



Nine Questions asked by Collier's and answered by **GENERALISSIMO CHIANG KAI-SHEK**

Henry La Cossitt, editor of Collier's, recently radioed Chiang Kai-shek, President and Generalissimo of China, putting nine questions with respect to China's present situation and post-war plans. It was known that the Generalissimo's policy was to confine all such statements to official addresses, but a departure from custom was urged on the ground that public opinion in the United States, confused by conflicting reports regarding the Chinese situation, needed immediate and authoritative enlightenment. Here is the Generalissimo's reply:

ALTHOUGH there are such heavy calls on my time that I find it difficult to meet even my essential engagements, I shall do my best to reply as adequately as possible to the questions which Collier's has asked me. This I am the more glad to do because comradeship in war has forged a link between our nations which the passage of time, I hope and believe, will only make the stronger. If by these brief replies I can contribute to the betterment of understanding between our peoples, I shall feel I have done services to both."

ONE

On the outlook for the unification of China.

ANSWER: "The ultimate object of the Chinese National Revolution is the establishment of a united, free and independent China. National disunity, resulting from constant civil wars among local war lords under the then Peking government since 1912, came to an end in 1928, when the National Government successfully concluded its northern expedition and unified the entire nation. At present the only obstacle to unity is the refusal of the Chinese Communist Party and its troops to obey the orders of the National Government. There is no other. But I have always maintained that the Chinese Communist problem is a political problem and should be solved by political means. The government has always taken this view and repeatedly has sought compromise by making liberal offers in negotiation with the Chinese Communist Party. The government will continue to follow this policy and redouble its efforts to seek a political solution.

"If the Chinese Communist Party truly has the interest of the country and nation at heart, and shows a genuine desire to attain unity and solidarity in order successfully to begin national reconstruction, then the outlook for unity in China is very optimistic. Americans know from their own national experience that only a united country can successfully realize constitutionalism and successfully accomplish different phases of economic reconstruction and make due contributions to the peace and welfare of mankind in the postwar new world."

TWO

Will the National Assembly offer adequate representation to all political parties?

ANSWER: "In order to realize its original purposes—the promotion of true democracy—the National Government has undertaken to give the National Assembly the fullest

opportunity to represent all political parties and nonpartisan leaders in the country. Upon the inauguration of constitutional government, all political parties will have legal status and enjoy complete equality."

EDITOR'S NOTE: A recent issue of Contemporary China, a government publication, expressed the hope that "when constitutional democracy is established, the Kuomintang, the largest party, will play the role of a liberal, progressive middle party; the Communists will become a national, democratic left party, and the minor parties, such as the State Socialist and the National Youth, will exercise a conservative but constructive influence in the body politic."

THREE

Does the proposed constitution guarantee free speech, free press, right of assembly and the end of a one-party system?

ANSWER: "Absolutely! The second part of the Draft Constitution of the Republic of China, published on May 5, 1936, provides for a guarantee of freedom of speech, writing and publication, and freedom of assembly and the forming of associations. That is, and always has been the government's intention. When the period of political tutelage concludes shortly, the Kuomintang will carry out its original purpose of returning sovereign power to the people. This means the end of one-party rule and the implementation of the provisions in Article 2 of Part One of the Draft Constitution, that 'the sovereignty of the Republic of China is vested in the whole body of citizens.'"

FOUR

What measures are being taken by the government to promote honest, efficient administration?

ANSWER: "The Control Yuan, one of the five Yuan of the National Government, has the power of investigation, impeachment and auditing. There is also a Commission for Disciplinary Punishment of Public Functionaries. In order to increase administrative efficiency, the Party and Government Work Evaluation Committee was established in 1941. In recent months a number of cases of corruption, embezzlement and maladministration have been tried by the court, reflecting the government's determination to root out dishonest and inefficient administration."

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Chinese News Service adds that the following Chinese officials were executed on July 18th for murder and extortion: Colonel Ysu Cheng-kung for misappropriation of military supplies; Captain Hsu Yu-mo, for forcing recruits into service; Lieutenant Feeng Thun, for extorting money from a recruit's relatives; Captain Li Pochien, misappropriation of military funds; Captain Li Hsiang-wei, for beating a recruit; Lieutenant Chang Li-ting, for murdering a soldier. Prominent bankers, accused of using official information for private profit, are now awaiting trial.