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MISCALCULATIONS

BY HITOSHI ASHIDA

When is the current China conflict going to end? This undoubtedly is the uppermost question in the minds of the peoples of the Far East, and in a good many other parts of the world, too. An answer to this puzzle would solve many of our troubles. We know that hostilities will cease when the anti-Japanese elements in China will have come to their senses that their resistance to Japan is not only futile but is obstructing the establishment of a foundation for permanent peace in the Orient, or otherwise when they will have been wiped out. That day is certain to come, but who can predict when it will be, considering the uncertainty of developments to-day in this complex world?

The impossibility of predicting accurately the course of events was clearly shown in the past year of the China Incident itself.

war against Japan had not been given. The attempt made by the Chinese forces to annihilate the Japanese naval landing party at Shanghai and their subsequent supreme but futile efforts to defend the city left room for no further doubt of the Chinese intentions. The capture of Nanking has followed. The fall of Hankow is now only a matter of time. Here is warfare on a major scale, quite a contradiction of the views of many of the political experts who saw the Lukou-chiao incident as a mere local affair.

The resistance that has been put up by Chiang Kai-shek must be put in the category of another miscalculation, particularly with the case of the so-called China experts in this country. It will be recalled that some of the extreme views of the latter were that Chiang's forces would fold up and quit fight-

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General Kazushige Ugaki is concentrating his efforts toward an understanding by the third Powers concerned of Japan's position in China to put a stop to their assistance to the Chiang regime and thereby contribute to an early end of the hostilities. It should be clear by now that Japan is not fighting the Chinese people but the elements responsible for the present affair.

Misjudgement of factors relating to the China affair is not confined to observers in Japan. What about the foreign economic experts who proclaimed to the world that