

EXHIBIT No. 3272

(5)

VERY SECRET

Matters Regarding the Imperial General Headquarters  
Council in the Imperial Presence

(Feb 18, 1938. East Asia I)

The Imperial General Headquarters Council in the Imperial Presence was opened on the 16th.

The Navy stated that it is at least necessary to obtain air-bases in ANKING in the YANGTZE-KIANG Area and near HONGKONG in South China in order to facilitate future air-raids.

To the foregoing, the Army stated that it plans to advance its military activities up to the LUNGHAI Railway Area, but (although the capture of CHENG-CHOW was scheduled, HSU-CHOW will not be attacked directly, but the Army planned on making the Chinese troops withdraw through strategy, it is said) it cannot consider the capture of ANKING at present. The Army never thought of dispatching its troops to the HONGKONG and KUANGTUNG Area. As far as the Army was concerned, it was necessary to leave a margin of power behind in consideration of the situation vis-a-vis the Soviet Union.

To this statement, the Navy insisted, from a naval viewpoint, on the necessity of expanding naval power for preparing against Great Britain and America.

Then the Emperor asked the War Minister whether the Army could, at one and the same time, carry out preparations against the Soviet and Great Britain and America.

The War Minister replied that he would have the honour to answer after consulting other members of the Cabinet on that point.

The conference closed. (The above is a private report by the Navy)