

Wooda-Woody

Woodhead

May 31, 1945.

Thoughts on the Japanese Situation - Psychological Warfare, etc., inspired by an article (p. 8) in The Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury (published in New York) of May 25, 1945, by H. G. W. Woodhead, C.B.E., entitled

"As a Briton sees It
Dr. Kagawa - No Japanese Niemoller!"

---oOo---

This article cites some of Dr. Kagawa's activities since Pearl Harbor, and concludes:

"To adhere to Christian principles - to denounce aggression and lying propaganda - under a Fascist regime, is to incur a very grave personal risk. Evidently, if his broadcasts and writings have been correctly recorded, Dr. Kagawa deemed it wiser not to take that risk."

Just before that quotation, however, the article states:

"For Dr. Kagawa to have denounced Japanese aggression after Pearl Harbour would have been tantamount to committing suicide."

I have seen recently some references derogatory to Dr. Kagawa and have talked with some of my close friends who have always been enthusiastic about his work. They feel, almost unanimously, that when the full record of Dr. Kagawa's activities since Pearl Harbor are known, it will be found that he was, indeed, a Japanese Niemoller.

Directly under the above mentioned article is a short news item headed "Chichibu Released", stating that

"Prince Chichibu, 42-year-old Oxford-educated brother of Emperor Hirohito, is reported to have been released from two years of 'honorable preventive detention' in Japan. * *"

Some of the quotations from Kagawa's recent speeches in Japan have been his protests against American bombings of Japanese civilians, his contention being that they are unChristian. He is quoted as saying:

"Ah, see to America for so degrading the name of Christ by this butchery."

Certainly, well informed Christians in this country realize that such a statement may be true, and certainly all right thinking people regret the necessity for this war measure. On the other hand, I think most right thinking people, in spite of their regret, believe this bombing of industrial and other war centers in Japan is absolutely necessary in modern "total warfare" to bring the war to a successful conclusion as promptly as possible.

It seems to me clear, however, that the broadcast of President Truman's statement to the Japanese people on May 8th, and the other material broadcast at that time, as reported in the article by Jack Tait in The Herald Tribune of May 9th, should be followed up with something like the following:

"Statement by President Truman to
the Japanese People:

Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa and Prince Chichibu, and other leaders in Japan have denounced the United States for bombing civilians in Japan. Do the Japanese people not know that the American people regret exceedingly the loss of life and suffering by the Japanese civilian population caused by the bombing of the Japanese war machine? That war machine must be destroyed for the good of all right thinking Japanese people just as much as for the protection of the American civilian population and right thinking people throughout all the world. If Japanese civilians are killed, or caused to suffer damage in those raids, their deaths and sufferings are regretted, but it cannot be helped if they remain near any part of the Japanese war machine which must continue to be absolutely destroyed until such time as the Japanese leaders realize the

foolishness of their continuing this horrible war and surrender unconditionally. As heretofore explained to you by me, and as every right thinking person, either in Japan or in any other place in the world, knows, unconditional surrender does not mean the enslavement of the Japanese people or any interference with the Japanese religion, so long as that religion does not threaten the peace of the world. On the contrary, it means the immediate stopping of this senseless slaughter and destruction. It means that the United States of America, and many others of the United Nations will start immediately to help relieve suffering in Japan just as wholeheartedly as this country poured out to Japan its aid at the time of the great earthquake and when other disasters have hit the Japanese nation. The Japanese people, unfortunately, seem to still be in the control of their cruel war party so that all right thinking people in Japan are helpless in speaking out in protest. It is exactly the same situation as brought the German nation to such complete destruction. Your Emperor, whom you regard as a divine leader, is completely in the control of your cruel war leaders and cannot speak his mind nor exercise any leadership whatsoever. The same is true of all right thinking people in Japan. They are completely prisoners of your cruel war lords. Therefore, Japanese people must, until such time as they themselves are released from this enslavement by their own war lords, protect themselves and their families, as best they can, by staying away from any part of the Japanese war machine which must be, and is being, destroyed. Demand freedom of speech and press so that you may know the truth

and save your nation before it is too late."

President Truman should be greatly commended for his efforts to date in stressing the psychological warfare against Japan and telling, as forcibly as he did, the Japanese people the truth. Psychological warfare should certainly be stressed to the fullest possible extent, as to do so will shorten the war. I am not advocating in any way any relaxation of military pressure. I would urge that it be continued to the fullest, except that when the point is reached, (which point will be reached), at which pockets can be isolated and surrounded, and later liquidated, with a minimum of casualties, that should be done wherever possible. When dealing with a desperate enemy whom you have isolated and surrounded, you don't send in your favorite sons to bring him out and possibly lose their lives in doing so. You wear him down. I realize there are other military considerations with which I am not familiar. Certainly Allied prisoners in Japanese hands must be considered. If the fanatical Japanese were bent on destroying them, possibly the only way to handle such a situation would be to "rush" them and save as many as possible. On the other hand, whenever it becomes possible to minimize our casualties, let us do it. The recent broadcast from Japan regarding the importance of the Okinawa battle indicates that all Japanese leaders know they are absolutely beaten, and there is no chance of a change in the ultimate result. The time must be very near when we can begin to question the necessity of such further sacrifice of American lives.

This morning's Times records the meeting of the governing body of the Presbyterian Church and the headline is "Board tells assembly, workers will return to Japan as soon as conditions permit." I have no doubt the same policy is

planned by other religious groups in this country. The same is true of economic and other relationships which the world will have with Japan in the postwar era. The Japanese nation is not going to be wiped out. Its cruel war leaders will be, and its war machine must be absolutely crushed, but certainly no right thinking person can have any doubt that the Japanese will survive as a nation. Why cannot we find some way of letting them know that fact and any other convincing argument we can think of to bring them to their senses as quickly as possible and help them to help themselves, primarily for the good of our own boys, but also for the good of right thinking Japanese and, of course, there are some right thinking Japanese although, under present conditions, it is hard to believe it.

For a nation which has produced as many great advertising men as this country has — men who could sell anything whether it was worthwhile or not — to not be able to sell the Japanese people the truth of the most obvious fact in the world, seems to me to indicate something is wrong in our whole approach or handling of this situation.

Clinton C. Swan
20 Exchange Place
New York 5, N. Y.

May 31, 1945.

Thoughts on the Japanese Situation - Psychological Warfare, etc., inspired by an article (p. 8) in the Shanghai Evening Post and Mercury (published in New York) of May 28, 1945, by H. G. W. Woodhead, C.B.E., entitled

"As a Briton sees It
Dr. Kagawa - No Japanese Niemoller!"

---000---

This article cites some of Dr. Kagawa's activities since Pearl Harbor, and concludes:

"To adhere to Christian principles - to denounce aggression and lying propaganda - under a Fascist regime, is to incur a very grave personal risk. Evidently, if his broadcasts and writings have been correctly recorded, Dr. Kagawa deemed it wiser not to take that risk."

Just before that quotation, however, the article states:

"For Dr. Kagawa to have denounced Japanese aggression after Pearl Harbour would have been tantamount to committing suicide."

I have seen recently some references derogatory to Dr. Kagawa and have talked with some of my close friends who have always been enthusiastic about his work. They feel, almost unanimously, that when the full record of Dr. Kagawa's activities since Pearl Harbor are known, it will be found that he was, indeed, a Japanese Niemoller.

Directly under the above mentioned article is a short news item headed "Chichibu Released", stating that

"Prince Chichibu, 42-year-old Oxford-educated brother of Emperor Hirohito, is reported to have been released from two years of 'honorably preventative detention' in Japan. * *"

Some of the quotations from Kagawa's recent speeches in Japan have been his protests against American bombings of Japanese civilians, his contention being that they are unChristian. He is quoted as saying:

"Ah, see to America for so degrading the name of Christ by this butchery."

Certainly, well informed Christians in this country realize that such a statement may be true, and certainly all right thinking people regret the necessity for this war measure. On the other hand, I think most right thinking people, in spite of their regret, believe this bombing of industrial and other war centers in Japan is absolutely necessary in modern "total warfare" to bring the war to a successful conclusion as promptly as possible.

It seems to me clear, however, that the broadcast of President Truman's statement to the Japanese people on May 8th, and the other material broadcast at that time, as reported in the article by Jack Tait in The Herald Tribune of May 9th, should be followed up with something like the following:

"Statement by President Truman to
the Japanese People:

Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa and Prince Chichibu, and other leaders in Japan have denounced the United States for bombing civilians in Japan. Do the Japanese people not know that the American people regret exceedingly the loss of life and suffering by the Japanese civilian population caused by the bombing of the Japanese war machine? That war machine must be destroyed for the good of all right thinking Japanese people just as much as for the protection of the American civilian population and right thinking people throughout all the world. If Japanese civilians are killed, or caused to suffer damage in those raids, their deaths and sufferings are regretted, but it cannot be helped if they remain near any part of the Japanese war machine which must continue to be absolutely destroyed until such time as the Japanese leaders realize the

feclishness of their continuing this horrible war and surrender unconditionally. As heretofore explained to you by me, and as every right thinking person, either in Japan or in any other place in the world, knows, unconditional surrender does not mean the enslavement of the Japanese people or any interference with the Japanese religion, so long as that religion does not threaten the peace of the world. On the contrary, it means the immediate stopping of this senseless slaughter and destruction. It means that the United States of America, and many others of the United Nations will start immediately to help relieve suffering in Japan just as wholeheartedly as this country poured out to Japan its aid at the time of the great earthquake and when other disasters have hit the Japanese nation. The Japanese people, unfortunately, seem to still be in the control of their cruel war party so that all right thinking people in Japan are helpless in speaking out in protest. It is exactly the same situation as brought the German nation to such complete destruction. Your Emperor, whom you regard as a divine leader, is completely in the control of your cruel war leaders and cannot speak his mind nor exercise any leadership whatsoever. The same is true of all right thinking people in Japan. They are completely prisoners of your cruel war lords. Therefore, Japanese people must, until such time as they themselves are released from this enslavement by their own war lords, protect themselves and their families, as best they can, by staying away from any part of the Japanese war machine which must be, and is being, destroyed. Demand freedom of speech and press so that you may know the truth

and save your nation before it is too late."

President Truman should be greatly commended for his efforts to date in stressing the psychological warfare against Japan and telling, as forcibly as he did, the Japanese people the truth. Psychological warfare should certainly be stressed to the fullest possible extent, as to do so will shorten the war. I am not advocating in any way any relaxation of military pressure. I would urge that it be continued to the fullest, except that when the point is reached, (which point will be reached), at which pockets can be isolated and surrounded, and later liquidated, with a minimum of casualties, that should be done wherever possible. When dealing with a desperate enemy whom you have isolated and surrounded, you don't send in your favorite sons to bring him out and possibly lose their lives in doing so. You wear him down. I realize there are other military considerations with which I am not familiar. Certainly Allied prisoners in Japanese hands must be considered. If the fanatical Japanese were bent on destroying them, possibly the only way to handle such a situation would be to "rush" them and save as many as possible. On the other hand, whenever it becomes possible to minimize our casualties, let us do it. The recent broadcast from Japan regarding the importance of the Okinawa battle indicates that all Japanese leaders know they are absolutely beaten, and there is no chance of a change in the ultimate result. The time must be very near when we can begin to question the necessity of such further sacrifice of American lives.

This morning's Times records the meeting of the governing body of the Presbyterian Church and the headline is "Board tells assembly, workers will return to Japan as soon as conditions permit." I have no doubt the same policy is

planned by other religious groups in this country. The same is true of economic and other relationships which the world will have with Japan in the postwar era. The Japanese nation is not going to be wiped out. Its cruel war leaders will die, and its war machine must be absolutely crushed, but certainly no right thinking person can have any doubt that the Japanese will survive as a nation. Why cannot we find some way of letting them know that fact and any other convincing argument we can think of to bring them to their senses as quickly as possible and help them to help themselves, primarily for the good of our own boys, but also for the good of right thinking Japanese and, of course, there are some right thinking Japanese although, under present conditions, it is hard to believe it.

For a nation which has produced as many great advertising men as this country has -- men who could sell anything whether it was worthwhile or not -- to not be able to sell the Japanese people the truth of the most obvious fact in the world, seems to me to indicate something is wrong in our whole approach or handling of this situation.

Clinton C. Ewan
10 Exchange Place
New York 5, N. Y.