

Weekly News Analysis

Wang Ching-wei's Declaration Forces China to Air Troubles

By Joseph W. La Bine

EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst, and not necessarily of the newspaper.

Asia

War-torn China's biggest boast is her constantly growing national unity, a product of necessity that has made Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek the strongest Chinese ruler in modern history. But despite this well-publicized unity, China has not been able to make much of a showing against her Japanese invaders. Indeed, foreign military observers find Tokyo's paper-thin front lines so vulnerable that they say 30,000 American, British or French troops could put the enemy to rout. But in Jap-occupied territory are 270,000-000 civilians and 1,250,000 armed



GENERALISSIMO CHIANG
Time to stop bluffing.

guerrillas whose spirit of national unity is still not strong enough to inspire a sudden, inevitably successful attack.

Better than the national unity argument is the theory that smart General Chiang has been staging a fake show of Chinese nationalism, offering a good front at the expense of his wavering government. Though Chungking headquarters are over-run with nepotism, corruption and inefficiency, many abuses have been tolerated to make the outside world think China is strong. In the end General Chiang wangled handsome loans and credit arrangements from both the U. S. and Britain, proving the stunt was working, at least temporarily.

Not anticipated, however, was the walkout of one-time Premier Wang Ching-wei, who celebrated New Year's by reaching peace terms with Japanese Premier Fumimaro Konoye. Long a silent bulwark of China's Kuomintang (Nationalist) party, Mr. Wang reportedly met at Hongkong with Japanese agents and reached terms which would make him China's head man, leaving General Chiang out in the cold. Terms: (1) China should open diplomatic relations with Japanese puppet state, Manchukuo; (2) China should agree to economic "cooperation" with Japan; (3) China should adhere to the Jap-Italo-German anti-Communist agreement; (4) China should accept Japanese garrisons while the anti-Communist pact was in force.

Interpretations of the Wang demarche have come thick and fast. In Tokyo, happy Japanese thought it meant a breakdown of the Kuomintang and the spotlight of publicity on China's internal troubles. With Chiang weakened, Japanese puppet states would no longer seem pointless. In Shanghai, still Chinese despite its Japanese ownership, observers thought the Wang declaration was a well-timed Jap move to counteract U. S. and British credits to General Chiang. Whatever the cause, it was a happy day for Tokyo because China has been showing hardened resistance the past few weeks.

With the die cast, General Chiang no longer saw need for hiding his troubles. From Chungking came word of a wholesale purge from the Kuomintang of some 200 peace partisans. Expelled was Deserter Wang, charged with having attempted to gain support from military leaders in Szechuan and Yunnan provinces.

Politics

When Purge failed, when President Roosevelt's favoritism for Left-Wingers Corcoran, Hopkins, Jackson and Oliphant began bothering conservative New Dealers, forecasters saw a coming split in the Democratic party. Veering away from the White House were Vice President Garner, National Chairman Farley and Secretary of State Hull, any of whom might be a conservative 1940 presidential candidate. With two cabinet vacancies to fill, President Roosevelt had a chance to widen this breach by naming left wingers.

What forecasters overlooked was the always-present possibility of concession, both by Garner, Farley, Hull, et al, and the White House. Result: President Roosevelt has named Harry Hopkins to the commerce secretaryship and former Gov. Frank Murphy of Michigan to the attorney generalship, at the

same time retaining party leadership.

Roosevelt strategy: Until just before congress opened, the White House reserved comment on what every legislator knew was a certainty, namely, drastic revision of such New Deal brainchildren as social security, the Wagner act, relief administration and neutrality legislation. The President also knew such revision was a certainty, but the trump card was held back. Then, with the Hopkins and Murphy appointments apparently due for congressional opposition, the White House was able to soothe ruffled nerves by promising he would do no more bill drafting. Consequently both appointments are being approved, though Hopkins must appear before a committee investigating relief irregularities, and Murphy before the senate judiciary committee to explain his attitude toward sit-down strikes.

What cannot be avoided, however, is the feeling that White House concessions outweigh those of Mr. Garner and other rebels. Having committed himself to a political back seat while congress is in session, Mr. Roosevelt must find some way to recapture the driver's seat or risk political oblivion by convention time next year.

Defense

During the World war German "U" boats made naval history by approaching U. S. Atlantic coast cities. Last September German submarines were still a menace, helping to force blockade-wary Britishers into the embarrassing peace of Munich. In January, German submarines again made headlines because Berlin announces her determination to equal Great Britain's strength in submarine tonnage.

Under the Anglo-German naval pact of 1935, Germany has this right under emergency, but London fails to understand what emergency faces the Reich today. Now built, under construction or appropriated for are 71 German submarines; smaller than average, their tonnage is only 31,262. Britain, with 73 submarines weighing 75,904 tons, finds many of her heavy underwater craft obsolete. Not only is London frightened by Germany's numerical superiority if the Reich builds up to parity, but also because Germany intends to build several large ocean-going submarines of 1,000 tons or more.

This program has tremendous significance on the international picture. It can only stimulate the world arms race, since England must now build more ships capable of conveying her ocean steamers. In France, where the Anglo-German naval agreement has always been unpopular (because, claims Paris, London should never have recognized Germany's right to any naval strength), the Reich's new submarine parity has produced genuine alarm. Italy, always a big "U" boat builder, reflects that the combined German-Italian submarine fleets can now patrol the seven seas.

Convinced that a new diplomatic onslaught is behind Germany's move, certain British circles are capitalizing on their troubles to win U. S. military support. Their story: That Germany's 1,000 ton submarines are being built to cross the Atlantic, in retaliation for the cool reception Hitler tactics have been receiving in official Washington. If this danger—real or false—can be impressed on U. S. congressmen, Great Britain hopes it will result in a larger American navy.

Science

Outstanding among 1938's news stories was the growth and flourish of dictators. To casual investigators, this is a new and revolutionary phenomenon, but historians recall that regimentation is centuries old. By year's end, dictators had been placed on the defensive at least in the minds of democratic nationalists in the U. S., Britain and France. And although 1939 may see more growth, more flourish, science has stepped in with a prediction.

The man: Dr. John R. Swanton of Washington's Smithsonian institution.

The forecast: "In spite of the efforts of political, social or clerical groups to coerce the spirit of man, man has always been able to resist and reassert his freedom. . . . Christianity, the great revolution of the Eighteenth century and the growth of science have been man's answer to all attempts to dominate him."

Miscellany

For the first time in its history, New York's Sing Sing prison has executions every week during January. Total for the month already scheduled: 10.

U. S. correspondents returning from eighth Pan-American conference at Lima, Peru, have reported censorship, intimidation and spying unlike that ever before seen at a Pan-American assembly.

Army participation in the U. S. navy's three-month Atlantic fleet maneuvers has been cancelled because of friction, army officials claiming the exercise offers little value for its officers and men.

Religion

From its inspiration in Nazi Germany, European persecution of Jews is spreading to new fronts. The latest: Czechoslovakia. German-patterned ghetto laws will soon go into effect. Jews will be eliminated from politics, civil service, teaching, journalism and radio. A few will be allowed to continue practicing law and medicine.

Danzig. Though allowed to take their wealth with them (in contrast to German methods), Danzig Jews are fleeing in anticipation of the Free City's union with the Reich.

Liechtenstein. Containing 65 square miles, populated by 10,000 people of Germanic origin, this principality is ousting all Jews who arrived after the World war.

Transportation

Last winter's congress tagged the railroad issue "too hot to handle" and adjourned in the face of a labor crisis. Since then the crisis has been smoothed, but only on the promise to both railroads and their employees that the new congress will give better co-operation. First step in the right direction was the report of a six-man management-labor committee which asked: (1) regulation of all transportation by the interstate commerce commission; (2) creation of an independent transportation board to handle all other regulations; (3) creation of a federal transportation court; (4) repeal of the controversial long-and-short-haul clause.

As congress rolls up its sleeves once more, as observers discover the only unanimity lies in undesirability of government-owned railroads, four men make rail news either by speaking or by keeping quiet:

President Roosevelt. The administration's much-advertised 1939 legislative motto is "Let Congress Do It," which means that less White House pressure is being exerted on law makers. Though the President appointed the management-labor committee, though its report was made to him, he apparently believes broad recommendations are enough. Details of U. S. transportation reorganization are being left for joint senate-house ironing.

Sen. Burton K. Wheeler. Chairman of the senate's interstate commerce committee, Montana's Wheeler is the individualist who fought President Roosevelt's court reform bill. Definitely a nonconformist, Mr. Wheeler has promised to co-operate with the White House but he calls the management-labor report merely a "working basis." Planks in the Wheeler rail program: (1) no repeal of the long-and-short-haul clause (which prevents roads from charging a lower rate for a long haul than for a short haul over the same route, in the same direction); (2) financial cleanup of railroads, even though it necessitates drastic measures to scale down top-heavy structures; (3) no government loans to railroads at 2 per cent unless similar concession is made to other industries.

Rep. Clarence F. Lea. Far-sighted and willing to listen, California's Lea—as chairman of the house interstate commerce committee—is introducing broadly drafted railroad relief legislation on the stipulations that it must not be rushed, that it shall be reworked after lengthy



JOHN A. HASTINGS
Coast to coast for a \$5 bill.

committee hearings. The Lea idea: That competing transportation media provide a far more basic problem than the railroad issue alone.

John A. Hastings. Not seriously considered, but signifying how far afield railroad relief proposals can go, is the "plan for postalized transportation" evolved by former New York State Senator Hastings, and introduced last congress by North Dakota's Rep. William Lemke. The Hastings idea: "Application to passenger and freight services of the rate principle successfully sought and profitably employed for a hundred years in first class mail carriage. . . . The U. S. would be divided into nine railroad regions with five types of passenger service. From New York to San Francisco by coach would cost \$5. Sample fares by class from Manhattan to Chicago: coach, \$1; parlor car, \$3; local sleeper, \$5; express reserved, \$10; de luxe limited, \$15. Not entirely unsympathetic with the Hastings plan, Senator Wheeler surprised debunkers of postalization by asking the interstate commerce commission for an opinion on its feasibility.



WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON

NEW YORK. — Once, at an alley's end in Guayaquil, this reporter then young and indiscreet, became involved in an argument

with certain of the native citizenry, who insisted that North Americans ate only dog meat. Your correspondent knew only Spanish to get him into trouble, and was using it diligently to that end when Dr. Robert Entwistle, once of Philadelphia, later a student and practitioner of tropical medicine along the west coast fever ports, appeared. He calmed the excitement and saved his countryman much embarrassment and possibly a broken head. It was like magic, the way he piped everybody down. They loved and trusted him and he was their authority on everything from international relations to beri-beri.

So, today, it seemed almost like old news to read in a dispatch from Lima that it was an American doctor and not a statesman, who, possibly more than any other one man, has induced respect and good will for this country, down around and below the equator. With a number of other American doctors, Dr. John D. Long, of the United States Public Health service, has been carrying on a fight against the bubonic plague, malaria, chagres fever and other tropical curses in Ecuador, Brazil, Peru, Chile and other countries. He holds decorations from half a dozen South American countries. He and his colleagues have served only in response to specific requests for their services, and the sum of their efforts has been to allay ill will, dispel prejudice and misunderstanding and promote friendly relations.

Doctor Long, 64 years old, quiet, precise, unassuming is a typical American professional man, whose home town was Mt. Pleasant, Pa. After his graduation from the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania, he entered the national public health service, became its assistant surgeon, and, assigned to the Philippines, won eminence in his profession in his work in sanitation and in fighting disease. In 1926, he was loaned to the Chilean government for a similar encounter there.

In his writer's observation of South American countries, particularized instances of civilized behavior, fair dealing and regard for native traditions and amenities, once the fear of predatory designs had been overcome, were effective where all else failed, including our most eloquent offerings of official friendship.

THE New York aquarium gets three African fish which have high foreheads and bigger brains in proportion to their size than any other creatures.

Plan I. Q. Rating below the Rare Fish With Out-Size Brain makes them skittish and doesn't seem to get them anything, although they manage to keep out of aquaria and frying pans. These are the first ever brought to this country.

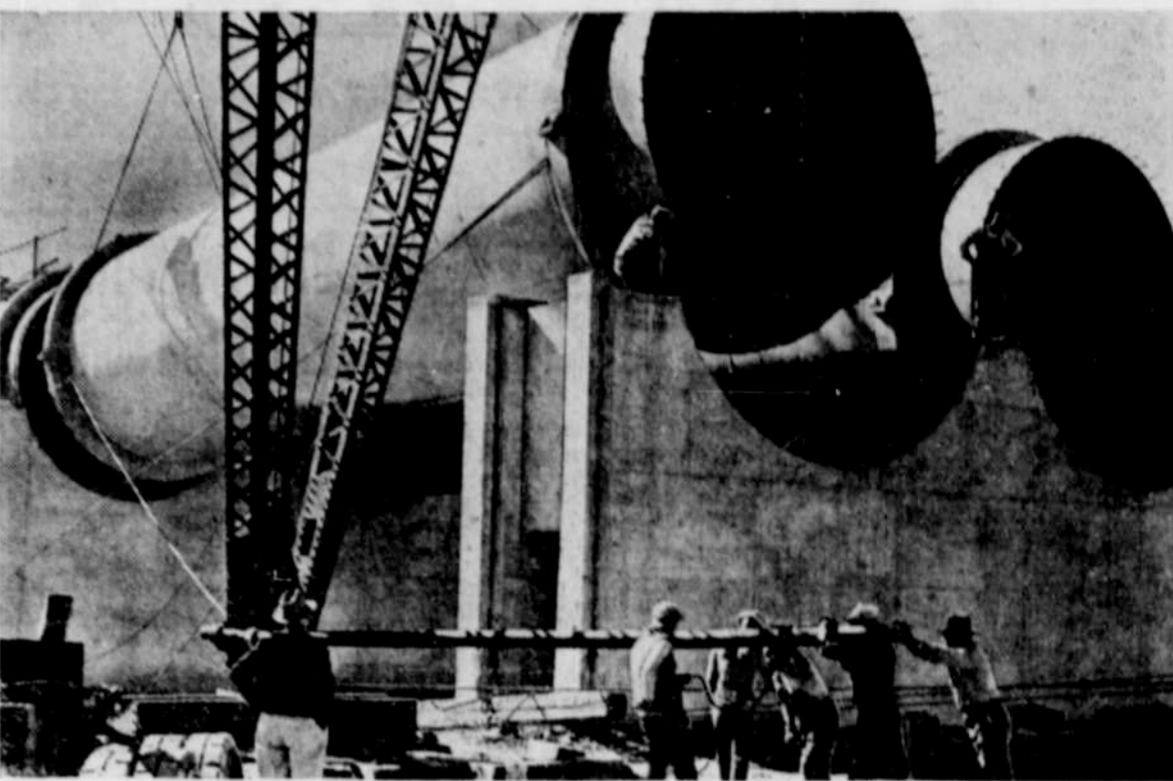
Dr. Charles M. Breder Jr. plans to go to Africa as soon as possible to check up on their I. Q. The ancient Egyptians revered and protected them, in the belief that their huge brain cavities were inhabited by the souls of departed men. Doctor Breder thinks a study of their intelligence, if any, in relation to their out-size brain, might be enlightening.

Doctor Breder was a boy ichthyologist at Newark, where the family was apt to find the bathtub full of killies and sticklebacks. In his examination for a biologist's job in the fisheries bureau, he confounded his elders and beat out Ph. D. entrants in the competition. He was assistant director of the Aquarium for 14 years and became director a year ago.

Doctor Breder is said to rank all other scientists. He is 40 years old, a fragile, clerical-looking man, with blue eyes and yellow hair. But his appearance is deceptive. On the Richard Oglesby Marsh expedition, to the Chucunaque river country in southern Panama, in 1924, in which Dr. J. L. Baer of the Smithsonian institution lost his life, Doctor Breder came through swimmingly, with no chagres fever or beri-beri and a brand new fish. Its name, Rivulus Chucunaque Breder, is in 8-pt. body type, five-sixteenths of an inch longer than the fish.

Consolidated News Features, WNU Service.

Huge Siphon to Help Irrigate California Valleys



Easy does it as cranes lower into place a 42-ton section of the siphon which carries All American canal water across New river, 1 1/2 miles west of Calexico, Calif. The bureau of reclamation, which is constructing the canal for the irrigation of the fertile Imperial and Coachella valleys of southern California, is building this siphon—one of the principal engineering feats of the 80-mile route.

Stare 'Em Down, Says Veteran Umpire



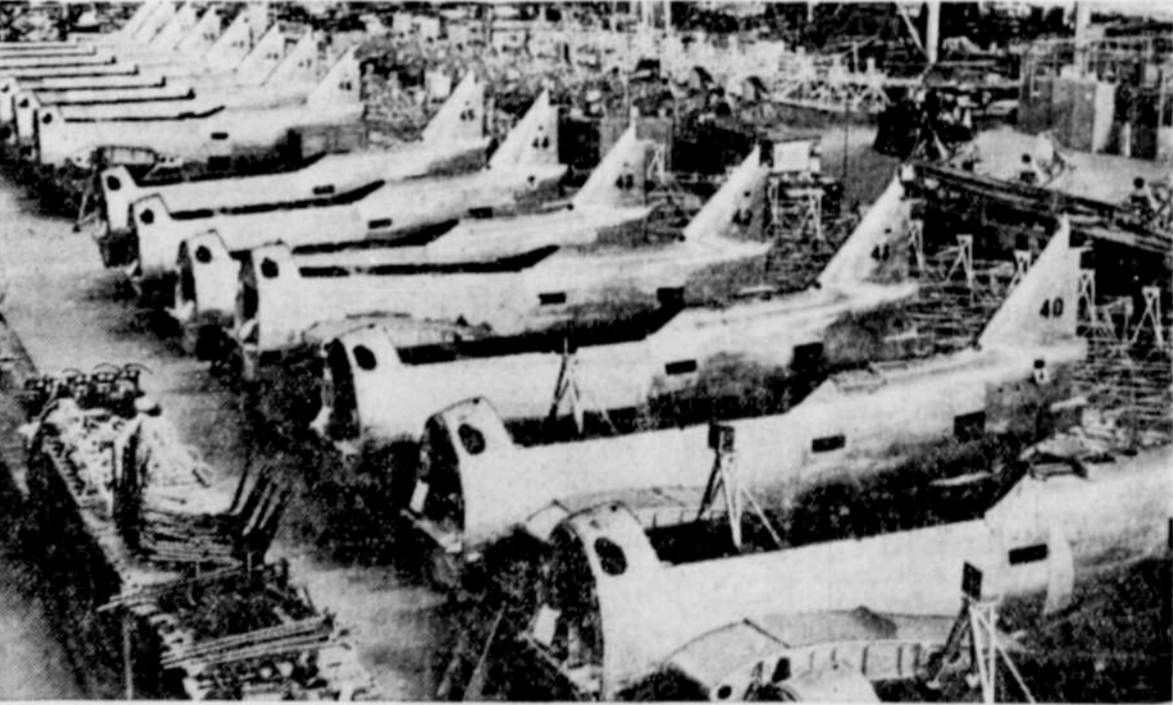
This extremely important never-darken-my-door-again pose is something that every umpire must master, so that he can toss players out of the game. Brons Howard (right) is learning how from Umpire Bill McGowan, ace of the American league staff, who conducts a regular school for would-be umpires.

MEDICINE MAN



Quinter Bashore, Covina, Calif., inventor, installed 128 therapeutic lamps to protect his lemon grove during recent frosty nights. The lamps, used by physicians, prevented his fruit from freezing.

Aviation Industry Spurred by College Training



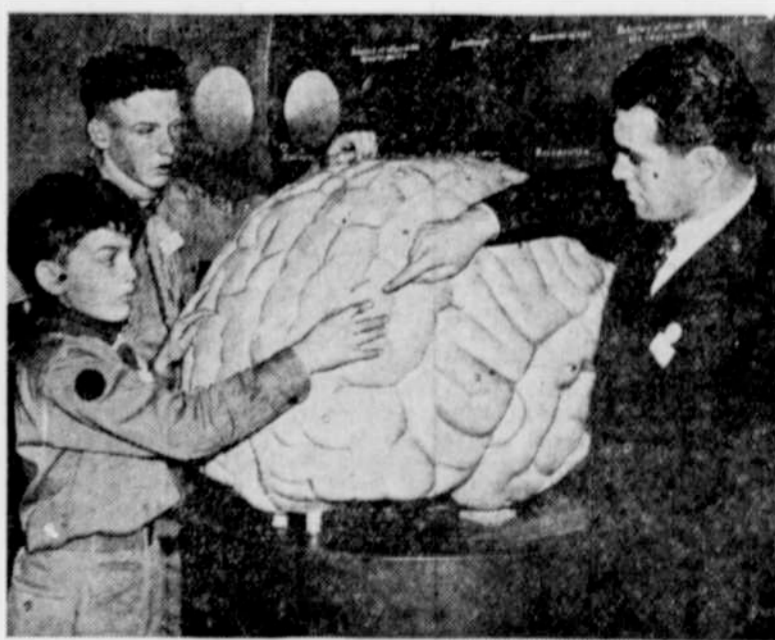
The announcement by President Roosevelt recently of the completion of plans for the training of 20,000 college students annually as civilian pilots, with a consequent increase in the nation's air force, has proved exciting to aircraft manufacturers. Above is a view inside the North American Aviation, Inc., plant near Inglewood, Calif. The basic combat and 0-47 observation assembly lines are seen, with 0-47 wings visible in the foreground.

SKATING QUEEN



Kit Klein, champion figure skater, tries a loosening-up exercise on this plane in Miami, Fla., where she is appearing in an ice show. This miss is one of the nation's best known skaters, though her costume would not indicate ice skating weather.

Scientist Explains Functions of Brain



The size of this brain is not supposed to indicate how some people feel the morning after. It's merely an oversized New York model being explained to two Boy Scouts by Joseph Bracco of the New York Museum of Scientific Industry.