

External Affairs

late Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Chiang Kai-shek. It would appear, then, that according to the provisions set out in the Cairo declaration, if the Peiping regime were recognized and given a seat in the United Nations Formosa should be conceded to the Chinese republic.

If reports coming from Formosa and also from Hong Kong are credible there is considerable discontent against the present regime. Guerrilla forces are operating and people that offer any resistance to the government are being liquidated every day. It is further stated in the reports that the Peiping government are not able to cope with the bands of guerrillas and bandits, as no other government in China has ever been able to do. With a fairly large scale war raging, heavy taxes to support the army have caused grumbling, and the land reform program has met with a good deal of resistance.

No doubt a good deal of that is true, and again it is three years since I have been in China and conditions may have changed since then, but the former nationalist regime had also a great propaganda machine. If you recall, in the period from 1930 to 1940 the government was appealing for foreign aid and were stating that their enemies were almost exterminated—when the very opposite was the case.

I well remember reading, while in China in 1946 and 1947, headlines and press reports, almost every day, that the nationalist armies were achieving notable victories and continued daily successes, and any paper in China that told of any losses or reverses was immediately suppressed and confiscated.

When I left China in December, 1947, Chiang Kai-shek and the nationalist government had large armies at their command, and had control of all the major cities such as Shanghai, Peiping, Nanking and Canton, as well as all transportation, and Chiang Kai-shek made daily claims of his successes. But his regime collapsed a short time after that date, so that naturally reports coming from Formosa must be discounted. A few minutes ago I heard somebody mention the fact that about 50 thousand tons of rice had been supplied by China to India. I do not believe that that report can possibly be true. They could not possibly do that unless they stripped the food from their own people to do it. I do not believe they can feed their own people. Therefore these reports cannot be taken at face value.

Mr. Coldwell: Will the hon. member permit a question? Is he aware that that was Premier Nehru's announcement, and the rice was on the way?

[Mr. MacKenzie.]

Mr. MacKenzie: It is true that that was in the report, but again I cannot see how that report can be correct. I am aware that that was the announcement, but I cannot see how it could be true.

It has been said by many citizens of the United States, when speaking in this country, that if the western powers had supplied the nationalist government with modern war equipment and supplies, this trouble in China would never have occurred. While it is true that the communists obtained a great deal of war supplies from Russia, yet it was United States equipment that played a large part in the defeat of Chiang's armies. It is a matter of record that whole regiments who were supplied with United States army equipment deserted and went to the communist army in a body.

At the moment there seems to be no alternative government for China in the near future. It is either the old discredited government headed by Chiang Kai-shek, or the present Peiping administration. It is claimed that the present government was not chosen by the people, and that it was brought about by force. That was equally true of the nationalist government.

We should not forget that communism in Asia has not the same meaning or significance that it has in the western world, and any attempt to line up all Asiatic people in a frontal attack on communism seems futile. To the Asiatic mind this is just a political name and offers a better standard of living, and as they have nothing to lose they accept it.

It seems to me that if we could convince the Asiatic people that this whole scheme is a Moscow plot, with its motive to promote Russian imperialism and aggression and world domination, we should have much greater chance of success.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): Will the hon. member permit one question? Has he seen the testimony of General Marshall, who visited Chou En-lai, and who stated that he was a communist, and had pictures of Stalin and Marx in his encampment where he visited him?

Mr. MacKenzie: I am talking about the situation in China when I was there. That was the situation as it appeared to me, and that was the information that I got after making very careful inquiries. That was the situation as it was then. I was fortunate enough to meet General Marshall in Shanghai, when he made a visit there. I do not know anything definite about what has taken place since that time.