action required by the very object they approve. They will recognise the propriety of any action in keeping with the high standards of sound discipline prevailing in the Chinese armed forces.

"So far from the effect being as the Japanese foolishly attempt to convey, foreign countries will be inspired with respect for us by observing our ability to put down insubordination without hesitation or trepidation, despite the difficulties attendant on such action under conditions imposed by active prosecution of the war."

After charging the New Fourth Army with "attacking a body of comrades in arms, disobedience to orders, and rebellious gestures," the Generalissimo declared, "I am entrusted with power directing the armies, and if I fail to enforce discipline with due rigour, yielding to any private susceptibilities of my own, I become myself a violator of discipline and betray all men fighting at the front.

"The incident under discussion is an exceedingly distressing case of military necessity. Far be it from me to construe it as a matter for gratification; it was something much to be ashamed of, but it was the only course possible in the interests of the nation, and action was reluctantly taken.

"Former cases of disobedience on the part of the New Fourth Army and of its clashes with other troops were passed over by me in silence, though not indeed for the sake of keeping them secret from foreigners or from the enemy. Such incidents cannot be concealed.

"In conclusion I have only to say that my action was dictated solely by a desire to strengthen the nation's capacity for resistance.

"The incident is now entirely closed. The problem has been settled once and for all, and it no longer remains in any shape or form.

"The conduct of the New Fourth Army and the punishment imposed have no bearing on the status of other sections of the national forces. Absolutely no political party issue is involved."—*Reuter*.

#### No Repercussion Likely

The Chungking disciplinary action against the new Fourth Army will cause no unfavourable repercussions, declared Mr Chow Chi-kang, Vice-Minister of Overseas Affairs, in Hongkong. Mr Chow further said that there could be no question of any partisan politics in the disciplinary action.