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# The Reporter

A PORTNIGHTLY OF FACTS AND IDEAS

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*Sub  
misc comments*

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Dear Allen:

I am just back from Washington, and was reminded first thing of our talk by a young student of Chinese affairs who came into the office to talk about the Committee for Free Asia. Since you expressed some interest in being posted on such reactions, I thought I might just set him down, and also quote from a letter I had from George Kerr.

The name of the young chap who came in is Robert K. Woetzel, a nephew of Leighton Stuart, who has just finished up his work at Columbia, where he specialized in Far Eastern affairs. He is now off to Europe on some international fellowship at The Hague, and will be lecturing in various European countries on Far Eastern affairs for the next few months.

He was apparently just recently approached by somebody in the Committee for Free Europe, with a view to recruiting him for the Committee for Free Asia. Woetzel enquired whether Henry Luce had an interest in the organization, and was told that he had. Later in the conversation he was also told, however, that the organization had the blessing and sponsorship of the State Department. Woetzel was somewhat confused by this, and was quite frank to say how damaging he thought it would be to U.S. interests if Henry Luce were able to bring any influence to bear on the C.F.A. to make it an instrument of further political support of and commitment to the Chiang Kai-shek leadership.

On looking over Kerr's letter again, I see that he seems to be reflecting the opinion of a group of people at the Hoover Library at Stanford, and for that reason you may be interested in the entire passage, so here it is:

"The enclosed clipping will suggest to you the range of Committee sponsorship. A long letter from Greene, the president, last week outlined the program in detail. Luncheon and a long talk with him (and his archivist or research aide) here at the Hoover Institute proved not very illuminating. Either the management is extraordinarily naive, or they assume us to be so. The line will be almost unmodified extension of the Voice of America or U.S.I.S. propaganda. "Tell the Asians how wonderful life is in America, how good our institutions are, and how very very wicked and dangerous the Communists are." There is heavy emphasis on the latter approach, with little ready response to our questions concerning

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Mr. Allen Dulles

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positive content. It was freely admitted that China is the primary concern. Chiang is to be neither praised nor condemned. "Counterpart Committees" will be set up overseas, operating under guarantees that the local government will not influence nor affect the content of propaganda. It was asserted that such a condition was expected to obtain in Formosa, which is to be a principal base of operations.

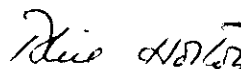
"It has been pointed out to the representatives of the Committee that (1) most Asians are tired of hearing how good we are, and the history of our representative institutions has little bearing on their problems, for the conditions surrounding their evolution cannot be duplicated in Asia; (2) most non-Chinese Asians fear a strong China, whatever its political orientation, and will hardly respond with enthusiasm to a rally in support of "anti-Communist government" for China, especially if it means support for the Nationalists; (3) Formosa cited as an example of "Free Asia" would be damaging nonsense.

"Those of us who talked with Greene have a troubled sense that the Administration may have decided to switch to all-out support for the Nationalists, hopefully trusting that Chiang may be thrust aside, and that the Committee not only has the State Department's blessing in this attempt to sweeten the picture, but is most actively setting it up. Each of us asks the other if at any point the Lobby may be putting up funds. Odd to conceive, but not impossible in Washington.

"Actually, if the thing were worked out on a realistic appraisal of the American position in Asian eyes, it could do an enormously important job, unhampered by red tape."

It was very pleasant to get in a short talk with you, and I appreciate the suggestions you made. I'll make a point of calling Arthur Dean sometime next week, and will take the liberty of using your name by way of introduction.

Sincerely



Philip Horton  
Assistant Editor

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