

A month ago, the interest of Sen. J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, was whetted by the China history testimony of Prof. Allen S. Whiting of the University of Michigan, former State Department research director for the Far East.

**Meeting Sought in '45**

Whiting referred to documents, made public in 1969, showing that China's Mao and Chou in January, 1945, secretly offered to meet with President Franklin D. Roosevelt in Washington to seek U.S. support for a coalition government between Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists and the Communists. If that failed, said Whiting, the Communist leaders sought to determine Washington's willingness to work with them if they prevailed in civil war.

In early 1945, with World War II still on, U.S. policy was focused on unifying China's forces to help fight Japan and bringing the Soviet Union, America's wartime ally, "into the struggle against Japan in time to be of real value in the prosecution of the war." There was no anticipation that the atomic bombing of Japan on Aug. 6 and 9 and Russian entry into the war on the latter date would bring Japan's surrender on Aug. 14, 1945.

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The claim in the subsequent 1949 U.S. "White Paper" on China by Secretary of State Dean Acheson that China's victorious Communists had "announced their subservience" to Moscow was challenged by Prof. Whiting last month. Instead, said Whiting, China's Communists "repeatedly tried to establish relations with the United States precisely to avoid dependence on the Soviet Union."

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The Communists became exclusively reliant on Moscow, said Whiting, because they were denied U.S. aid. The official U.S. rhetoric about world "menolithic communism" controlled by