



Spencer Digby photograph

Above: DR. R. G. HAMPTON, who has returned after a year in Poland. Right: Poster, carried in a Government procession in Warsaw, accusing the opposition paper, "Gazeta Ludowa," of rumour-mongering

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and basements. I don't remember meeting anybody who did not go to church, or who told me that he didn't."

"What about political liberty then? Are there Opposition parties?"

"That is a difficult question to answer. All political questions about Poland are difficult to answer since we can never be sure that we have been told the full story. But there is certainly an Opposition in Poland, and in Warsaw at least an Opposition paper. I have seen the Opposition selling its paper to the members of a Government procession as they passed along the streets. In addition you see the Opposition paper in Government offices. Government officials buy it precisely as they buy Opposition papers here—buy it openly, read it openly, and leave it lying on their office tables. As I don't read Polish I don't know how far Opposition papers would go in criticism—I am sure there is a limit; but they print cartoons against the Government and in the music halls you hear jokes against the ruling powers precisely as you would in our own vaudeville."

"You said in your broadcast that a Pole who has not worked against the Government would be quite free to return."

"Yes. I saw hundreds returning, and as far as I could discover they were not victimised. They were certainly scrutinised closely and checked over when they arrived. I think every man had his finger-prints taken, for example, and that he had to answer questions by the police. I have no doubt, too, that if he turned out to be a wanted man his position would be difficult. But if there was nothing against him he was given food and blankets and a free ticket to his home or village. I met boatloads of these people, and it is just nonsense to say that they are arrested, sent to slave camps, or shot."

MY third conversation ranged over many subjects that can't be publicly discussed. I can't even name or identify the speaker, though I can say that his travelling has been over the Pacific more than over the Atlantic and that he was more disposed to discuss Asia than Europe. He is not happy about either continent, but thinks that New Zealand's concern is with Asia first.

"Does that exclude America?" I asked him.

"No. We are in America's orbit whether we like it or not. But we all know that. What most of us forget is that we are also in China's orbit and India's."

"Has China time to think about other countries?"

"Perhaps not at present, but other countries must remember her millions."

"Yes, but the only other country capable of helping those millions just now is the United States, and Americans seem to be approaching the end of their patience in China."

"I think they are too, but the millions will remain. In the meantime it does appear that the situation is getting desperate, if not quite hopeless. From the outside at any rate it would appear that China is slipping back into something like the old war-lord regime."

"Do you feel happier about India?"

"Yes, I am very happy about India at the moment. Nehru looks like a world figure, and if he gets a chance he may give Asia real leadership. But the test of independence has still to come."

We did not discuss Indonesia, and when we reached Japan our time was nearly up. In any case, my friend said, Japan is at present fluid. "To talk about Tokio is to talk about Washington, and then before you realise where you are you are talking about Moscow."



ASSIGNMENT IN CHINA

AT the request of the International Relief Committee of China, Colin W. Morrison, Dominion Secretary-



COLIN MORRISON

Treasurer of CORSO, will leave New Zealand in October for China, to take up the position of Assistant Executive Director of the IRC, and to be CORSO's accredited representative in China. He will head the unit of 22 New Zealanders who will be scattered through the country, and like them will receive roughly the equivalent of an army private's pay.

His work will include receiving, allocating, and distributing relief and rehabilitation supplies from Britain, Canada, the U.S., and New Zealand, to the mission hospitals of China, as well as giving technical service in helping the hospitals in rehabilitation.

The request for his visit came from the Standing Committee of the IRC. Madame Sun Yat Sen (chairman of the China Welfare Fund) and others also joined in the request.

Earlier this year Mr. Morrison was sent to China by CORSO to investigate China's needs. His coming visit is likely to last two years.



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