

from other points where the main attack is to be made. Belgium and Holland, through whose territory an attack on the British Isles would be the most easily effected, have expressed their determination to defend their integrity, though how much resistance they could give to the steam-

roller German war-machine is a matter of speculation. Germany seems determined to prosecute the war with every means at her disposal, no matter how ruthless and regardless of the rights of others. Only in an Allied victory is there hope that the rights of small nations will be respected.

Kuomintang-Communist Co-operation

THE recent session of the People's Political Council held in Chungking passed several important resolutions which will undoubtedly contribute towards the nation's powers of resistance against Japanese aggression and lay a solid foundation for the future. One of the wisest steps taken by the Council was the decision to appoint a special committee which will be permanently in charge of ironing out all difficulties and preventing any friction in the future between the Kuomintang and Communist parties.

This is a welcome piece of news in view of the reports in recent months of recurrent friction and minor clashes between Communist troops and those under General Yen Hsi-shan in Shansi. While nothing serious has occurred to mar the close co-operation which has marked the relations between the Government and the Communist Party since the outbreak of the hostilities, keen anxiety had been felt lest these sources of friction should give rise to trouble of a graver nature in the future. Perhaps this anxiety was out of proportion with the actual situation, as, according to Mr. Randall Gould, Editor of the *Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury*, who on a recent visit to Chungking made a special study of the Kuomintang-Communist question.

"Even where the facts of these rumors (mostly about armed clashes) are true, it is felt on both sides that there is a lack of sophistication in the interpretations put on them. Free China is, after all, rather a frontier territory, and a little occasional gunplay among friends is to be expected. Something like that seems to be the idea."

Nevertheless, it is gratifying that the new committee will take over the work of settling all past disputes.

The arrival in Chungking of prominent Communist leaders to attend the meeting of the People's Political Council gave the lie to the rumors (mostly circulated by Japanese sources) that a serious split had occurred in the United Front, and that the Communist leaders had refused to attend the Chungking session. On the contrary, the 65-year-old chairman of the "Frontier District Government" of North Shensi, Lin Po-chu, the former chairman of the Chinese Government in Kiangsi, Chin Po-ku, and Mrs. Chou En-lai, the wife of the outstanding Communist political leader and herself a member of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party flew from Yen-an specially to attend the session. All three are members of the People's Political Council.

Responsible Communist circles in Chungking are reported to have declared that the Chinese Communist Party was fully satisfied with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's speech before the opening of the Fifth Plenary

Session of the People's Political Council. They said that the speech further strengthened Communist determination to support General Chiang as the supreme war leader as his "second three year war plan" met with their approval. General Chiang had urged stiffer resistance against the Japanese in the next three years. The war of resistance had consolidated the unification of the two parties, they said, and the unification in turn had brought forth loyal support of all people in the nation for the Government and sympathy and material assistance from abroad. "Unification," they declared, "has proved to be the most outstanding symbol of the war of resistance. Unification is the banner of victory and the foundation of success."

Following the establishment of the new committee to iron out all difficulties between the Kuomintang and Communist Parties, it is understood that leaders of both groups are studying a formula for the removal of membership boundaries between them in order to further consolidate co-operation. Much effort will undoubtedly be needed before such a formula can be put into practice, since many ancient prejudices and divergences of views still persist despite the past two years of united front. Nevertheless, if the intention is sincere, there is no limit to the extent of co-operation that may be achieved. The Kuomintang and Communist Party have a common aim to which all their efforts are being directed, namely, the salvation of the nation through resistance to Japan and national reconstruction. As long as the welfare of the nation is their common goal no difficulties cannot be overcome.

It had been the hope of the Japanese in establishing the "Reorganized National Government" under Mr. Wang Ching-wei in Nanking to drive a wedge between the Communists and the Kuomintang. However, their manoeuvre has had the opposite effect of driving the two parties more closely together than ever before. Both parties realize that any split between them would be exactly what the Japanese have been hoping to achieve. It is reported that Japanese agents have been active in stirring up rumors and creating other trouble with the hope of instigating a conflict between the two parties for the purpose of embarrassing Chungking. However, as a result of the successful meeting between the leaders of both sides in the war capital during the recent session of the People's Political Council all misunderstandings have been completely cleared, while the establishment of the special committee has assured smooth co-operation for the future. As long as the Kuomintang and the Communist Party can work in unity, there is no need to worry about the outcome of the war. Both are needed and each supplement the other in the great work of national salvation.