

# American Involvement In China

by Ah Xiang

*[Excerpts from "Red Terror & White Terror"]*

Lauchlin Currie, economic adviser to President Franklin Roosevelt from 1939 to 1945, went to China on an inspection mission in Jan 1941. For four weeks in Feb and March, Currie conferred with Chiang, Ambassador Johnson and Naval Attache James McHugh. Though Currie's visit culminated in China's eligibility for the Lend-Lease assistance passed by the Congress on March 11th 1941, the field report to Roosevelt first proposed the notion of using the "lever of Lend-Lease to push Chiang towards reform" [by liberalizing and broadening the regime to include the communists]. Upon return to US, Currie actively searched for the candidate of a 'political adviser' to Chiang Kai-shek, ending in the recommendation of Owen Lattimore whose announcement on June 28th had kept the Chinese ambassador in the dark. Currie was also said to be responsible for expediting the formation of American Volunteer Group in which retired military pilots were released for Claire Chennault the personal adviser to Chiang Kai-shek. (You may ask why would USA ever got involved in China over WWII? It could be a Soviet setup. As revelations from VENONA transcripts and Russian archives, Lauchlin Currie, like Harry Dexter White, acted as Russian spies of the Silvermaster ring at the Treasury, the Federal Reserve and the White House throughout 1930-40s. Russians, after signing a neutrality pact with Japan on April 13th 1941 [by betraying the 1937 non-aggression treaty between China and USSR], had sealed off China's continental exit to the north and northwest. Russian, being concerned that China could lose the resistance to Japan, could have secretly ordered their proxies, Launchlin Currie & Harry Dexter White, to recommend to Roosevelt that China be given the Lend-Lease materials. Alternatively speaking, Russians, British and American decided to give China limited help over worries about a possible reconciliation between Japan and Chiang Kai-shek's China, i.e., an "international game" played by Chiang Kai-shek on the matter of Japan-proposed combination of Chiang Kai-shek's Chongqing Government and Whang Jingwei's Nanking Puppet Government.)

On July 19th, Owen Lattimore arrived at Chungking to assume the post of a political adviser supposedly picked by Roosevelt but made nonofficial by the State Department. This was after Owen Lattimore resigned his job at the Institute of Pacific Research [IPR] where he formulated a policy of "For the USSR -- back their international policy in general, but without using their slogans and above all without giving them or anybody else the impression of subservience". Either before or after the China mission, Lattimore had a meeting with Russian consul-general, not to mention the fact that Lattimore had numerous Chinese communist agents recruited throughout his tenure at IPR, including Chi Chao-ting, Chen Han-seng, Chu Tong, Y.Y. Hsu.

On July 21st 1942, Launchlin Currie, as President Franklin Roosevelt's emissary, arrived in Chongqing again and held 14 rounds of talks with Chiang Kai-shek. The topics included would be to reformulate Chiang Kai-shek's policy towards communists, after the eruption of major military confrontations between KMT and CCP in prior years. At the wartime capital of Chungking, Currie demanded a meeting with Zhou Enlai [Chou En-lai] the Communist representative. Launchlin Currie

had been authorized to investigate into the historical disputes between Chiang & Stilwell

In this month of Aug, US officially acknowledged Claire Chennault's American Volunteer Group, i.e., the "Flying Tigers", as US Airforce 10th Group. However, during the transition, the volunteer pilots were left in limbo as to their re-assignment and paycheck, with a few taking fights to the sky to fight Japanese on their own accord. The other mis-management would be the asset transfer, i.e., the planes purchased with Chinese funds going into American government control as a result of Chinese acquiescence and naivety.

OSS Chief William "Wild Bill" Donovan was one of dozens of American government agencies and American intelligence organizations which had interests in China. There were also feuds between separate U.S. intelligence operations and competition between General Joseph Stilwell and 14th Air Force Commander General Claire Chennault.

In January 1943, American Navy established the Sino-American Special Technical Cooperative Organization (SACO) with Dai Li's "jun tong". By 1944, the OSS was in control of SACO plus the Dixie Mission at the Yen-an headquarters of the Chinese communists. Utilizing the three columns of "Korean restoration army" established by "interim Korean government" which was under Chiang Kai-shek's auspice, Office of Strategic Services actively engaged in training the guerrilla forces in Duqu base of Shenxi Province as well as Huyang base. Before the Americans could send the Korean guerrilla to Korea, Japan had already surrendered.

On June 21st 1944, US Vice President Wallace, previously Secretary of Agriculture from 1933 to 1940, came to see Chiang Kai-shek and emphasized the need of cooperation with CCP in three rounds of talks. Wallace visits would make it possible for US "Military Observer's Mission", aka Dixie Mission, to visit Mao Tse-tung in Yan'an. John Service of US State Department at one time claimed to Roosevelt that Mao Tse-tung would be likely leader of China after the war, which led to Wallace delegation to China on June 21st 1944 as well as a mission to the communist base of Yan'an. Henry Wallace, after the China visit, expressed concern that Chiang Kai-shek could become China's Kerensky after the war. Prior to the China stop, Henry Wallace, accompanied by Owen Lattimore of the US Office of War Information, had visited Russian gulags such as Kolyma and Magadan and truly believed in pro-Soviet propaganda. It would be in 1952 that Wallace published *Why I Was Wrong*, in which he explained that his seemingly-trusting stance toward the Soviet Union and Stalin stemmed from inadequate information about Stalin's excesses.

On Nov 7th 1944, Hurley flew to Yan'an for establishing a joint KMT-CCP government that would be based on communist relinquishing administrative and military control in exchange for assumption of cabinet posts. Mao Tse-tung countered him by stating that he would consider such a joint government on the precondition that US military aids be shared by communists first. In Yan'an, Mao Tse-tung resented US support for Chiang Kai-shek by claiming to David Barnett that "there would be one day when you Americans could not prop up [KMT regime] any more".