

CHINESE PROTEST IDEA OF CLEANING UP EUROPE FIRST

Military Mission to the United States Told to Report Back Home

STRATEGY STANDS

Washington, Jan. 5.—(CP)—The disclosure that Gen. Chiang Kai-Shek has ordered home to Chungking the Chinese military mission to the United States emphasizes the divergent views among the united nations on the basic strategy of the war.

Although official Chinese sources here have declined any comment on the withdrawal of the Hsiung mission, there is little doubt that it was intended as a protest against the allocating of supplies between the Atlantic and Pacific theatres of operation and, also, against the basic strategy of concentrating on Hitler before turning all guns on the Japanese in the Pacific.

Not Altering Plans

Despite the protest of the Chinese, there is no doubt here that the present strategy will continue, that Europe will be cleaned up first. That over-all principle was laid down by Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt a year ago at their first meeting in Washington and its strategic and tactical application has been proceeding ever since. The North African campaign is one manifestation of it.

There are those among the unit-

ed nations, particularly China and Australia, who do not agree that the war can be won quickest by conducting a vast holding operation in the Pacific while knocking out Germany in Europe. They argue that Japan is consolidating her positions in the Pacific, bringing together the rubber, tin and oil of the East Indies and Burma with the iron and coal of North China, thereby welding an industrial system that will be self-perpetuating and changing Japan's whole insular economy.

Chinese Want Planes

It also is argued that, given time, the Japanese will complete the gaps in the rail lines linking Singapore and China, producing an overland transportation system safe from submarines.

The Chinese also claim that, given a few planes, their armies could retake Hankow, most strategic city in China, and could inflict more damage on Japanese industrial and military machine than the Americans in the Solomons and the British in Burma could with two or three times the number of aircraft.

Naturally, all these arguments and many others have been weighed by experts of the combined chiefs of staff committee in Washington and they must have been found wanting, because the basic strategy continues to place emphasis on Europe. There is every disposition here to increase the flow of supplies to Chinese armies as soon as that can be done consistent with the demands from other fronts, but no official source will suggest when that will be possible.

Meanwhile, men in authority here admit it may take years to defeat Japan in the Pacific, even if Europe is cleaned up first. They admit Japan is deeply entrenched, not only in the industrial riches of the Indies, Burma and China, but in the outer shield of strategic bases in the mandated islands.

Russia the Imponderable

One of the imponderables at the present time is the attitude of Russia and her eventual role in the Pacific contest. If the allies could gain air bases in Siberia, to be linked in shuttle services with bases in China and the Aleutians, the task of whipping Japan would be immeasurably easier. At the present time, facing the German army on the eastern front, Russia, naturally, does nothing to provoke war with the Japanese in the Pacific, but what will happen in the future, when Hitler's forces have been beaten off, is a moot question.

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