

explaining; while it is fair to assume that they are trailing a red herring, it would be rash to exclude the possibility of the trail being a genuine one. Reassuring utterances have again been addressed to Russia lest a bad impression should be created in Moscow by the Japanese threats of launching a new campaign.

In China the Taihangshan operations are said to be dying down; the Japanese now talk of "mopping up," which, as the Chinese say, is generally a sign that their advance has played itself out, though they admit that the Japanese troops have retained their earlier gains in this area. Meanwhile, a fresh attack has developed on the shores of the Tung Ting Lake, south of the Middle Yangtze, and Changsha has again been bombed. The Japanese claim to have destroyed in a surprise raid on the airfield at Kunming, half of the American aircraft in China must be read in conjunction with other propaganda broadcasts extolling the Japanese air force, with whom the recent description of their Zero planes as "museum pieces" has evidently rankled. In fact, the Kunming attack caused only slight material damage, and the American air force gave proof immediately afterwards of its unimpaired vitality by executing a raid on the Japanese bases on Hainan Island. The visit of its commander, General Chennault, together with General Stilwell, to Washington has given rise in the Chungking press to renewed hopes of increases of war supplies and of a revision of Allied strategy to the benefit of the war in the Far East.

The Philippines have been visited by the Japanese Prime Minister and the Minister for Greater East Asia. Though the reason for their being thus honoured above the other occupied territories must be a matter of conjecture, there are signs that the Japanese authorities are by no means satisfied with the behaviour of the Filipinos since they came under Japanese rule and that Tojo's object in going to Manila was to warn them that they have to amend their ways. The contrast in the prospects of independence held out to the Burmese and the Filipinos, which became evident three months ago (see *Summary* No. 174), was accentuated on the present occasion. While in Burma a Preparatory Independence Committee has just been set up composed of ten Cabinet members and twelve "leading personages from all classes in Burma," Tojo, speaking at Manila, only promised independence for the islands "as soon as possible," and his henchman, the Military Administrator, explained the implication of this term by stating the prerequisites: first, that "banditry" must cease; secondly, that the reorganisation of the islands' economy must be carried through, and, thirdly, that the Filipinos must "return to the oriental spirit," i.e., accept Japanisation. Vargas, President Quezon's ex-secretary, whom the Japanese have made nominal head of the provisional Filipinos Administration, echoed these implicit warnings by telling his fellow-countrymen that they would have to win their independence by seeing that peace and order are restored and by reorientating themselves "spiritually and intellectually." To gild the pill, Tojo made Vargas the prodigal gift of a ton of quinine (an unpleasant reminder of Japan's monopolistic position in regard to supplies of a drug indispensable to armies engaged in the malarial jungles of Arakan and New Guinea), receiving in return two table-cloths of pineapple-fibre and a complimentary broadcast by Madame Vargas, in which she dubbed him "a gracious neighbour," "elder brother" and "missionary of goodwill among men and peace among nations!"

There is a persistence of the rumours mentioned in *Summary* No. 186 of a Chinese concentration along the borders of Tibet, though it is reported that the local commanders in the limitrophe Chinese provinces are carrying out Chungking's orders to move their troops slowly and with reluctance. It is hard to believe that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek can seriously contemplate a move which, by diverting Chinese military effort from Japan to a friendly neighbouring State, would cause such manifest disservice to the common Allied cause. So far, however, no official word of either confirmation or denial has been forthcoming at Chungking. Meanwhile, the plans referred to in earlier *Summaries* for the supply route via Tibet into China have been failing to make progress owing to Sino-Tibetan differences of view on issues of a political nature arising out of the course of negotiations and springing ultimately from the Chinese claim to regard and treat Tibet as a vassal State, and from Tibet's insistence on her independence.

The special status which the Japanese gave to Hong Kong after its capture is emphasised by the replacement of the old Hong Kong dollar notes—retained in circulation till now for purposes of convenience—by Japanese military scrip, a change which is simultaneous with the withdrawal of the military yen in Central China in favour of Nanking's currency.

#### THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The Tunisian victories have strained the resources of the Press in outside capitals for their banner-headlines. Much emphasis has been laid on the "unprecedented degree of Allied co-operation" achieved in North Africa from the High Command downwards. The phrase quoted is from the President's telegram to General Eisenhower, containing special messages for the British sea, land and air commanders fighting under him. Mr. Drew Middleton, the *New York Times* correspondent in Tunisia, reported that American troops, speaking of the British, use the pronoun "we." The teamwork thus achieved is hailed as giving the best auguries for the future operations which the final clearance of Africa will make possible, and to which public interest is enthusiastically turning.

Discussion on the Russo-Polish break has continued; Marshal Stalin's letter to the correspondent of *The Times* and *New York Times* was welcomed, and, in spite of M. Vishinsky's statement next day, political commentators appear to think that, in Mr. Walter Lippmann's words, the affair is clarifying. At the same time there was a notable growth of interest in the question of the relations between the United States and the U.S.S.R. The anti-Russian papers, especially those belonging to the Hearst chain, have been stirred to fresh attacks. But the moderate and left-wing organs have expressed increased confidence that things are developing in the right direction. Moscow is held to be showing a new degree of appreciation of the Anglo-American war effort and of the benefits received under Lend-Lease. Following Marshal Stalin's Order of the Day of the 1st May and other manifestations (described in last week's *Summary* under "Soviet Union"), a number of papers declared that relations between the two countries were now better than they had ever been. But the Scripps-Howard papers and others have long urged that a personal meeting between the President, Mr. Churchill and M. Stalin is essential. It is now announced that Mr. Joseph Davies is to pay a brief visit to Moscow, carrying a personal letter from Mr. Roosevelt to M. Stalin. Mr. Davies was United States Ambassador in Moscow before Admiral Standley; he is a friend and admirer of Soviet Russia; in his book *Mission to Moscow* and in speeches and broadcasts he has affirmed his confidence in her strength and his belief that she will be ready to co-operate with the democracies after the war. Though Mr. Davies is said not to have been informed of the contents of the letter he is carrying, it is taken for granted that he goes as advocate and not merely as a messenger, and it is conjectured that the objects of his mission are, first, to arrange for a meeting between the President and Marshal Stalin, and second, to induce the latter to clarify his attitude on post-war problems. This second *Mission to Moscow* has a good press; it is pointed out, e.g., by Mrs. Anne McCormack in the *New York Times*, that the African victory makes the omens for its success much better than they were a fortnight ago. M. Litvinov is also expected to be visiting Moscow shortly; it has been denied that this visit has any connexion with that of Mr. Davies. So far as public opinion is concerned, he seems to have shown of late but little of the qualities which enabled him to take hold so successfully of a difficult situation when he reached Washington in December 1941. Another traveller from Washington to Moscow in the coming weeks will be Dr. Beneš, who is thought to possess the confidence of the democratic and the Soviet leaders alike.

The latest report issued by Mr. Stettinius shows immense increases, both proportionately and absolutely, in the supplies sent to Russia under Lend-Lease; and Mr. Stettinius added that, in spite of losses incurred on the North Atlantic routes, the vast majority of these supplies had safely reached their destination.

The House of Representatives will vote this week on the renewal of the Trade Agreements Act. In spite of the advocacy of Mr. Hull and Mr. Welles, and of many papers of Republican sympathies, it seems likely that the Republican Party will stand solidly for amendments which the Administration regards as crippling—in particular, one which would allow Congress by a majority vote to abrogate agreements made under the Act. If so, the vote will be a very close one. The present swing of opinion against "isolationism" is shown by the efforts of the one side to assert, and the other to deny, that opposition to the renewal of the Act signifies the intention to oppose, when the time comes, American partnership in future peace-keeping. It is shown, too, by a movement which has been started among Republicans of the Middle West—centre of driving power both of the Republican Party and of isolationism—to conduct a campaign in that key area for the continuance of a United Nations organisation, with full American participation, to maintain world order after the unconditional surrender of the aggressors.

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