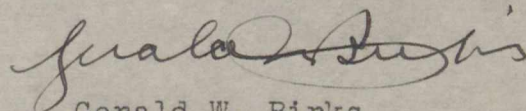


Our foreign secretaries, like their Chinese co-workers, are happier than for years. The clearing political situation and renewed optimism throughout the country are giving them a chance to work and inspiring them to carry the heavy load which the increasing demand for their leadership is putting upon them. (I have in my pocket a list of seventeen strategic jobs where new secretaries from America are required!) In the last few years the Y. M. C. A.'s difficulties have been largely due to the concentrated attack of Communist and Left Wing forces. In this attack the Shanghai Branch of the Kuomintang, largely made up of students, was the leader. They petitioned their national headquarters to take over the Association, and failing in this petitioned the National Education Association to the same effect, but again without success. President Chiang Kai-shek, on hearing of this second attempt, replied to it by making an unsolicited donation of \$2000 to the Nanking Y. M. C. A. The fact that he has personally assumed the office of Minister of Education is pretty good indication to Communistically-inclined students that they must behave from now on.

As a sidelight on the situation, it is interesting to note that President Chiang gave as one of the main influences leading to his recent conversion his reading of Fosdick's "Mandhood of the Master" as translated and published by the China Association Press, and that he has further asked the Association to bring out a new edition to which he has agreed to write a special foreword. In view of the fact that our work in China is so directly influenced by the political atmosphere, it is reassuring to know that in the newly-organized group in the capital, in addition to the President, the head of the Judicial Yuan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Industry, the Minister of Railways, the Minister of Finance, and the Postmaster-General are all out-spoken Christians whose chief contact with Christianity has been through the Y. M. C. A.

The change in China has been so startling and the outlook is so much brighter than it has been for years that my enthusiasm has quite overcome my discretion and I must ask your indulgence for having carried this letter so far down the third page.

Yours sincerely,



Gerald W. Birks
Representing the Foreign Committee
in the Far East

*Have just cleaned up in
the Philippines and
are off for Java on
a Dutch freighter.*