

No. 3248

STENOGRAPHIC RECORD OF THE HOUSE OF PEERS AT THE 67TH SESSION OF THE
IMPERIAL DIET. 25 JANUARY 1935.

Answer of the Minister of State.
Minister of State, Mr. Koki Hirota.

Further, the question as to what is the fundamental idea of the Japanese foreign policy towards the United States, Great Britain and other countries, I should like to answer as follows. Unfortunately, Japan has been compelled to withdraw from the League of Nations owing to the Manchurian Incident, but this does not mean that Japan has separated herself from the whole world. The League of Nations is a place of conference and not to attend the conference does not mean that the diplomatic relations between Japan and those countries which compose the conference will be severed at once.

For my part, I believe Japan should maintain closest friendly relations with all powers and the diplomatic policy of Japan should take the course of increasing friendly relations with all powers instead of a foreign policy of making an ally of one power to oppose another or to make connections with one power to exclude another. In a word, I think the diplomatic policy of Japan should be carried out in a feeling of universal harmony. However, as the interests of the powers in Japan are not the same, some interests being in a high degree and others in a small degree, the most cordial relations should be established with the powers having the greatest interest in Japan. Therefore, towards such countries as the United States and Great Britain, which have the greatest interest in Japan, great efforts should be made to make relations better. I think I explained this point clearly in my speech on foreign policy the other day.

In connection with the diplomatic relations with the United States and Great Britain, there is the problem of naval disarmament. My views about the future of naval disarmament as also set forth in the same speech, are to reach an agreement on naval disarmament by discussion with the United States and Great Britain. What the Japanese Government lays greatest stress upon is the accomplishment of a treaty, and I am of the opinion that it is not right even to imagine a failure of an agreement. If you inquire how I intend to deal with this problem in the future, I would answer, of course, Japan will follow a policy of peace and at this time I feel greatest reluctance even to speculate, at this time on measures to be taken in case the effort to reach an agreement turns out to be unfruitful.

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CERTIFICATE OF SOURCE AND AUTHENTICITY

I, KONDO, Hideaki, who occupy the post of a Secretary of the House of Peers, hereby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese, consisting of 2 pages and entitled "Stenographic Record of the House of Peers at the 67th Session of the Imperial Diet" is an exact and authorized excerpt from an official document in the custody of Japanese Government (The House of Peers).

certified at Tokyo,
on this 13th day of March, 1947

KONDO, Hideaki (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: ONODERA, Goichi (seal)