

a fuller and richer life than any they have ever enjoyed in the past. But concrete evidence that the government is indeed working for a new order for the common people must be forthcoming at once. True, great reconstruction projects are already under way in many provinces which will eventually bring great benefits to the people living in those regions. However, even greater and more rapid progress could be made by the extension over a wider area of the excellent co-operation with the people which is being accomplished by the Eighth and Fourth Route Armies in the regions where they are established, by which the people are not only being benefited but are being brought to a knowledge of the meaning of the war of resistance and are learning to play their part as real citizens of the Chinese nation. If this can be achieved, it will render possible the spiritual mobilization of the people on such a scale that will make the final victory not only a hope but a certainty.

### The Flag Incident

LAST week a series of regrettable incidents occurred in the French Concession in Shanghai when Chinese citizens clashed with members of the French Police over the question of the raising of the Chinese national emblem. The occasion was April 18, when Chinese residents of both the International Settlement and the French Concession flew the Chinese flag to mark the launching of the Spiritual Mobilization Movement by the National Government in Chungking. While this patriotic manifestation met with no objection in the International Settlement, the French authorities sent out parties of police to order the lowering of the emblems in the Concession. When patriotic citizens objected, the police attempted to tear down the flags by force, with the result that severe clashes occurred. Several persons were injured, while many were arrested by the French police who also confiscated the flags. As a protest against the action of the French authorities, Chinese shops in the main thoroughfares of the French Concession closed their doors and business was brought practically to a standstill. For a time the atmosphere was extremely tense and the situation assumed a serious aspect. Fortunately, however, what threatened to develop into a very ugly incident has now been brought to an amicable conclusion, as a result of negotiations between the Chinese Ratepayers' Association and the French authorities, while it is understood that the whole question is to be taken up by the National Government through regular diplomatic channels in the hope of reaching a proper understanding on the subject with the French authorities. This is not the first time that such an incident has occurred, as it will be recalled that similar clashes took place on March 29, when French police attempted to tear down Chinese flags raised to commemorate the death of the Seventy-two Martyrs in Canton during the National Revolution. The French authorities justified their action then as on April 18 on the grounds that the raising of the Chinese national emblem was a political manifestation and therefore tended to disturb peace and order. While it is understandable that, due to the special

conditions at present existing in Shanghai, the French authorities are anxious to avoid any unnecessary complications, which would place them in an embarrassing position, past experience has not shown that the raising of the Chinese flag on national anniversaries has tended particularly to the creation of disturbances. It will be recalled that both occasions, on which the French police objected to the raising of the flag in the Concession, passed without incident in the International Settlement. Acts of terrorism and disturbance of peace, it seems, occur rather in accordance with the well laid plans of the perpetrators of such crimes and are entirely uninfluenced by the silent and dignified manifestations of patriotism by the ordinary citizen, as demonstrated by the raising of the national emblem. Furthermore, the fact remains that the French Concession, despite its special status, is fundamentally Chinese territory, while the "white sun and blue sky" is still the flag of the recognized government of China. What is more, it is permitted to persons of whatsoever nationality to raise their flag on national anniversaries in the French Concession. It is not to be wondered, therefore, that patriotic Chinese citizens should feel indignant and resent the action of the French authorities, particularly at the present time when national feelings are even more sensitive than usual. Misunderstanding in the present case seems mainly to have been due to the fact that no previous notice had been served by the French authorities, giving any indication that they had objections to the raising of the Chinese flag on this particular occasion and instead sent police to forcibly bring about their lowering. Under the circumstances, such clashes as occurred were inevitable and it was only by chance that a more serious situation was averted. It is sincerely hoped that a thorough understanding will be reached in the near future between the French diplomatic representatives and the Chinese Government in Chungking, in order to prevent the recurrence of such unfortunate incidents. Sino-French relations have always been the most cordial and the Chinese residents of the French Concession are clearly sensible of the difficulties with which the authorities are faced at the present time and have no wish to see these difficulties aggravated or to cause the authorities any undue embarrassment. There is a close identity of interests between China and France in the present conflict and it would be most regrettable if such incidents as recently occurred should be allowed to mar the close co-operation which so happily exists between the two countries. Fortunately, misunderstandings can always be cleared up by a frank exchange of views by both sides. It is hoped that this will soon be the case and that we have seen the end of all such unfortunate occurrences.

### Turkey's Role

THE activity of the British Government in conducting negotiations for the drawing of as many Eastern European countries into the anti-aggression bloc to prevent further expansion on the part of the dictator states continues unabated. Having given guarantees of assistance to