

Reverille

AUGUST
1954

VOLUME TWENTY-SEVEN,
NUMBER TWELVE



9^d

The Voice of 100,000 Ex-Servicemen and Women

Menace of
S.E. Asian
Communism

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Dead-End
Kid Found
His God

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Liquor and
R.S.L. Club
Licences



Twenty-Seventh Year of Publication

Registered at the G.P.O., Sydney, for transmission by post as a newspaper.

Australia - Communism

"To the people of Australia and New Zealand, to the men in particular who composed ANZAC of glorious memory, I address myself especially in emphasizing the real and present danger of Communism in Asia."

WRITTEN EXCLUSIVELY FOR "REVEILLE"

BY GENERAL CARLOS P. ROMULO

(Personal representative in Washington, U.S.A., of His Excellency, Ramon Magsaysay, President of the Philippines Republic).

Emphasis to General Romulo's warning to the threat of South-East Asian aggression is given in the following two statements which were made at the Tasmanian State R.S.L. Congress held at Burnie in June:—

SIR GEORGE HOLLAND, Federal President, said:

"To the north of us there are hundreds of millions who look upon our country with hungry eyes. They out-number us 100-to-one. If 9,000,000 people are to protect Australia, they must have the weapons to do it. We must prepare ourselves to provide the money to ensure our defence—and our very survival. We must be prepared to pay for defence if we are to hand down this country to future generations as it was handed down to us."

MR. J. NAGLE, Federal Secretary, said:

"As ex-servicemen you are well aware of what can happen. South-East Asia is conveniently and disastrously close to Australia. New Guinea is a major stepping stone. As long ago as 1919, the late Mr. W. M. Hughes said: 'He who holds New Guinea holds Australia.' We must not be lulled into a sense of false security. Let us never forget we are only as far away from the rest of the world as the span of an aeroplane's wings. At the moment it seems that only a miracle can save a great deal of South-East Asia from falling into Communist hands. We are well aware, and I hope all others are, of the need to keep Australia a white and free Australia."

THE only valid issue in South-East Asia to-day is the issue of confidence. Let me put it this way: If that strategic area of the globe, which used to be, and partly still is, the exclusive preserve of the Colonial Powers, were a Parliament and the West to go to its floor on a confidence vote, would the West get that vote?

The evidence of current trends and happenings strongly indicates that the West will probably not get it.

I should think that Indo-China is a good case on which to expect a non-confidence vote for Western policies. Let us take a brief but hard look at the facts as they have shaped up in that turbulent area of the world.

For nearly half a century before the present debacle, revolts had been the natural rhythm of native life under French rule in Indo-China. Naturally, it was the French who tried to suppress the revolts, since they were against them, and the fighting had always been between them and the natives. This is of course an obvious fact that needs no elaboration.

Then came Dienbienphu, and again, as in the past, the French had to contend with natives, whose human-sea assaults on the proud bastion dealt the major reverse to the calculations of a hopeful general.

The historical fact then must be crystal-clear to the countries of South-East Asia, that the natives of Indo-China have, until now, fought the French because they didn't like French rule. In their long memory for colonial misdeeds, those countries know but one thing: that the French have tried to suppress a people's legitimate aspiration for independence. It would not be easy now to persuade them to think that even the Communist - inspired Vietnam is not simply carrying on the good fight. That there have been and are native troops on the side of the French—and one plan seems to be to train a full army of them presumably to continue fighting for the French—is perfectly understandable in a colonial set-up. Perhaps what is important to bear in mind in this context is that so far it has not been shown that the Vietnamese ever did anything resembling a Charge of the Light Brigade.

Let me then come to my point, that if Communism is to be successfully fought in South-East Asia, the will to fight it must first be there. That will cannot be created unless it can be shown that, in combating Moscow's godless ideology, the Asians would win their freedom, plain and absolute.

Paper declarations of independence, and other self-serving evidence by the colonial powers may dramatise the sham of puppetry, but will not change the age-old suspicions of peoples who have ceased to be glib.

On nothing less than freedom, completely removed from the odious associations of colonialism, could the West go to the Parliament of South-East Asia and win a vote of confidence.

On May 30 last, speaking at the University of Portland, I proposed that the President of the United States call a meeting of Asian Chiefs of State for the purpose of drawing up an Atlantic Charter for South-East Asia. I am gratified to learn that since I made that proposal Representative McCormack, of Massachusetts, has started a move to get President Eisenhower to call such a meeting, and that Representative Judd, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, has endorsed the plan as "particularly timely."

I suggested that the United States should seize the initiative in this matter, because by general acceptance the United States is leader of the free world. From what I know as a Filipino, America's leadership in bringing about a "Charter of Freedom" con-

and South-East Asia

ference in South-East Asia would be a trustworthy undertaking compatible with her honorable record in the Philippines.

I wish to underline the confidence which such a conference is bound to generate, and to say that without it no call for collective action against Communism in South-East Asia will evoke any response. It would be sheer waste of time and effort to try to enlist native support so long as the suspicion remains that it is Colonialism that is fighting Communism.

Unfortunately, the racial lines have not been easy to blot out in the areas transgressed by the colonial

ity in the political and cultural fields. These things are not possible in a colonial set-up, and that is why, in the recent Ceylon conference of South-East Asian Prime Ministers, the condemnation of Colonialism was unanimous, as was also the demand for an irrevocable pledge of independence for the Indo-Chinese people.

To the people of Australia and New Zealand, to the men in particular who composed ANZAC of glorious memory, I address myself especially in emphasising the real and present danger of Communism in Asia. They, more than others, will understand the menace to their region of the Communist

crisis the Communists had been refining their psychological tactics, making their Japanese predecessors look like novices. One has to admit that they are marching steadily on.

Short of an all-out intervention, which the United States does not appear disposed to undertake, it does not seem reasonable to expect the Vietminh advance to be cut short. And yet, it is of the utmost importance that South-East Asia be saved. How shall the free world do it? Not merely by denouncing Communism, but by winning the confidence of the Asian peoples on the basis of an indubitable

guarantee of their freedom. Once this is accomplished, it would be time to launch a military coalition, not for the purpose of negotiating with Communist intransigents, but of stopping Communism right in its tracks.

Communism cannot be stopped in South-East Asia unless the Asians themselves give their consent and co-operation. This consent and co-operation will never come unless the military coalition is beyond all doubt dedicated to the defence of the rights and freedoms of the Asian peoples against all forms of domination.

General Romulo, the author of this article is discussed in *Observation Post*, page 14.

"A QUESTION OF CONFIDENCE"

powers. There, in any showdown, the looks of an indigenous Ho Chi Minh will convince more Asians than the features and decorations of, say, a Western General or a Foreign Legionnaire.

It is true that the Vietminh is Communist-led, and from what we know of life behind the Iron Curtain, the freedom it offers is certainly no better than that under colonial rule. We of the free world know this to be the self-evident truth, but those in chains would rather be free now than believe in any prophecy of future captivity.

The West is in bad need of the friendship of South-East Asia. How is that friendship to be won? It cannot be by material assistance alone, much as such assistance is needed. There should be, in addition, an implementation of genuine equal-

advance in South-East Asia. For one thing, the present course of conquest seems so reminiscent of twelve years ago.

But the course is not so important as the method. It was only at Dienbienphu and, more recently, in the increasing pressure on Hanoi, that the Communists have come out with massive blows. The West undoubtedly can match these blows. However, what is really dangerous is the style of psychological and political infiltration that precedes mortar and artillery as, also, the human-sea assault.

The method is cunningly tailored to the needs and grievances of the common man, and if this happens to be a colonial subject, the more effective the approach becomes and the more enduring the result. Many years before the Indo-China

Four Reasons

"Reveille" publishes this article from General Carlos Romulo for four reasons.

1. Speaking at a University of Portland, Oregon, U.S.A., convocation on May 31st, he urged President Eisenhower to organise an Asian alliance without Britain and France to combat Communist aggression.
2. On the same day Mr. Justice William Douglas of the U.S. Supreme Court, opposed at a meeting of the World Affairs Council at Buffalo, New York, the use of American forces in Asia, declaring it would be "sheer disaster" to send American troops to Indo-China, as not only would this country be lost, "but all of Asia if we send American boys in there."
3. At a meeting of the ANZUS Defence Alliance (America, Australia and New Zealand) held in Washington on June 30th, it was agreed on the need for immediate action to bring about the early establishment of collective defence in South-East Asia.
4. Australia, Britain, France and the United States were represented by nearly one hundred officers at top-level talks in Singapore last month, to discuss anti-communist defences in South-East Asia. The object of the talks was mainly to prepare a blue-print of military situations which could arise in the region, and a plan of how to meet them should they occur.