Anti-foreignism Spreads

We have repeatedly pointed out in these columns that the Japanese-sponsored anti-British campaign in China was but a spear-head of still greater and more widespread activities yet to come, designed to undermine and destroy all foreign rights and interests in this country. The truth of this contention is now being borne out by the many reports which daily fill the newspapers of the rapid spread of the anti-foreign campaign under Japanese instigation to include westerners of other nationalities.

The “new order,” which Japan desires to establish in East Asia, is intended not only to give her monopolistic control of the entire of China, both politically and economically, but to exclude from this country every other nation, irrespective of its treaty rights and trade interests. This policy she is now relentlessly pursuing, with all the more vigor and determination, since it serves the added purpose of covering up the failure of her military campaign in China. The Japanese generals, who are so loudly shouting “Down with Great Britain” and “Down with the Western Democracies”, are doing so mainly for the purpose of diverting attention from the desperate plight of their armies, which, having penetrated deep into China’s interior, are now in the unenviable position of being able neither to advance nor retreat. This is a fact which should be constantly borne in mind in connection with the anti-foreign campaign, since it has an important bearing on the whole question and is likely to complicate any attempt on the part of the powers to talk reason with Tokyo.

The vigorous anti-British campaign continues unabated. The British Concession in Tientsin is still suffering from the Japanese blockade. In Peking, Taotiao and Hankow, anti-British mass meetings, the posting of anti-British slogans and an anti-British press campaign are being vigorously conducted by Japanese agents, while attacks on British business establishments and the intimidation of Chinese employees of British firms and households measures taken recently against the Chinese residing in Siam seem to prove the contrary. They appear clearly as an expression of sympathy for the Japanese invasion of China. Numerous Chinese, including two Kuomintang leaders, whose only misdeed was that they raised funds for China, were arrested, more than twenty Chinese schools were closed, and Chinese banks were submitted to search. Such ill-treatment of innocent persons must revolt the conscience of the world. Siam was once China’s vassal, and most of her high governing officials are of Chinese descent. Siam is linked with China not only by history and race, but also by destiny. Once China has restored the peace to the Far East by triumph over her enemies, Siam will benefit from this peace. Should Japan succeed in her China campaign, which becomes less possible every day, Siam will undoubtedly be the first choice morsel to be gobbled up by Japan. Whether or not Siam eventually adheres to the anti-Comintern pact will decide her future fate. Which road will she choose?

are daily occurrences. Missionaries in interior cities are being driven from their posts, having been given short notice by the Japanese military authorities to leave, on the grounds that they could no longer guarantee their safety.

While at first the anti-foreign campaign was directed solely against the British, on the excuse that Great Britain was “aiding Chiang Kai-shek”, American citizens are now being threatened and anti-American mass meetings are reported to have been held in Shihhsiahwang and Kaifeng. At the same time, the United States Embassy has announced that several Americans have been detained in Kaifeng by the Japanese authorities. American missionaries, like the British, are also being singled out for attack, and forced to leave their stations. Charges of aiding guerrillas or doing espionage work for the Chinese army have been made against them as an excuse to drive them out.

Nationals of other countries have not escaped. A well-known Netherlands businessman is reported to have been arrested by the Japanese in North China and detained for several days on charges of espionage. Threats that an anti-French campaign is about to be started have been made by Japanese quarters, according to reports appearing in the press, although no confirmation has yet been forthcoming and no actual case of any anti-French incident has been reported so far. However, it is only a question of time. Whenever the Japanese authorities feel that the time has come for an anti-French campaign, there is nothing that is likely to stop them from launching it.

More and more it is becoming apparent that Japan’s intention is to rid China of all foreign influence other than Japanese. Although the anti-foreign campaign has little actual support from the Chinese population as a whole and the agitators participating in the various mass meetings have either been forced to or paid to attend, despite Japanese protests that the demonstrations are “spontaneous expressions of feelings”, it is an undeniable fact that irreparable damage is being done to the interests and prestige of the countries against which the campaign is being directed. The future of the white race in Asia lies at stake. Regarded in this light, the present campaign and the outcome of the Tokyo talks now being conducted between Great Britain and Japan over the question of Tientsin take on a special significance. Any sign of British yielding to Japanese pressure is likely to have repercussions, which will not only affect British prestige throughout the Far East, but which will be felt in such places as India and Africa, which have large native populations. Any blow suffered by Great Britain will affect the white race as a whole. The psychological effect will be tremendous and may result in changes of a world-shaking character.

A press report a few days ago regarding a large mass demonstration against Great Britain recently held in Japan carried the interesting note that several Germans and Italians participated in the meeting. Germany and Italy
may be linked for the moment with Japan in the anti-
Comintern Pact, but the two countries will be gravely mis-
taken if they believe that Japan is prepared to share with
them any of her spoils. German interests in China are
suffering equally with the interests of other western coun-
tries, large and small. It is not believed that Italian in-
terests are faring any better. Besides, have not the Japan-
ese jingoists declared their slogan to be “Asia for the
Asiatics”? Where would Germany and Italy come in under
such an exclusive racial scheme?

Although so far there seems little inclination on the
part of the Chinese population as a whole to support the
Japanese-instigated campaign, there is no knowing the
effects which clever propaganda may have on the mass mind,
particularly if the foreign countries do nothing to rescue
their fast-diminishing prestige. Nothing is more likely to
stimulate the anti-foreign campaign so much as the know-
ledge that the western Nations can be bullied by Japan.
Any impression that they are willing to sell out China to
Japan would be equally disastrous.

Whatever happens, it is clear that the foreign powers
will stand or fall together in the Far East. Indeed, neither
the United States nor France, nor, for that matter, Ger-
many and Italy, can afford to stand aloof from Great Britain
as she confronts Japan today. Anglo-American co-opera-
tion in the Far East still remains unrealized. The events
of the past few days are proof enough that Japan is plan-
ing a similar fate for American rights and interests as
she is already meting out to the British. Action against
France and every other country that has a stake in China
is only a matter of time. There are only two alternatives
facing the powers in China today, either to take united
action to enforce respect for their treaty rights or to be
prepared to see them trampled underfoot and completely
wiped out by Japan.

Popular Japanese Notions of China

BY RANDALL GOULD

A JAPANESE MAGAZINE has asked me to write on
problems following the Anglo-Japanese negotiations
in Tokyo. With some forebodings I have, prepared an
article and sent it off. The magazine is strong and res-
pected, it has already printed a rather canud article
from me on the state of affairs at Chungking, but whether
it can stand as drastic a dose as that prepared over the
last weekend is a problem. It occurs to me that a
resume for American and international readers of what
I tried to convey to the Japanese might serve the double
purpose of broadcasting some news and views, and shed-
ding some light on the Japanese viewpoint as I observed
it on a recent visit to the Land of the very much Rising
Sun.

To write on problems following negotiations which
were still in progress, I began, might seem presumptuous;
but I felt myself justified in tackling the task because
I regarded those negotiations as far less far-reaching in
their implications than does the average Japanese. Most
Japanese have been “built up” to a point of regarding
the British, as their Enemy No. 1 in China. This is a
curious state of affairs indeed. The Japanese very
ostentatiously refrain from considering the Chinese as
foes, although they do consider a few individuals and re-
 mote Chinese (notably General Chiang Kai-shek) as being
in that category. But ever since the beginning of the
undeclared war the British have been under attack, as
having the greatest invested financial interests in China—
close to half of the total foreign investment, far more
than the American which in any event is very largely
made up of mission property rather than commercial
enterprises. The more the British have figured as victims in “incidents,” the harder have Japanese holders of
public opinion worked to stir up an angry conviction that
British misdeeds justify what has been done, and more.
The general picture has been one of an octopus grip by
Britain upon semi-colonial China, an unwilling victim
both of the imperialism of the British and the crafty
wiles of the Soviet (Japanese Public Enemy temporarily
No. 2 in China). The mere fact of British heavy invest-
ment in China has been made to seem a crime, an in-
fringement on Chinese sovereignty and Japanese “special
position.”

So a great deal has been hoped for from the black-
mail at Tientsin and the effort to bring from the
Craigie-Arita talks a complete breakdown by Britain at
all points. While I was in Tokyo I was repeatedly asked
whether the war in China would not be stopped as soon
as the British were made to weaken in their support of
Chiang Kai-shek.Coupled with this was the expectation
that with creation of a new “Government of China” under
Wang Ching-wei there would come a beginning of order
out of the admitted quasi-chaos which has followed the
tide of war, despite the presumed efforts of the Japanese
army to deal justly and generously.

The Japanese preoccupation with this double panacea
is decidedly an outstanding phenomenon of the present
Japanese attitude toward China. Many Japanese neverthe-
less have manifested interest in the fact that I recently
visited Chungking. I always portrayed Chungking
candidly as a primitive, remote, but alive and courageous
capital, regarded by patriotic Chinese as the center of
Chinese resistance to an invader. One Japanese friend
remarked, revealingly I thought—“1 would like to go to
Chungking also,” adding that he quite realized he would
not be welcome under present circumstances but that
Japan would not hinder or molest Chinese who wished to
pay friendly calls on their country. I said that one
simply had to experience such things as air-bombings to
learn why the Chinese are taking what the Japanese
regard as a very stubborn and wrong-headed view of the
situation—a view which by no means envisages British,
or any other foreign, support for China’s cause as essen-