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The Third Anniversary

WHILE in Europe, one country after another, both great and small, is capitulating before the forces of aggression, it is with quiet confidence that the people of China celebrate the third anniversary of resistance to Japan. For anyone to have suggested at the outbreak of the hostilities on July 7, 1937 that China would live to celebrate the third anniversary of resistance would have been branded as ridiculous by most observers and certainly by the Japanese generals, who had had everything planned to "beat China to her knees in two weeks," as their premier, Prince Konoye, had so confidently boasted. The past three years have been ones of great sacrifice, suffering and hardship for the Chinese nation, but they have also been years of stupendous efforts and great achievements, which have borne fruit in growing strength and unity and the birth of a new spirit. The world has been shattered and stunned by the great changes that have come over the western world during the past few months, but whatever happens to Europe, China will remain unshaken in her determination to resist to the bitter end. This determination and complete confidence in victory was expressed by General Chiang Kai-shek in a recent statement. He said:

"In the future, regardless of how the European situation changes, it can only be advantageous instead of disadvantageous to us.

"Eventual victory is in our hands, because of our *magnetic* tactics which have attracted the bulk of the enemy's forces to our interior and prevented Japan from participating in the European war. Victory is also ours because of our resistance, which has been aided by powerful friendly countries. These countries, both inside and outside the European War, are paying close attention to the enemy's moves.

"In the Far East, we are fighting the vanguard for all Asiatic peoples and the flank guard and rear guard for Soviet Russia and the United States." China's tactics of drawing Japan into the interior of China have "shattered the counterfeit Japanese *blitzkrieg*," the Generalissimo said. Referring to Japan's mass raids on Chungking, in which thousands of civilians have been killed or wounded and thousands of civilian dwellings and shops destroyed, the Generalissimo said: "The Chinese people can never be subdued by brutal force." Still greater efforts and still greater sacrifices will be demanded of the Chinese nation before victory can be won, but the past three years of resistance have instilled in them an indomitable spirit that will carry them through every difficulty and every hardship, until their objective is attained. July 7 this year will serve to remind the people of the great task before them and inspire them to increase their efforts to destroy

forever the rule of force in this part of the world and lead other nations back to the path of freedom and peace."

Crisis Looms in the South

THE situation in the South China Seas seems to be moving to a head as both the Hongkong and Indo-China authorities have ordered the evacuation of British and French women and children from these areas within the next few days. The threatening attitude of the Japanese in occupying the areas in Chinese territory adjacent to Hongkong and the announcement by the Japanese military spokesman at Canton that henceforth the arrangement, by which the Nipponese Army had given the British 24 hours' notice regarding movements of their forces in this region, will be discontinued, have evidently been responsible for the precautions taken by the colony authorities. The Japanese have charged that the British have not been sincere in keeping up their part of the agreement and have communicated information to the Chinese regarding Japanese movements. These charges have been categorically denied by the British military spokesman in Hongkong, who pointed out that absolutely no representations have been made by the Japanese on this subject. From this it is clear that the Japanese are merely seeking a pretext to break the agreement and to maintain complete freedom in taking whatever action they desire against the British. According to the *Miyako Shimbun*, the Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr. Arita, has informed the British Ambassador that, if a British reply to the Japanese demands concerning the cessation of traffic from Burma and Hongkong to Chungking is not forthcoming soon, Japan may "act as she sees proper". Another version states that Sir Robert Craigie had told the Japanese Foreign Minister in his interview that the Japanese demands required the fullest consideration, but that it was principally the United States and the Soviet Union that were aiding the Chungking Government and it was to them that Japan should protest not Britain. This "temporizing" reply, it is said, was not considered satisfactory by the Japanese. That Japan is attempting to take advantage of the imminent German attack on Great Britain to attempt to coerce the latter in the Far East is only too apparent. That Britain may not be disposed to submit to such coercion is indicated by the elaborate precautions now being taken in Hongkong. While the French authorities in Indo-China have agreed to the Japanese demands and have ordered a "temporary" suspension of traffic between Annam and southwest China, the tension remains high, with the Japanese fleet reportedly concentrated off Hanoi and Japanese troops already at Chennankuan on the Indo-China border. It is hoped that the British and French Governments will maintain a firm stand in the face of the Japanese threats. It would be fatal, not only for themselves, but for every country having interests in the Far East should they capitulate to Japan at the present time. The Chinese Government has announced its intention to prevent by force or otherwise the closure of the Indo-Chinese border to materials en route to Chung-

king and this would also to apply to the Burma road, should Britain show signs of yielding to Japan. As Chungking circles point out, Indo-China was originally Chinese territory, which was seized by the French forces after the Sino-French War in 1885. If the French Government is unable to hold the territory it should be returned to China and not turned over to Japanese occupation or control. In a statement issued a few days ago, Dr. Wang Chung-hui, the Chinese Foreign Minister, stated that if Japan carries out any military operation in French Indo-China, the Chinese Government will take independent action in self-defense for the preservation of China's independence in accordance with her policy of resistance. Britain, France and China face a common enemy in the Far East today. China, with her strong army and a people aroused to resistance, can be of immeasurable assistance to the Allies. They must co-operate closely, in order to put an end to Japanese aggression in the Far East and score a decisive victory for democracy and freedom over the destructive power of force.

The Balkan Crisis

WHILE dramatic events are shaking the rest of Europe, the Balkans are now also on the point of explosion, with Russia occupying the Rumanian provinces of Bessarabia and northern Bukovina and Hungary and Bulgaria making claims for the return of their former territories which are now a part of Greater Rumania. With her occupation of the Baltic states barely completed, Soviet Russia had presented an ultimatum to the Rumanian Government for the return of Bessarabia. These demands were backed by the massing of large contingents of Soviet troops on the Soviet-Bessarabian border, indicating that Russia was prepared to use force, if necessary, to seize control of the provinces. The Rumanian Government has capitulated to the Soviet demands without protest and already mechanized forces and infantry of the Red Army, covered by squadrons of Soviet planes have crossed the Rumanian frontier and moved into the demanded territory. However, orders for a general mobilization have been issued throughout Rumania, in view of the Hungarian and Bulgarian demands, which the Rumanian Government appears to be ready to resist with force. Hungary is claiming the return of Transylvania, formerly a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which was ceded to Rumania in 1918, while Bulgaria has submitted a formal request for the return of the province of Dobrudja, which was granted to Rumania at the end of the Balkan War in 1913. Turkey has become alarmed at the latest developments in the Balkans and it is reported that heavy guns have been moved to Turkey's northern frontiers, while all border forces have been strongly reinforced to meet any contingency arising out of the new situation. The Turkish Fleet was stated to have been seen moving towards the Black Sea. The Soviet move against Bessarabia was not unexpected, since indications have been evident for some time past that Russia contemplated such a step. The rapidity of the German successes in Western Europe has been causing considerable anxiety in