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WAR vs PEACE FACTIONS AND MILITARY RIVALRY
WORRY MAO TSE-TUNG

Inquiry among persons who have come from "liberated areas" reveals that within the Chinese Communist Party there are two factions, one for war and one for peace, each with a measure of strength. Between them there is fierce conflict.

It is said that in the central plains the war faction is led by Ch'en I and Liu Po-ch'ang. Their soldiers have gained experience during 3 years of persistent fighting. Several victories last year in Shantung and Honan have greatly pleased Ch'en and Liu, who think that they have ever-victorious armies; so they are arrogant and despise the government troops south of the Ch'ang Chiang (Yangtze). It is reported that the one-eyed dragon, Liu Po-ch'ang, publicly said to his subordinates, "Peace or no peace, we are going to fight across the river." Between Ch'en and Liu there is fierce antagonism and mutual recrimination. They scatter leaflets and slogans, each accusing the other of being nonrevolutionary, of having poor military discipline. People in Communist areas have often noticed this.

But on the question of "war," they are of one mind. They are obsessed with military strength, believing that it can at once settle the affairs of the nation. Here is a hidden obstacle to peace; for though the inner councils of the CCP want peace, it is quite a question whether these military leaders will follow orders; and how much more this is the case with their troops right on the river bank.

It is said that Lin Piao also is a war advocate. The Hsin-hua radio in Fei-p'ing once quoted Lin Piao as saying, "Peace does not count the Ch'ang Chiang as a boundary."

These three are the chief men in the war faction; but there are also the army column leaders who are very eager for war. Every time they brief their subordinates they speak of fighting south of the river.

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According to popular conversation in Communist areas, the Yen-nan faction in the CCP are older men who participated in the "Long March." The large majority of these men advocate peace. They have spent 20 years in struggle; they are tired in body and mind. Out of the experience of these years of warfare they well know that neither the CCP nor the KMT can thoroughly destroy the other by military might, and that an early peace is better than continuous warfare. It is said that Chou En-lai and others feel this way.

Again, the middle and lower ranks in the CCP mostly favor peace. They have personally experienced the sufferings of war, and they know that war is hopeless. Now they enter fairly decent cities where they experience the natural craving for security of life and a few physical enjoyments. Especially after entering Pei-p'ing, T'ien-ching, and Chi-nan did the material civilization of these big cities dazzle these Communist rustics! They did not want to fight; they just gazed over the things before their eyes which were now theirs.

These two factions are quite opposed to each other. Mao Tse-tung is worried that unless they cease to fight his party will deteriorate. And if they fight, the future is very uncertain. When will there be an end? Moreover there are many changes in the international situation. Is it good for the Communist Party for fighting to continue? That is a big question.

The international faction which centers around Li Li-san hopes that the CCP within the Great Wall will keep on fighting south of the river. If it keeps on fighting down there, the Communist troops in the Northeast will have to be sent south of the Great Wall, in which case, the international faction can completely control the nine provinces of the Northeast.

Again, after the Communists seized several of the large cities, they were at a loss as to how to deal with the economy. Inflation, runaway prices, scarcity of commodities, all these problems gave them many a headache, and made them think of possible ways to peace.

The majority of people under Communist control hope for a return of Nationalist armies, but this hope has now largely become a mirage. Now they yield a little and hope for an equitable peace, one that will allow them life with a little freedom.

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