

December 2, 1938, Letter to Miss Ewing (November 19, 1938) from Chen Han-seng.

Chin Chang-wei is now the head of Kwangsi Provincial Educational Bureau, and Franklin is one of the two Vice-Ministers of Economic Affairs. Chin is in Kweilin, and Ho in Chungking. I probably shall see both of them when Susie (Mrs. Chen) and I arrive China by next February.

Now, as to my opinion of Chamberlain's policy: I must say that this old man has completely become the instrument of a Fascist Empire, which tries to defend the interest of the minority of the world against the interest and even life of the majority. But, don't you worry---this anti-democratic policy will be defeated. The question is how soon.

My friends, both American and European, who recently came here from China assert, "The question is now not 'Can China win?' but 'When will China win?'" This certainty of China's victory is based on a comparison of the relative weakness and strengths of the two nations at war. Japan's strength was amply publicized before the war. Her weaknesses are becoming more and more evident. After a year of war, Japan finds herself with an enormous debt; sagging gold reserve, a 20% loss of foreign trade. Obvious waste of war material has accelerated the depletion of her reserves of war materials; her people are on short rations, and the war fever at home has reached its period of decline. I wish you could read what (Numerous) letters I have received from Japan during these weeks!

China can win. The question is: When. For we know Japan's strength and her weakness. Our present strategy of manoeuvre by mobile tactics and also guerrilla warfare, is our answer to the localized superior equipment of the Japanese troops. A heavy bombardment--even poisonous gas--will clear a pathway, but after the road has been opened, other column passes, the gate closes in the rear with the myriad of guerrillas and regular troops that have moved aside to allow the "conquerors" to pass on into the quicksands.

There are more people singing songs about liberty, equality and fraternity in China today than in any other country! There are more plays in China than anywhere else in which Hitler, Mussolini and Japanese militarists are the actors. There are more artists there drawing the horrors of war, the virtues of peace and the heroism of the common man than ever before. When I write these few lines, I feel very much as Thomas Paine used to feel or actually felt during the American Revolutionary War for Independence!

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If we succeed in getting away from New York--even for a matter of half a year--
Susie and I will sail from Los Angeles on January 17; but we have not quite decided. When you
write, please use this address: 129 East 52nd Street, New York City. Please accept my warmest
greetings to yourself and your mother and also our joint regards. Remember me, too, to the
young lady Fredrickson, whom I met at your place over two years ago.

Your library student, Chen Han-seng.

P.S. How is Professor Ament: I suppose he is somewhat pessimistic about China!