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Declaration of the Return of the Capitol  
(20 March 1940, NANKING)

As the National Government has returned the Capitol to Nanking pursuant to the decision of the Central Political Council, the Government hereby respectfully makes a frank and open statement to the entire nation. The two main policies, the realization of peace and the practice of constitutional government have been only decided by the Central Political Council, and the National Government swears to adhere strictly to, and will endeavor to carry out, the said policies. The so-called realization of peace is based on the principles of co-operation with Japan, good neighborliness, a common front against Communism, and economic co-operation. It lies in removing all past complications so as to establish friendly relations in the future; in nullifying or modifying for certain the policies, laws, and ordinances which were adopted formerly and are incompatible with the said policies; in endeavoring to preserve our sovereign independence and freedom and our administrative integrity; in practicing mutual co-operation on an economic basis so as to establish a foundation of co-existence and co-prosperity. China and Japan have been the same as brothers from the beginning. They once resorted unfortunately to arms, but now that they have improved diplomatic relations, they shall maintain peace forever, stabilize East-Asia in co-operation with each other and at the same time keep faith with all friendly countries and strengthen friendship with them on the basis of this policy of peaceful diplomacy. Consequently, they should promote friendly relations. As regards the so-called practice of constitutional government, this has already been provided for in the Declaration of the Fifth and Sixth National Representative Congress of the Kuomintang, and was also unanimously agreed to long ago by the wise and able men of the whole country. Now that all the post-war administrative structures are defunct, a restoration is needed. The entire nation must concentrate its energies, both physical and spiritual, and push on to complete the establishment of a modern state. As the past system of dictatorship by an individual has been an obstacle to the spiritual unity of the entire nation, it must be corrected and removed without fail. As the Communist Part excites class strife and, especially, as it is an enemy of the nation and the race, it must infallibly be stamped out and corrected, permitting no remaining evil.



As for the establishment of a representative organ of all classes, the carrying-out of local autonomy, the convening of the People's General Meeting, and the enactment and promulgation of the Constitution, these will be timely carried out to comply with the wishes of the people of the whole nation. The above-mentioned realization of peace and practice of constitutional government are the greatest policies to be followed by the National Government and at the same time the greatest duty imposed upon the same.

On the occasion of the return of the National Government to the capitol, it is with great honor that the government expresses infinite condolence and respect to the soldiers who fell in the battlefields, the victimized people and the many heroes who sacrificed themselves for the sake of the peace movement. What the National Government realizes first of all as its own responsibility is to comfort the people after the war, to guarantee their lives, properties and freedom by laws of the State, to give security to the people in their work, and thus enabling them to engage in the recovery of economy and industry, and in the development of civilization. Together with its staff, and with a pure and brave spirit of sparing no pains and with a readiness to be reproached, the National Government proclaims respectfully to the officials and soldiers now in service in CHUNGKING and other areas, to share their Fate and to project the recovery of our state and people in order to unify our innocent people. After the issuance of this proclamation all government officials must immediately return to NANKING and make a report. Every member who has made the above report shall be employed at his present class and pay, after his reliability has been verified. Those who were loyal and who exerted themselves meritoriously in the mediation movement according to their positions shall receive special appointments. After the issuance of this proclamation, soldiers in general must obey orders, suspend hostilities, and wait for further orders. Those not in the regular army and who are in charge of guerillas in various areas must obey orders, cease activities, immediately receive inspection, assemble and wait to be organized. Since these are in the bases for peace and the founding of the new state, everyone must exert himself to this end.

With the return to the capitol, the National Government aims to advance bravely towards the ideals of unification of the entire country, realization of peace and practice of constitutional government, and the entire nation regard it as the only legal central government. Therefore, if the CHUNGKING Government should issue laws and ordinances throughout the country or conclude treaties with foreign countries, naturally they shall all be invalid. It is desired that the CHUNGKING Government would break the deadlock, immediately strive to save the situation, and co-operate to overcome difficulties. Since the incident, the Provisional and the Restoration Government were successively established and both have devoted themselves with all their might to preserve



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the state and to maintain the lives of our people and both have paid heavy sacrifices. Now they have both agreed to unite with the National Government. Therefore, in regards to those matters which have been carried through by them, the present status quo shall be maintained for the time being, but shall be readjusted as soon as possible based on the general trend of their policies. Later, under a united leadership throughout the country and with a unity of mind and benevolence, war damages shall be repaired and efforts made for future development.

These are the very reasons why the recovery of the State and the people and peace in East Asia are so earnestly desired.