EAST ASIA REVIEW

E-ASIA
U.S.A. — "WORLD'S POLICEMAN"

As time goes on and peace in the Occidental world becomes more and more a mirage, one interesting fact stands out: The paradoxical role adopted by the United States towards the various belligerents, as well as neutrals. Torn between the natural desires of her financiers and industrialists to carry on a lucrative trade with the rest of the world, and a maudlin sentimentality engendered by her so-called moralists (chiefly out-of-work missionaries), the United States has during the past few months adopted more and more the role of "world's policeman." Undoubtedly laboring under the semi-dictatorial Rooseveltian lash, America's foreign policy, while superficially isolationist and aloof, has taken on a more "meddling" course.

As far as China and Japan are concerned, there is certainly no objection if the United States decides to meddle in European affairs, but when the meddling affects the situation in East Asia then it becomes a different matter. Both China and Japan are quite capable of settling their own affairs, and if the United States considers that, in view of the preoccupation of Britain and other nations in the European conflict, she is entitled to barge into the East Asiatic scene and adopt the role of "policeman" out here, then she will be sorely disappointed.

Towards the end of 1937, in his Memorandum to Great Britain, President Roosevelt declared among other things: "America occupies an important position in the solution of Sino-Japanese problems." It may be said that America's intention is to restore the status quo which existed between China and Japan prior to the present hostilities, and to take over the leading position previously held by Britain in the Far East so as to create a new balance of power in this part of the world. In order to carry this out, America has been very tolerant with Japan. She even chose to sacrifice her interests in China to a certain extent, in exchange for Japan's and Britain's recognition of her dominating position in East Asia. This has been the guiding principle of America's Far Eastern Policy.

Because of this policy, America has strongly opposed any compromise
between Japan and Britain. She has also opposed any possible compromise between Chungking and Japan. As a result, although Japan is willing, she finds it impossible for her to reach any compromise or understanding with America. The American Government has stood in the way of every compromise, because she knows that any compromise will prevent her from establishing herself as the dominating power in the Far East.

This dominating position was occupied by Great Britain for many years. Since the outbreak of the current hostilities in 1937, Japan took over this position. But Japan cannot keep it. Japanese farsighted leaders know very well that this dominating position must be returned to the leading countries of the Far East, namely China and Japan. It was this conviction that prompted Japanese leaders to negotiate for peace with China and to make both China and Japan the masters of the Far East in the place of Britain.

This situation was brought about by the current conflict. The United States cannot change this situation and become the dominating power unless she goes to war with either Japan or China.

Although America may refuse to co-operate, Sino-Japanese peace will soon be established. China and Japan will succeed in their work of rehabilitation after peace is established, despite America's refusal to co-operate with them. By adopting the so-called economic

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nationalistic principle, a number of countries have more or less isolated themselves from other Powers economically. Contrary to general belief, they succeeded in developing themselves economically. No matter what obstacles there may be, China and Japan will be able to develop themselves economically, once peace is assured.

American statesmen have apparently failed so far to realize the position of the United States in international affairs. They have failed to realize the true significance of the Sino-Japanese Peace Movement. We have to tell Americans that the fundamental cause of the present abnormal relationship between China and America is the lack of respect America holds for China. America should realize the fact that the Chinese people are paying hardly any attention to the so-called Nine-Power Treaty. In fact, they hate the one-sided Open Door Policy which they regard as an insult to the Chinese nation.

With the establishment of the Central Government, China will treat all Third Powers equally and reciprocally, including the United States of
America. But if any Third Power, including the United States, interferes with China's internal politics and jeopardizes China's rights, effective measures will be taken to debar such activities.