

# CANTON TELLS THE WORLD

By MANUEL GOMEZ

**W**ORDS no less than men are creatures of history. That explains why one man's utterance will now and then seem to have come out of the throats of millions. Scarcely is such a word or phrase uttered, when it fills the world with its importance.

How else shall we account for the unmistakable magic of two short paragraphs in the interview which the youthful Cantonese commander, General Chang Kai Shek, gave out on November 22nd thru the Associated Press? Those two paragraphs have already been repeated from one end of the world to the other. Everywhere great masses of people have been thrilled by them.

The interview as a whole was of great significance, for it was a blunt exposition of the concrete measures which the allied national revolutionary forces of south and northwest China propose to take, for the unification of China and the rooting out of imperialist strongholds. But the paragraphs referred to above do not confine themselves to the Chinese situation.

Listen! It is the Chinese revolution speaking:

"This revolution purposes the downfall of imperialism, not as it is confined to China alone, but our opposition to it must spread to other countries under imperialist yoke."

It is not strange that the whole world should feel the impact of those words. A waiting and responsive audience has been created for them by the same historic forces that gave them utterance.

The Chinese revolution proclaims itself a part of the universal revolution.

No one is surprised—for history has been moving forward rapidly, particularly in China. Yet we must realize that we are in the presence of something new.

Dr. Sun Yat Sen set the feet of the Chinese revolution upon this path before he died. He saw beyond the borders of his native land, and recognized the importance, for China, of the revolutionary working-class movement as embodied in the Communist International and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics. More and more it became plain to him that the Communists were enemies of imperialism, against which he too was obliged to struggle. His last will and testament, which is read to this day at every Kuomintang meeting, counsels the party to remain faithful to the alliance with Soviet Russia.

Nevertheless, Dr. Sun tended to see the alliance as an isolated thing—something between China and Soviet Russia, or between China and the Communist International. He glimpsed but did not suffi-



ently grasp the fact that other colonial and semi-colonial peoples were also engaged in struggle against world imperialism. Sympathizing wholeheartedly with these peoples in their struggles, he still failed to give a clear lead which would convert them into conscious allies.

Chang Kai Shek's public statement makes Canton, together with Moscow, a leading center in the worldwide movement for the emancipation of all the oppressed.

The transformation of the Kuomintang from a narrowly nationalist party to what it now represents is a great story in itself, one which is too little known, but which cannot be gone into here. The party has taken a greater and greater interest in the struggles of other victims of imperialist oppression. More than a year ago it issued the call for the formation of an International Association of Oppressed Peoples, and at the present time it is

one of the prime movers in the World Congress Against Imperialism which is to take place at Brussels, Belgium, beginning January 2, 1927. Chang Kai Shek's statement is a re-affirmation of the same general policy. It becomes a public policy of the Canton government, boldly stated before the world by an outstanding government representative.

There is nothing new in the idea that colonies and semi-colonies cannot be kept forever under the heel of imperialism. But General Chang's statement is predicated upon the assumption of world upheaval. One must understand it in the light of a whole series of contemporary happenings—in Morocco, in Egypt, in Syria, in Arabia, in Turkey, and in India. It is put forward not theoretically but militantly, as an expression of the will to struggle. A leading member of a national-revolutionary government is speaking, a generalissimo with an army at his back!

Definite strategic possibilities therefore present themselves, appealing to millions who have been held in subjection and pointing the way to emancipation for many small peoples who have sometimes looked upon their cause as hopeless.

Lenin's mighty slogan: "Workers and subject peoples unite!" comes again forcibly to mind when reading the words of General Chang.

China is a country of 440,000,000 people, making up one-fourth of the human race. A strong and unified China, freed of the shackles of imperialism—that is something that every imperialist power dreads and every enemy of imperialism must hope for.

If the policy expressed by Chang is maintained, General Chang's interview will have the effect of enormously increasing the influence of the Chinese revolution upon all colonial and semi-colonial peoples. The great movement which has sprung up in the Near East, particularly as exemplified by the Arab peoples, will draw closer. But the most decisive effect will be upon those subject nations that are contiguous to or nearby the territory of China—such nations as Korea, French Indo-China, Burma, India, the Dutch East Indies and the Philippines.

In all these countries support for the Chinese revolution will develop by leaps and bounds. And in all of them nationalist leaders will spring up who will begin seriously to study alliances which may help them win their way to freedom.

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(The second and concluding part of this article will deal with China and the Philippine Islands, treating the movement for Filipino independence in the light of Chang Kai Shek's interview. It will appear in next week's magazine section of The DAILY WORKER.)