

Memo concerning the National Temple of Manchukuo.

Sometime in February or March in 1940 Mr. Kagoshima, Vice Director of the Imperial Household Office of Manchukuo, and Major General Yoshioka called on Mr. Shirane, Vice Minister of the Imperial Household and said:

"His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Manchukuo is animated with a fervent desire to build a commemorative shrine ^{dedicated} to the Goddess Amaterasu as a manifestation of the ideal of "the moral and ideological unity of Japan and Manchukuo, and thereby to strengthen more than ever the foundation of his Empire. You will please arrange so that His Imperial Majesty will be pleased to grant to this Temple its divine emblem."

Later a memorandum to the above effect, as conveying the wish of the Emperor of Manchukuo, was transmitted to us through the Ministry of War.

Accordingly, there were held at our Ministry frequent conferences of the Division and Bureau directors concerned, as the result of which it was concluded that ^{it} would be improper for His Majesty to grant any article to serve as a divine emblem. At the same time, this being a matter having to do with the Grand Shrine, which was in charge of the Government, it was felt necessary to ascertain the views of the Cabinet. So I got in touch with the chief of the Cabinet General Affairs Section, Mr. Inada, and made inquiries of Prime Minister Yonai and others. I discovered that they all thought the whole affair was

incomprehensible, and that they were profoundly dubious about the proposition of enshrining the Goddess Amaterasu as the principal deity of Manchukuo.

Furthermore, His Majesty, when the story reached his ear, was said to have remarked; "I hear that in China they have worshipped heaven from ancient times. If now Manchukuo is to have a shrine, would it not be proper for them to adopt the form of heaven-worship?"

Thus, on the question of the deity to which the Manchukuo's national temple was to be dedicated, fundamental doubts were entertained on all sides. However, as long as the idea was said to have emanated from the deep wish of the Manchukuo Emperor himself, we did not go far into argument on the point, but only rejected the request for the Imperial donation of the divine emblem as absolutely improper.

But Vice-Director Kagoshima and Major General Yohioka, after yielding to our contention, proposed that the object to serve as a divine emblem should be made in Manchukuo, and brought over here on the occasion of the Manchukuo Emperor's visit to Japan, to be placed in the Sacred Music Hall of the Grand Shrine and have the Sacred Music Player before it when the Emperor of Manchukuo worshipped at the Shrine, so that it might be carried back to Manchukuo as a divine emblem. Then they asked that we arrange for the Imperial donation of an article that would serve as a sacred treasure for the National Temple upon its completion.

Note: It being the year of the 2,600th Anniversary of Japan, there was a plan of the Manchukuo Emperor's visit to Japan to convey felicitation; and his itinerary included a day of worship at the Grand Shrine.

C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, Chief of Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in Japanese consisting of 3 pages and entitled "MEMORANDUM WITH REGARD TO THE SHRINE FOR THE STATE OF MANCHUKUO" is an exact and correct copy of an official document in the custody of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Signed at Tokyo on this
4th day of Dec., 1946.

(Signed) K. Hayashi
signature of Official

Witness: (Signed) Magaharu Odo

T R A N S L A T I O N C E R T I F I C A T E

I, William E. Clarke, of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the above certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/s/ William E. Clarke

Tokyo, Japan
Date 4 February 1947