

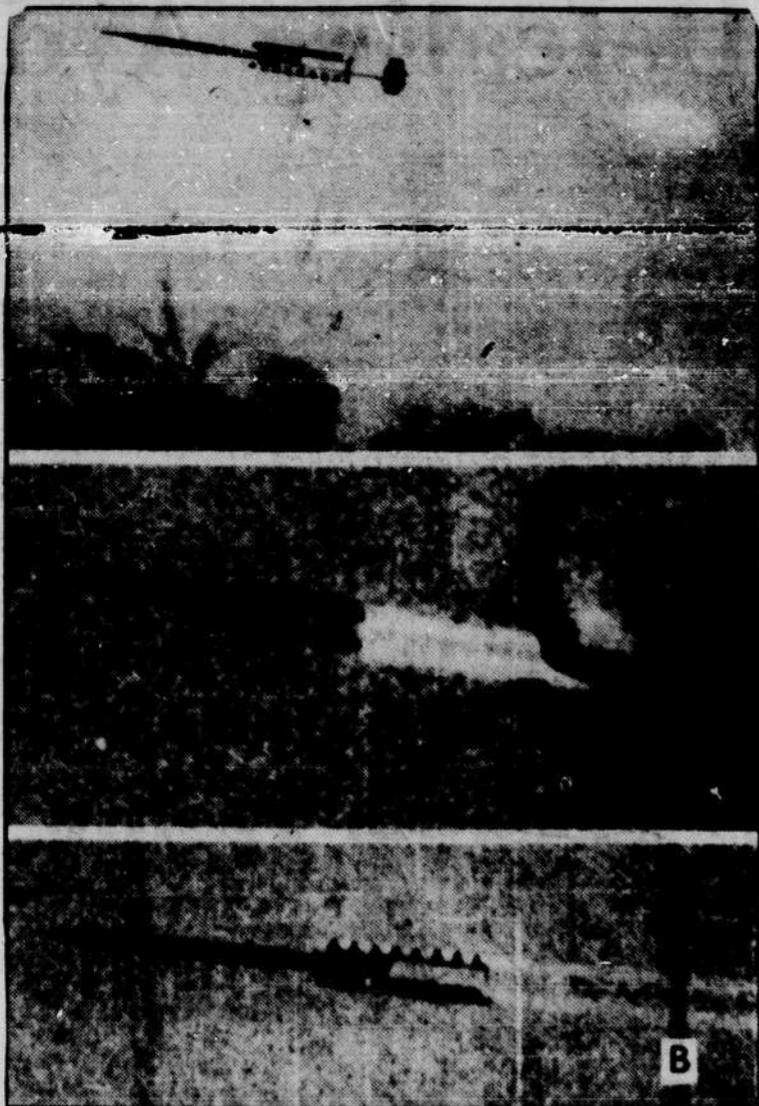
Liberation Of The Common Man Is Overdue In Asia

Bogged Down In Poverty The Asiatics Are Easily Misguided

By Garland Evans Hopkins
New York (PNS)—What is in the mind of Asian leaders who refuse to take sides with either West or East? Since they blow neither hot nor cold, the Westerner is often tempted to consider them pawns of the Soviet. Americans particularly are apt to assume that any country that is not outspokenly "for us" is necessarily "against us." That is certainly not the case. Asian leaders as a group are much more sympathetic to the West than to the East, if for no other reason, because they realize that their personal self-interest would not be served should the Communists gain control in their countries.

The inscrutability of the Asian mind is a treasured fiction which the Western world has great difficulty in shaking off. Its sole basis in fact lies in the inability of

Supersonic Ramjet Is Revealed



THREE PHASES in the flight of the Ramjet, a rocket-assisted, jet-engine wingless weapon being developed by the British with an eye to its employment against attacking bombers. Top: The Ramjet just after being launched from its twin-railed ramp. A pair of rocket motors are giving it added acceleration. Centre: As the Ramjet passes the speed of sound its rocket booster motors fall away. Bottom: The Ramjet's two jet engines are now working efficiently and it continues through the air at supersonic speed.

our complex Western mentality to accommodate itself to the straight-forward, simple thinking of the East. To Asian leaders, for example, nothing seems plainer than the fact that since the idea of a world organization for collective security was originally based on the presumption that the great powers would avoid wars with each other, the United Nations can function successfully only if the great powers find a peaceful way to settle their quarrels.

Admittedly, the present extent of the differences between Russia and the United States and the differing circumstances which prevail in different parts of the world preclude the possibility of simultaneously settling all the tensions that exist. But the Asians believe that a start has to be made somewhere if the total problem is ever to be solved. The present crises in Korea, North Africa and the Middle East make it imperative that the start be made in Asia.

The underlying factor in the present situation in Asia is the long overdue social and economic liberation of the common man. For decades now a revolution has been in the making, originally inspired by representatives of the democracies. Disillusioned by the

failure of the West to assist them in their struggle, the common people looked elsewhere for a savior. That gave Japan its chance. The shibboleths of "Asia for Asians" and "Asian co-prosperity sphere" held out promises which were eagerly grasped at by the common people. The leaders had to follow along or be discarded.

Once again a great power is spreading false and dazzling promises among the Asian people. Once again the people are seizing on these promises and are identifying their hopes with the new shibboleths of "people's republics" and "liberation." Objective observers can see that what is happening is a repetition of old errors. Certainly the future under Communist domination can be only further enslavement. But the important fact is that the Asian people are not able to look at Russia objectively. They see only their own present sorry lot in life and ask, What have we to lose? They identify their own hopes and aspirations with those promises. Without knowing the significance of the word they term their revolution communist and call themselves "communists."

Again the leaders of Asia are swept along by forces they cannot control. They fear terribly, but are impotent to stem, the rising tide of revolution. The leaders, for example, of the Arab-Asian bloc of the United Nations certainly are not Communists. One of them estimated that in the conflict between East and West, 90 percent of the present Asian representatives at the U. N. favor the West. But they are caught in an awful dilemma. The nationalistic aspirations of their people must find an outlet and a forum at the U. N. Almost always the Russians, recognizing the propaganda value of such a move, support the resolutions offered. The U. S., tied to its western European allies, frequently feels obliged to oppose the Asian proposals. Hence, without any other possible course, Asian diplomacy finds itself allied with the Soviet against the West.

Whatever the merits of the reasoning which underlies the proposals brought to the U. N. by Asian nations, it is poor strategy for the nations of the West to handle those resolutions in such a way as further to alienate the members of this bloc. Admittedly, Asian efforts to find a solution for Korea have been poorly conceived and haltingly executed and have demonstrated some political immaturity. But the fact

Where The Money Goes In Columbia

In the South American country of Columbia, one-fourth of the national budget goes for the maintenance of law and order. Probably about 6,000 people in that country have lost their lives in the past year because the country has been unable to keep order.

The current troubles apparently had their beginning in the 1946 election. While the Liberal party polled about 60% of the vote, a Conservative was elected President because there were two Liberal candidates.

In 1948 one of the Liberal leaders was assassinated. Mobs ran wild, burning and looting in a number of cities in the country. It is not known whether the disorder was spontaneous or whether it was Communist-inspired. The assassin was lynched on the spot and, consequently, responsibility for his act is not known.

In 1949 the Liberal refused to vote because they said that the strong-arm tactics of the Government made an honest election impossible. Since that time, bands of bandits or guerrillas have been roaming the mountains and fighting with the police and military patrols wherever they find them. Within the last month, a mob burned two of the leading newspapers and the homes of two of the leading Liberal politicians. The violence in Columbia appears to be a struggle between two strong parties, the Conservatives, who are in power, and the Liberals, who are not. There appears to be little real difference in the political philosophy of the two parties.

In many of the countries of South America there has been a pattern of discontented masses rallying behind a leader who promised them "better times." That was the case in Argentina, Bolivia and Chile. Apparently, this is not the case in Columbia, where a person is either born a Liberal or born a Conservative. While there is little difference in the political beliefs of the two parties, there seems little hope of a compromise solution to the continuing disorders that are so costly in lives and property.

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