

they are Protestant or Roman Catholic, have established for themselves a very enviable reputation in their immediate locality. And in China where communications are generally so very poor that means that local interests have a very stabilizing effect on their immediate locality, so that an outside, shall we say, communist government coming into the area would be conscious of the susceptibilities and interests of the local population which would be served in a very large measure by the schools, by the hospitals, and by the other philanthropic works that are carried on by the missionaries in connection with their particular missionary program. I fancy that even the Chinese communists would be anxious for that part of the work that was perhaps not strictly spiritual to be carried on because of the great lack of technically qualified people in China today. So, I would give it as my view that the missionaries of West China Union University, like other missionaries, have a fair chance of being able to try out at least into the coming months continuing their work there. Whether or not it will prove practical after one or two years is, I think, up to the individual missionaries to assess as time goes on. But I think most of them feel that this immediate transition period can be surmounted as it has been surmounted in other areas. By and large there has been less anti-foreign demonstration than might have been expected considering the tone of the communist propaganda.

*By Mr. Fraser:*

Q. Is that owing to the fact that these communists coming in have been in contact with the missionaries in other sections before?—A. That is right.

Q. And have mixed with them for perhaps years?—A. Yes. I think that the number of straight died-in-the-wool communists within the communist ranks is, perhaps, not very large and there is a great number of others who for a variety of reasons are going along and many of whom have acquired their education in mission institutions, and many of them have come in contact with westerners in various places and I think are inclined to let them alone.

*By Mr. Graydon:*

Q. Since you are not an ambassador, Mr. Menzies, I suppose I can ask you some questions about China. I would like to ask this one question. In the papers recently, in the last few days, there have been reports of a third force emerging out of the confused Chinese situation. No doubt you have read that. It would be a movement in between reactionary forces of the generalissimo and the communists on the other hand. Have you any authentic information with respect to the possibility of that force or movement attaining any significant position in the present situation there?—A. That is a pretty difficult question because the information which we have is that normally available to the public. As I understand it the reports referred to a group headed by the acting president who has retired to Hong Kong with some gastric ulcers or something like that. I doubt very much though whether too much importance should be attached to a third force emerging at this rather late hour. But that is entirely speculation and I think it would be difficult to put a finger on anything definite.

Q. From the information that you get from the Chinese situation does the department feel that the present government, the new government that is taking over in China, is apt to be more communist than Chinese in character or more Chinese than communist? Where would the emphasis be?—A. Well, I think that Mr. Pearson in his statement to the house indicated the communist ideology and communist international associations of the present new regime. It has been a fact of Chinese history that the four hundred and fifty million people with their long and very deep cultural traditions have had over a period of time an influence on every alien philosophy that has been introduced into China, and