

VI-IX

Rejected
R. 30061

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STATEMENT OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT CONCERNING
THE MANCHURIAN AFFAIRS, DEC 27, 1931.

I. The maintenance of peace and order in Manchuria is a matter to which the Government of Japan have always attached the utmost importance. They have on various occasions taken every lawful step in order to secure it, and to prevent Manchuria from becoming the battle-ground of militarist factions. Only if peace and order prevail, can the country be safe either for the Chinese or for the foreigner: in the absence of peace and order it is futile to speak of the Open Door or of equal opportunity for the economic activities of all nations. But the events of September last have, in spite of her wishes, created a new responsibility and a wider sphere of action for Japan. Attacked by Chinese violence, her acts of necessary self-protection resulted, to her considerable embarrassment, in her having to assume the duty of maintaining public order and private rights throughout a wide area. The local authorities might have been expected to co-operate in upholding law and order. But, in fact, they almost unanimously fled or resigned. It was Japan's clear duty to render her steps of self-defense as little disturbing as possible to the peaceable inhabitants of the region. It would have been a breach of that duty to have left the population a prey to anarchy-deprived of all the apparatus



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of civilized life. Therefore, the Japanese military have, at considerable sacrifice, expended much time and energy in securing the safety of persons and property in the districts where the native authorities had become ineffective. This is a responsibility which was thrust upon them by events, and one which they had as little desire to assume as to evade.

2. But further than that, not only did the existing machinery of justice and civilized existence break down, but the criminal activities of the bandits who infest the country were naturally stimulated. The prestige and efficiency of the Japanese troops were for some time sufficient to keep them in check, and to maintain order wherever they were stationed. Since the beginning of November, however, a sudden increase in the activities of the bandits has been noted in the vicinity of the South Manchuria Railway Zone, and especially to the west of the Main Line, -- and it has been established to demonstration, by the examination of arrested individuals, by documents which have been seized, and from other sources of information, that their depredations are being carried on through the systematic intrigues of the Chinchow military authorities.

Reports have, indeed, been made by certain of the foreign military observers suggesting that they found no evidence

of any preparations being made by the Chinese for an attack. But as a matter of fact the military authorities at Chinchow are maintaining large forces at various points, west of Takushan, on the Peiping-Mukden Railway and in the adjacent territory. Reconnaissances conducted by the Japanese army have not only definitely confirmed the assurance that these forces are engaged in making preparation for war, but have also revealed the fact that their outposts are stationed along a line connecting Tienchuantai Tai-an, Peichipao, and other points on the right bank of the River Liao, well advanced from Chinchow. It will readily be admitted that to the Japanese contingents dispersed along the South Manchuria Railway and elsewhere, but the danger is even greater than it seems at first sight, if the further fact is taken into consideration that the Peiping-Mukden Railway places the cities of Mukden, Yinkao and Hopei within a short journey of three or four hours from Takushan and Toupantsu (which are bases of the Chinese forces).

The bandit forces, (which include a large number of officers and men discharged from the Chinese army), are daily gaining strength. For instance, the number of bandits on the western flank of the main line of the South Manchuria Railway was estimated early in November at 1,300, whereas investigations conducted in early December revealed the fact that they numbered over 30,000. Moreover, they are

banded together in large groups comprising several hundreds, or even thousands, each equipped with machine guns and trench mortars; so that they can no longer be distinguished from regular troops. This points unmistakably to the existence of a state of things in which the so-called bandits are directed and provided with arms by the Chinchow military authorities. According to the statistics compiled in the Japanese Consulate-General at Mukden, the cases of bandit-raid in the vicinity of the Railway ⁴one numbered 278 during the first ten days of November, 341 during the second ten days, 438 during the final ten days of the month, and 472 during the first ten days of December, thus reaching the astounding total of 1,529 in forty days. It is the usual strategy of these bandit-troops, when attacked by our men, to fly westward, or to take refuge on the right bank of the River Liao; where our army, anxious to avoid any collision with the Chinese Regulars, has made it a point to refrain from further pursuit.

3. On the 24th November, the Foreign Minister of China made an intimation to the Ministers at Nanking of the principal Powers to the effect that the Chinese Government, in order to avoid any collision between Chinese and Japanese forces, were prepared to withdraw their troops to points within the Great Wall. Upon a proposal to that effect being officially made on the 26th, this Government signified their

readiness to accept it in principle, -- at the same time instructing the Japanese Minister at Shanghai, and the Legation at Peiping, to open conversation on the matter with the Chinese Foreign Minister and with Marshal Chang Hsueg-liang respectively.

The Japanese Minister in China had several conferences accordingly with the Chinese Foreign Minister between 30th November and 3rd December. In the midst of these conversations, the latter withdrew the overture, and declined further negotiation. Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang, with whom our representative at Peiping carried on negotiations from the 4th December onwards, either directly or through the Marshal's subordinates, expressed on the 7th his willingness to call in his Chinchow forces as a spontaneous move of withdrawal; and he has since given repeated assurances as to the speedy execution of his promise. In point of fact, however, there is no sign of any such withdrawal. On the contrary, the defenses of Chinchow have since been strengthened.

4. Accordingly, at the present moment, now almost a month subsequent to the initiation of these negotiations for the withdrawal of the Chinchow troops, there appears no prospect of obtaining any tangible result, owing entirely to the want of good faith on the Chinese side. At the same time, the increased activity, above described, on the part of marauding bands, threatens to bring about a complete

destruction of all peace and security throughout the whole extent of South Manchuria. In these circumstances, the Japanese forces have now begun a general movement with a view to a campaign against the bandits on a more extensive scale than hitherto. It is obvious, from what has been said above, that the Japanese army, if it is to achieve anything like adequate success, will have to advance to the points west of the River Liao where the bandits have their base. Certainly, the Japanese forces, in deference to the Resolutions of the League Council adopted on 30th September and 10th December, are not in the field against the Regular Chinese forces; but in the present abnormal conditions prevailing in Manchuria, the necessities of the case compel them to continue their operations against lawless elements. This is a point on which the Representative of Japan at the recent session of the Council of the League held on the 10th December made a definite declaration. So long as the Chinchow military authorities, while simulating an unaggressive attitude, continue to instigate and manipulate the movements of bandit organizations against the Japanese army as well as Japanese and other peaceable inhabitants, and so long as the officers and men of the Chinchow army mingle in large numbers with these bandit groups and so render it impossible to distinguish the latter from Regular troops, so long must the responsibility for the consequences of any action which

may be entailed upon the Japanese Army in self-defense rest entirely with the Chinese.

5. During the course of the past month, in spite of the indignation aroused throughout the country by the behaviours of the Chinchow military authorities, and in accordance with the constant desire of the Japanese Government to abide scrupulously by the resolutions of the League Council, the operations of the Army against the bandits have been restrained within comparatively narrow limits, and the Government have done everything in their power to devise means for forestalling a collision between the forces of the two countries in the course of an eventual antibandit campaign. The Japanese Government are confident that their prolonged forbearance and their desire strictly to adhere to the stipulations of international engagements will not fail to command recognition by the public opinion of the world.

CERTIFICATE OF SOURCE AND AUTHENTICITY

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, who occupy the post of the Chief of the Archives of Foreign Office, heroby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese and English consisting of J. 6, E. 7, page and entitled "Statement of the Japanese Government concerning the Manchurian Affairs, Dec. 27, 1931" is an exact and authorized excerpt from an official document in the custody of Japanese Government(Foreign Office).

Certified at Tokyo,

on this 26 day of July, 1947

/S/ HAYASHI, Kaoru (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

At the same place,

on this same date

Witness: URABE, Katsuma (seal)

Ref Doc 19149

not used

文書ノ出所竝ニ成立ニ關スル證明書（三號）

自分林檎ハ外務省文書課長ノ職ニ居ル者ナル處、
茲ニ添附セラレタル日本語及ビ英語ニ依ツテ私カ
レ日本語六頁ヨリ成ル清洲尋常ニ關スル帝國政府
第三次聲明（昭和六年十二月二十七日）ト認スル
書類ハ日本政府（外務省）ノ保管ニ係ル公文書ノ
正副ニシテ眞實ナル寫シナルコトヲ證明ス

昭和二十二年七月二十六日

於東京

林 稔 (印)

右署名捺印ハ自分ノ面前ニ於テ爲サレタリ

同日於同所

立會人

清 部 勝 馬 (印)

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滿洲事變ニ關スル帝國政府第三次聲明

(昭和六年十二月二十七日)

一滿蒙ニ於ケル治安ノ維持ハ帝國政府ノ恒ニ最重
要視スル所ニシテ政府ニ於テハ從來各該ノ機會ニ
同地方ノ康寧ヲ保持シ且之カ阜固爭亂ノ巻ト化ス
ルヲ防カムカ爲百方道法ノ手段ヲ講シ來レリ治安
ノ保持アリテ始メテ同地方ハ内外人安住ノ地タル
ヲ得ヘク又秩序ナキ所門戶開放機會均等モ結局空
名ニ終ルヘシトラスモ今次事變ハ帝國ニ對シ滿蒙
ニ於ル新ナル責任ヲ加ヘ而シテ其ノ活動ノ範圍ハ
更ニ廣汎ナルヲ致セリ即チ支那側ノ不當ナル攻撃
ニ對シ必要ノ自衛手段ヲ執リタル結果帝國ハ廣大
ナル地域ニ亘リテ公共ノ安寧ヲ維持シ住民ノ利益
ヲ保護スルノ義務ヲ負フノ已ムヲ得サルニ至レリ
當時支那地方官憲ハ法律秩序保持ノ爲何種權力ノ
機會ヲ求メス一齊ニ逃亡又ハ僻處セリ斯カル狀況
ノ下ニ無事ノ地方民ノ災害ヲ出來ル限リ僅少ナ
ラシムルハ曠カニ帝國ノ要務ニシテ之ニ原シ我方
ニ於テ右等良民ヲ無政府狀態ノ渦中ニ委スルカ如
キハ正ニ前記要務ノ危急タルヘシ是レ我軍力多大
ノ犧牲ヲ忍ビ支那官憲ノ職務ヲ失ヘル地方ニ於テ
人命財產ノ安全ヲ保持センカ爲全力ヲ盡シ來リタ

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ル所ニ以ニシテ畢竟我軍ハ事無自然ノ推移ニヨリ
テ其ノ欲スルト否トニ拘ラス右ノ如キ實勢ヲ預フ
ルニ至レルモノナリ
ニ右ノ如ク今次我軍ノ發生ニ依リ既存諸機關ノ破
壞ヲ見タルニ止ラス滿蒙地方ニ於ケル馬賊其ノ他
不逞分子ハ自然其ノ騷擾ヲ増スニ至リタルモ我軍
ノ所在スル方面ニ於テハ其ノ威力ニ依リ漸次治安
ノ恢復ニ向ヒツツアリタリ然ルニ十一月月上旬前後
ヨリ綏遠附屬地邊境地方殊ニ綏遠本線西方ニ於ケ
ル此等不逞分子ノ騷擾ニ顯著トナリ來レル處右
馬賊等ノ活動ハ錦州軍駐ノ組織的策謀ニ基クモノ
ナルコト捕虜ノ供述、押収文書其ノ他各種ノ情報
ニ依リ察シ得レサル所ナリ錦州方面ニ於ケル第三
〇武官中支隊係ニ於テ何等攻撃ノ準備ヲナシ居ル
點左ナシトノ報告ヲナシ居ルモノアルハ錦州官憲
カ大嶺打虎山以西ノ北線線上及其ノ附近ノ各地ニ
亘リ亘大ナル兵力ヲ集シ居ルハ誠カニシテ我軍ノ
周密ナル偵察ニ依レハ此等軍隊カ錦州其ノ他ノ陸
屯地ニ於テ悉々兵備ヲ盡ヘ居ル點懸念ナルモノ
アルノミナラス其ノ首領部員ヲ錦州ヨリ遠ニ東方
ニアル田庄屯、三安、白旗堡等遼河右岸ノ各地ヲ
遣ヌル線ニ設置シ居ルコト確信ナリ而シテ右等
カ綏遠沿線其ノ他各地ニ分散駐屯セル我軍各部員

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ニ對スル不圖ノ脅威タルハ何人モ首肯シ得ヘク殊
 ニ北寧線ヲ利用スルニ於テハ打虎山奉天間及海州
 子河北間ハ僅カ三、四時間内ニ到着シ得ヘキ近距
 離ニアルノ事實ハ該脅威ノ甚々大ナルヲ示スモノ
 ナリ一方前記馬賊等ハ近時錦州軍多數將卒ノ改編
 セラレタルモノヲ含ミ其ノ活動ノ規模急速ニ増大
 シ居リ現ニ瀋陽本線西方ニ於ケル馬賊ハ十一月上
 旬約一萬三千ト算定セラレタルカ十二月上旬ノ間
 奎ニ侵入レハ三萬ヲ超過シ且最近ニ於テハ數百萬至
 數千ノ員數ト極巨額、遺棄砲等ノ裝備ヲ有シ今ヤ
 正統軍トノ區別殆ント困難ナル狀態ニアリ何々以
 テ其ノ脅威ニ之ヲ論議シ之ヲ指導スル錦州軍營ノ存ス
 ルコト疑ナキヲ知ルヘシ又在奉天日本總領事館ノ
 調査ニ依レハ瀋陽附近地方馬賊兵民出沒數
 ハ十一月一日以降十日間二七八件、十一日以後十
 日同三四一件、二十一日以後十日同四三八件、十
 二月一日以後十日同四七二件、合計一五二九件ノ
 多キニ上レリ

従上馬賊等不逞分子ノ陽謀ニ對シ我軍ニ於テ必要
 ノ討伐ヲ行フヤ瀋陽本線西方ノ賊匪ハ遼西方面ニ
 逃入スルヲ常トシ我軍ヲシテ殆ント奔命ニ疲ラシ
 ムルモノアリ而モ尙我軍ニ於テ遼西地方ニ對スル
 賊匪ノ遺跡ヲ取テセサリシハ同地方各地ニ匪屯ス

ル前記錦州軍憲配下ノ支那正規兵トノ衝突ヲ避ケ
ムトスル苦衷ニ出テタルモノナリ
然ルニ偶々十一月二十四日顧外交部長ヨリ在支
主要列國公使ニ對シ支那側ハ日支兩軍ノ衝突ヲ避
クル爲支那軍ノ山海關以西撤退ヲ實行スルノ用意
アル旨ヲ告ケタリ仍テ帝國政府ハ同月二十六日正式ニ
右主旨ノ提議ニ接スルヤ主權上之ヲ受諾スルト共
ニ在支帝國公使及在北平帝國代表者ニ對シ夫々顧
外交部長及張學良氏トノ間ニ本件ニ關シ會合ヲ行
ハムコトヲ訓令セリ同公使ハ十一月三十日乃至十
二月三日會次ニ亙リ顧外交部長ト會合ヲ行ヒタル
カ同部長ハ中途ヨリ前記申出ヲ認シテ右會合ニ應
セサルノ態度ヲ示シ又在北平帝國代表者ハ十二月
四日以來張學良氏ト直接又ハ其ノ側近者ヲ介シ會
合ヲ重ネタルカ同月七日ニ至リ張學良氏ヨリ其ノ
自發的措置トシテ錦州方面支那軍ノ撤退ヲ行フヘ
キ旨ヲ指示シ來リ且爾來張學良氏トナク右細京ノ急送
實行方ヲ確言セルモ何等撤兵ノ事實ナク却テ同方
面ノ兵備ヲ嚴ニシ居ル實情ナリ
曰錦州地方撤兵問題ニ關スル交渉開始セラレタル
以來既ニ約一ヶ月ニ及ヘルモ支那側ノ不誠實ナル
態度ニ依リ何等ノ效果ヲ得ケ得ヘキ前途ノ見據付
カサル間ニ前記ノ如ク顧外交部長ノ活圖急進ヲ極メ
テ遂ニハ南滿洲ニ於ケル全體的治安ノ根底的破

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従テ招來スルノ虞アル事慮ヲ現出セルニ依リ最近
 我軍ハ一齊ニ出動シテ從來ヨリ比較的大規模ノ賊
 圍討伐ニ着手スルノ已ムヲ待サルニ至レル處我軍
 ニ於テ賊圍討伐ノ徹底ヲ期セムカ爲ニハ其ノ根據
 地タル遼西方面ニ進出セサルヲ待サルコト前述ノ
 事情ニ徴シ時カナリ固ヨリ我軍ハ九月三十日及十
 二月十日理事會決議ノ主旨ニ反シ好ンテ支那正統
 兵ニ對シ攻撃ヲ加フルカ如キ主動的措置ニ出テ居
 ルモノニアラサルコト勿論ナルモ他國軍隊等ノ討
 伐ニ至リテハ前線現下ノ特殊狀況ニ順ミ日本軍ニ
 於テ引續キ之ヲ行ハサルヲ待サル所ニシテ右八十
 二月十日理事會決議採擇ノ際我代表ニ於テ明確ニ
 保留セル所ナリ然ルニ此際支那軍意ニシテ表面非
 攻撃的態度ヲ裝ハントスルモ前記ノ如ク裏面ニ於
 テ我軍及我居留民ヲ目標トスル匪賊操縱ノ積極的
 行動ニ出テ且石匠隊中ニ錦州軍ノ將卒多數混入シ
 テ正統軍トノ區別困難ナル以上我軍ニ於テ自衛上
 必要ト認ムル適當ノ措置ニ出ツル場合其ノ結果生
 スルコトアルヘキ一切ノ責任ハ前記諸般ノ經過ニ
 備ミ凡テ支那側ニ於テ負擔スヘキモノナリ
 英帝國政府ハ聯盟規約不戰條約其ノ他各種條約及
 今次事件ニ關スル理事會兩度ノ決議ヲ忠實ニ遵守
 セムコトヲ期スルモノニシテ錦州軍意ノ組織的治
 安攪亂ニ對スル日本國民ノ憤激甚タシキモノアリ

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タルニ拘ラス一ヶ月ノ永キニ亘リ帝國軍ニ於テ該
方面ニ對スル匪賊討伐ノ自由ヲ抑留シ其ノ間政府
ニ於テ凡ユル手段ヲ盡シ石討伐實行ノ際惹起スル
コトアルヘキ日支兩軍ノ衝突ヲ預防スルニ努メタ
ル誠心誠意ト隱忍自重トハ全く前記諸條約及決議
ニ至ク義務ニ忠實ナラムトスル精神ニ出テタルモ
ノナルコト必スヤ世界兵團ノ認識ヲ得ヘキヲ信ス