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Dear Ones,

You no doubt recall that one day at the depot I commented on my first impressions of Judd's little speech as published by TIME on the subject of China. Well last night after work I went over to the hospital to spend the evening with the CO, a Captain Cohen, from Peoria, Illinois; he is a pleasant chap, down to earth, no fuss and frills and not very spectacular - just my idea of the kind of a doctor I would have confidence in; physically he is small, balding, and wears a moustache. He showed me around the grounds and then we ate; there is a congenial group at the hospital and I know most of them at least by name. One doctor, named Todd, is from Bangor or Bar Harbor. Anyway, early in the evening it started to rain so we did not go to the movie; the Doc decided to write some letters and I settled down with some magazines - I am finally getting around to what I started to tell you; I found the Sat Eve Post for May the 12th and its lead article by Edgar Snow called "Must China Go Red." It struck me as an answer to Judd so I took the magazine home with me and went over the two together. I imagine that you have both magazines at home and I am sure that this has occurred to you.

The Judd article appeared about a month after Snow's. First of all, Judd tries to discount the reports of casual visitors to China - Edgar Snow knows Asia backward and forward, he is not a reporter "who does not want to be sent on the assignment and does not like it." He is not a casual observer; he is not reluctant. And certainly he is not a communist and the Sat Eve Post does not cling to the Party Line. All right, then, let us proceed on that basis rather than on Judd's since Judd's would make it seem that only he is a fair judge of the situation. The differences are so sharp between the two criticisms that it is almost difficult to believe that they are writing about the same nation. Judd says that Chiang has "the confidence of an overwhelming majority of the Chinese people." Snow points out that Chiang's party is in dread fear of the Communists for it "fears that they would any mass election" and he feels that their fears are justified. Judd claims that we are asking the "ridiculous" of China in asking her to extend her democracy when she is in the midst of a war superimposed upon a revolution. Yet Snow points out that that is not at all the reason for the current dispute - no one is asking for Chinese democracy overnight; we are asking for an effective and united fighting force with which to help defeat Japan. Next Judd claims that Chiang's main effort has been to hold the line against the Japs - but Snow marshalls point after point of proof that the primary consideration of the Koumintang is to hold the line against and crush if possible the armies of Yen-an. "The anti-Communist group in Chungking was not fighting quite the same war we were."

Judd then drags in a red herring about imperialist propaganda against the Chungking regime for he knows, as well as the rest of the world does, that the complaint is the misuse of Allied aid to China in using it against the Chinese Communists instead of the Japs. Snow points out that this is part of the picture which led to the unfavorable reactions of both Stilwell and Hurley. And Snow points out that we have yielded up our extraterritorial rights in China so that the old days of exploitation are gone. I cannot feel that Judd is at all justified in building that phase of his persecution complex.

I have already commented on Judd's remark about being Communist first and Chinese second. This is in sharp disagreement with Snow's analysis of the current role of the Communist Party; Snow points out as I have tried to that "Communists will not wipe out nationalism overnight." He adds that the connection with Russia is extremely tenuous, although it is obvious that with communism in common there is a field of common interest that cannot be ignored. Finally I do not feel that Snow is falling for any hoax when he writes of the Communist party; I do not feel that Ralf Sies and the others whose works on China I have read or read about were all taken in by a "gigantic fraud." The very tone in which it is written gives the Snow report more validity; it is calm and well written - it does not go off Judd's deep end. It seems to me that Judd is playing the most dangerous and destructive game in the world - using the communist bogey to cover all his arguments and to try to win his points by creating fear of the communists in any shape, way, or form.

There is nothing in Judd's spotty review that is convincing enough to argue with Snow's analysis of the current role of Red China, its agrarian policy, its nationalism, its current position in the war in relation to the Japanese enemy and to the Koumintang. All the way through Snow effectively answers the claims of Judd; he reveals the Chungking aim of winning the war without using the Red Armies and points out that this was the major reason for the Stilwell break - Judd gives the wrong impression; the fact of the case is that the burden for making the opening for cooperation does lie with the government, not with the Reds. Every indication is that the Chungking government has refused legality to the Chinese Communist Party even on the basis of the Red forces' being assimilated into the Chinese national army under Chiang's or American leadership. Judd says that Chiang will accept the Communists if the army is dissolved, yet that very army is needed to defeat the Japanese; it is clear that Chiang will not yield to any degree which will allow the Communists as a political organization to threaten the authoritarian rule of the Koumintang during or after the war. It is Judd, not the communists, who is trying to sell us a gold brick. As for the question of how much actual fighting the Reds are doing: it is well known that they are primarily a guerrilla force - if aid to China is so minute and none of it reaches the Reds, how can Judd expect major engagements from the 'enan troops?

Finally we come to the last phase of both discussions, namely the result which the current dispute is having in the war and in China's relationship with the outside world. Judd's argument that the Communist split is Japan's "secret weapon" is entirely fallacious since it is based on the notion that the split is the fault of the Communists and that is far from proved - in fact it is just about disproved. Judd doesn't mention as Snow does the presence of an Oriental Fascist group high in the Chungking circles ~~as Snow does~~; that cannot be palmed off as just one of the "diseases of defeat." And lastly Snow points out the hollowness of the current gestures by Chungking toward a democratic government.

What then are the conclusions? Judd want to cut out "irresponsible, unbalanced criticism" and I am all for that. And I am sure Snow agrees. But from the very nature of the arguments Snow's conclusion is more direct and realistic - he points out the need of forcing China to resolve her difficulties to present a united war front; he is not suggesting that we impose our own solution on China. It is obvious that between the two I am all for Snow until I can find a rallying of conclusive argument to Judd's point of view. You know my opinions on the current world problems well enough so that I don't have to elaborate on them to any great length, other than to say that I feel that the Chinese crisis can and will be solved - it is a cause for concern but not for alarm.

Last night was quite a night. We started a poker game but after a few minutes I was called to the phone (it was about nine o'clock) and told that we had to move some vehicles to the dock. Major Thorpe and I routed the men out of their area and we headed for the depot - eight of us in the jeep! Of course it was pitch dark and it took time to get the tow chains ready and to get enough of the vehicles going so that we could haul those that did not run. We worked out a system and we had half of them down to the pier by midnight. Then started the second trip - by this time we were a little pepped up by the cool night air and none of us minded too much. The second trip was organized and I headed off in a vehicle. About half way there my right rear wheel begin to wobble and since I had started with a half flat I pulled over. The tire still had air in it but was hot as hell; I decided to wait for the rest to come up. After a few moments I looked at the tire again - I don't know how much time had passed; you know how it is when you are alone on a dark night with complete stillness all around - you lose the sense of time very quickly - as I looked at the tire I noted that all the air had gone out. Suddenly there was a flicker of flame. No fire extinguisher in the truck! I decided that the tire was already lost - I didn't see any point in allowing the truck to burn up. So I drove the vehicle into the sandy ditch to put out the fire. Of course the rubber was cut to shreds, but the fire was out. I started waiting again. Some Navy boys