Once Again

In November, 1940, this journal acted upon “advice” and suspended publication. Today it makes its appearance again. The lapse of five years will not change the policy which it pursued for more than a decade. On account of lack of printing facilities, high cost of labor and newsprint—and absence of most of our regular contributors, only a skeleton edition is offered. As soon as circumstances permit, it will be our earnest desire to restore this journal to its full stature.

To Our Great Allies

At this glorious hour of victory, we salute our great Allies, the United States of America, Great Britain and the Soviet Union, and pay warm tribute to their courageous people and armed forces who fought so valiantly by our side to crush the common enemy. It has been a long and heavy road over blood-soaked battlefields and ravaged cities, but it has been fruitful in cementing a strong and unshakable bond between China and her allies. It is our earnest hope that the close sense of comradeship between our respective peoples, which was born of the sufferings and sacrifices of war, will continue throughout the coming years of peace. Respect for the rights of the common man and equal opportunity for every nation to live its life in its own way were the ideals for which we fought. Let us work together for their realization with the same spirit of selflessness and sacrifice that enabled us to win the war. If peace is to be permanent, we must fight as hard to keep it as we did to attain it.

Let’s Be Magnanimous

Once again General Chiang Kai-Shek proved himself a great leader worthy of a great nation, when, during the course of his radio speech on August 15, announcing Japan’s unconditional surrender, he urged the Chinese people to be generous in their attitude towards the Japanese nation in its hour of defeat. The Generalissimo reminded his listeners that the Japanese masses did not want this war, but that the wild ambitions of their militarists have brought upon them this terrible catastrophe. General Chiang’s words were both timely and completely in accord with the spirit in which this war has been fought. As we have repeatedly said, we have no quarrel with the Japanese people, but only with their war mongers. Theirs is indeed an unhappy fate, for, while we fought and endured for a just cause, they have sacrificed for an unworthy one and must now suffer the penalties of their mistake. We can
afford to be generous. Victory is ours and a bright and rosy future looms ahead for our nation. Undoubtedly, those who have been responsible for the war must receive their just punishment, but let us cast aside all thoughts of hatred and revenge. We must prove to the Japanese people that we are a truly peace-loving country, that "within the four seas all men are brothers," in the hope that they will eventually realize their past mistakes and will rebuild their nation on a foundation of peace instead of war.

The Surrender Terms

THE terms of the Potsdam Proclamation, while spelling the complete destruction of the Japanese war machine, constitute a new deal for the Nipponese masses. It is specifically stated that the signatory powers "do not intend that the Japanese shall be enslaved as a race or destroyed as a nation," while the Japanese government is required "to remove all obstacles to the revival and strengthening of democratic tendencies among the Japanese people." Freedom of speech, religion and thought, as well as respect for fundamental human rights, shall be established. It will be the task of the occupation forces to see to it that the people are given the right to govern themselves, for it will only withdraw "when there has been established in accordance with the freely expressed will of the Japanese people, a peacefully inclined and responsible government." Liberal elements are by no means lacking in Japan. In the past their activities have been made known to the outside world by the constant reports of mass arrests, executions and imprisonments. However, since the outbreak of the Pacific War, when the militarists usurped the entire power, they appear to have been completely and effectively throttled. Thousands of the finest and most progressive elements in Japan have either been done away with or are languishing in prison. In accordance with the terms of the Potsdam Proclamation hereafter every opportunity will be afforded for the development of democratic tendencies. The Japanese masses are to have a new outlook and rightly so, for not only have they been mercilessly exploited by their militarists but also by their capitalists on a scale unparalleled in other countries. It is a well known fact that one third of the entire national wealth of Japan is in the hands of a few powerful families. In the words of their Emperor, the Japanese are now called upon "to suffer what is insufferable and to endure what is unendurable". That is how it appears to them in this hour of bitter defeat. However, it is but the prelude to the dawning of a brighter day. Democracy may come to Japan the hard way, but it will come nevertheless.

Our Heroes

THE war has been won, but at a price. Thousands have died, suffered or are still suffering, in order that we might live to see this glad day of victory. At the end of the last war monuments were raised to the memory of the Unknown Soldier. In modern total warfare the civilian at home is as important to the war effort as the fighting services. The hero may be a soldier, a sailor or an airman; but he may also be a humble peasant, a factory worker or a school teacher or in fact anybody who gives his or her all for victory. Nor should we forget those who paid the penalty with their lives or suffered unmentionable tortures for refusal to collaborate with the enemy. Let us pause a moment in the midst of our rejoicings to pay a silent tribute to all our gallant heroes, many of whom are unknown and unsung. They have not suffered and died in vain. Our beloved motherland has been freed at last. Heroes of China, we salute you and bow our heads in humble homage to you for your supreme and noble sacrifice!

Mr. Soong's Visit to Moscow

THE conclusion of the Sino-Russian treaty of amity and alliance marks another diplomatic triumph within one month on the part of Mr. T. V. Soong, President of the Executive Yuan. It may be recalled that one of his first acts upon the assumption of his present office was to pay a visit to Generalissimo Stalin, obviously in respect to possible Russian participation in the Pacific War. On the eve of Potsdam Conference Mr. Soong flew back to Chungking and was then scheduled to return to the Soviet capital at the close of the conference. Meantime on July 26 the memorable Potsdam Declaration was issued as a virtual ultimatum to Japan, with a deadline set on August 8. When Mr. Soong saw General Stalin again on his return to Moscow, Japan had publicly refused to consider the Potsdam Declaration and reiterated her determination to continue the war in the Pacific. Yet in less than 48 hours after Mr. Soong’s arrival in the Russian capital, the Soviet Government considered itself at war with Japan. The Soviet Government’s entry into the Pacific War on the side of China and her allies was a feather in the cap of the National Government. But it was also a personal triumph for Mr. Soong. Long ago Mr. Soong saw that if Dr. Sun Yat-sen’s dream of a strong, free and independent China was to be realized her destiny must be irrevocably linked with countries of similar ideology as her own, namely the great democratic and socialist powers. During the past years Mr. Soong’s activities have been entirely devoted to this end. To him largely goes the credit for the close collaboration which has developed between China and the Anglo-American democracies during the years of war. China’s relations with the Soviet Union are of even greater importance, since the U.S.S.R. is our closest neighbor and shares with us a common border. With the conclusion of the present treaty we may take it for granted that close and cordial relations hereafter between China and the Soviet Union are more than assured.

Welcome Out

NOW that the war is over, the camp internees of the various Allied nations are being set free. It may please them to know that a very warm and open-hearted welcome awaits them on the outside, not merely from their relatives and friends but from the Chinese population as a whole. A new understanding and appreciation of each other seems to have sprung up between Allied nations and our people since the war. Fighting the same enemy and suffering similar hardships has drawn a...