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A Friendly Japanese

THE above title will be perhaps taken in an ironical sense, but we are not cynical about the situation, for we know there are Japanese who hate the war of aggression just as much as we do. Some time ago it was reported that the Japanese seamen were planning to strike in protest against the senseless invasion of China. Unfortunately the plan did not materialize as it was discovered and the leaders arrested by the Japanese police. It was also reported in the vernacular press that of the Japanese who had not been repatriated from Hongkong, over 200 of them headed by the president of the Japanese Residents Corporation signed a petition to their government requesting it to stop the hostilities. These Japanese may be truly friendly to us. But there is at least one Japanese who is a friend to the Chinese in a more concrete sense. A number of Chinese were trapped by the hostilities in Jen Shou Li, Muirhead Road, for over a month, then on September 19, the owner of a Japanese provision store near the terrace looked them up and advised them to leave the place. He was in uniform and made out a pass to the whole group of 37 persons, advising them also of the time to start and the route to follow. On the following morning he came to see them off and there they had a touching scene of parting. This Japanese officer from the reserve force told his Chinese friends that his son was killed in action at the Lotien front; he questioned, too, why their friendship should end in such a way, perhaps never to see each other again. As we have not hesitated to expose the Japanese atrocities, we in order to be fair to them hasten to publicize such an act of mercy from this Japanese officer. We have deepest sympathy for the Japanese friends of the Chinese and we want to know, too, why people of the two countries should not be allowed to continue their friendship.

Communist Menace Removed

AT long last definite official assurances have been given to the public that the Chinese Communist Party is no longer a menace to the Chinese republic. The first sign was the appeal issued by that party to the plenary session of the Kuomintang Central Executive Committee. The second step in the progress achieved between the Kuomintang and the communists was the reorganization of the red army by the national government into the 8th Route Army of the central government troops, which was consummated when General Chu Teh and General Peng Teh-huai accepted the appointments as the commander and deputy commander of the newly reorganized army. The latest assurance came from the manifesto issued by the Central Executive Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. It stressed the ideological changes as well practical administrative changes. Of the former it was emphasized: "Realising that Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Three People's Principles are indispensable to the reconstruction of China, the Chinese Communist Party now pledges to exert its utmost for the complete realization of these principles. The Chinese Communist Party has decided to abandon all measures aimed at the overthrow of the Kuomintang Government by force, propagation of Communist doctrines and policy of forcible expropriation of land." Acting on these principles, the Chinese Communist Party abolished its government of the Soviet Republic of China, reorganized its red army into the 8th Route Army, and placed it under the command of the Military Affairs Commission. The manifesto also informed the public that the newly reorganized 8th Route Army is now fighting the Japanese invaders in Shansi. By way of comment we may quote General Chiang Kai-shek, on the subject, for he accurately expressed the sentiment of the Chinese people when he declared: "The allegiance now openly avowed by the Communists to the cause of the Three People's Principles has happily closed the last gap in our national armor. . . . The consolidation of internal solidarity further enables us to marshal all our national resources to combat external aggression in the spirit of self-reliance."