



PART IV—SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

BURMA

Evacuation of KMT

THE EVACUATION of Kuomintang troops from the Shan States of Burma continued throughout the period under review, and the Burmese Government agreed to extend the cease-fire order, first until midnight on 15th/16th December, and later to the 21st, despite complaints that the Kuomintang had themselves broken the truce by a number of attacks on civilian traffic on the road to Kengtung. The matter was again debated in the United Nations Political Committee at the end of November; the Burmese delegate complained that only a small quantity of serviceable arms had been surrendered, but the Chinese Nationalist representatives, while admitting that so far the number of weapons surrendered had been small, stated that the leaders of the force intended that the general surrender of arms should be effected at the end of the evacuation. While the situation has thus not deteriorated, it remains the case that this evacuation affected only 2,000 men, and that the problem of the remainder of the force, numbering perhaps 10,000, is still to be solved.

Operations at Mawchi

THE BURMESE FORCES gained an important victory over the Karen rebels by re-occupying Mawchi on 24th November; the capture of this important mining-centre will deprive the Karens of their most important source of finance since they will no longer be able to export the wolfram of Mawchi to Siam. It is reported that the two British representatives of the Mawchi Mines Company who have remained in residence throughout the Karen rebellion are well, and that the machinery is in as good order as can be expected.

CHINA

Foreign relations

Korea

ON 12TH NOVEMBER, a North Korean Government Delegation, headed by Premier Kim Il Sung, arrived in Peking and on 23rd November, the two countries concluded a ten-year Economic and Cultural Co-operation Agreement. The occasion was used to demonstrate China's position as a great Asian Power and emphasis was laid on the theme of Asian unity.