

Translation

Report on the Examination of the
Revision of Imperial Ordinance on
the Organization of the War Ministry
and One Other Subject.

We have been appointed members of the Committee of Examination with regard to revisions in the Organization of the War Ministry and of the Navy Ministry which have been referred to the Privy Council for deliberation. We held a committee meeting on the thirtieth of last month and listened to explanations given by the Ministers of State and the government officials concerned and have made a thorough examination of the subject matter.

The two points in question have for their purpose to revise the stipulations with regard to qualifications in the appointment of Ministers and Vice-Ministers for the War Ministry and the Navy Ministry. It is to be noted that the stipulations in the organizations of the War and Navy Ministers prescribing that those who are appointed Ministers (full general or lieutenant-general in the case of Minister of War and full admiral or vice-admiral in the case of Minister of the Navy) or Vice-Ministers (at one time was called secretary-general) (lieutenant-general or major-general in the case of Vice-Minister of War and vice-admiral or rear-admiral in the case of Vice-Minister of the Navy) that would limit them to generals or admirals on active service originated in the thirty-third year of Meiji (T.N. 1900) (vide remark No. 1 of the attached list to the revised Organization of the War Ministry by Imperial

Ordinance No. 193 of the thirty-third year of Meiji and remark No. 1 of the separate list to the revised organization of the Navy Ministry by Imperial Ordinance No. 194 of the same year). Later, in the second year of Taisho (T.N. 1913) the above-mentioned limitations were rescinded by Imperial Ordinance No. 165 of the second year of Taisho (T.N. 1913) relative to the revision of the Organization of the War Ministry remark No. 1 of the attached list was rescinded and by Imperial Ordinance No. 168 of the same year relative to the revision of the Organization of the Navy Ministry remark No. 1 of the separate list was rescinded), thereby making it clear that those to be appointed Ministers or Vice-Ministers of War and of the Navy were not to be limited to generals or admirals on active service. These have been effective up to the present day. It is further to be noted that all these revisions of the Organizations were not referred to the Privy Council for deliberation. According to explanations given by the Ministers concerned with the revisions now proposed, the following points are pointed out: Ministers of War and of the Navy come under the system of the Supreme Command and bear the heavy responsibility of directing and controlling the officers and men of the Army and the Navy who are subject to the Supreme Command, of maintaining strict military discipline and of keeping up a solid unity of the entire Army and the Navy. Vice-ministers assist their Ministers, put Departmental affairs in order and supervise the work done by

the Bureaus and the Divisions. Therefore it is actually essential that both the Ministers and the Vice-Ministers be officers on active service who come under the system of the Supreme Command and have powers of command the under the Supreme Command. Moreover, in the case of the Army, the results, following the above-mentioned revision of organization in the second year of Taisho (T.N.: 1913) procedure of handling affairs in the War Ministry, the General Staff Office and the Department of Military Education brought about duplication of work and waste of personnel causing great inconvenience. In addition, the Army has come to feel an urgent necessity, for remedial measures to be taken with regard to the unfortunate incident recently having taken place not only to establish commanding authority, to enforce military discipline, and to strengthen the unity of the Army, but also to try to carry out improvements in the existing system in order to bring about economy in personnel and to expedite the work handled. For these reasons, it should be prerequisite that Ministers and Vice-Ministers be limited to general officers on active service. Moreover since the above-mentioned revision of organizations in the second year of Taisho(1913) and up to the present day, there has not been an instance of a general or an admiral other than those on active service having been appointed Minister or Vice-Minister of War or of the Navy. Reflecting on this fact, it is appropriate to have matter express by stipulated in provision and make things correct with the fact both in name and reality For these reasons and in order to revert to the old system which

was in force prior to the second year of Taisho (1913) to limit the qualifications for appointment for Ministers and Vice-Ministers of War or of the Navy to generals or admirals on active service that it is proposed to introduce the two points in question to carry out partial revision in the existing organizations of the War Ministry and of the Navy Ministry respectively by adding the clause, "Those who are appointed Ministers or Vice-Ministers shall be generals ^{OR} admirals on active service" to the beginning of the remarks of the attached and separate lists of the respective Organizations.

After giving due consideration, it is clear that the two points in question have for their object to restore the old system with regard to qualifications in the appointment of Ministers and Vice-Ministers of War or of the Navy and to limit them to generals or admirals on active service by stipulations in the Organization. And although at the present time there may still be some concern regarding the reason why the said limitation stipulated in the Organization was removed in the past, the revisions now proposed can be recognized as a timely measure in bringing the control of the Army and the Navy to perfection taking all things of the present into consideration. Therefore, the Committee of Examination has unanimously decided that the two matters in question shall be approved exactly as they are.

We have the honor to report the above as the result of examination.

The 6th day of May of the eleventh year of Showa(TN: 1936)
To the President of the Privy Council,

Baron, HIRANUMA,

Chairman of the Committee of Examination

Privy Councillor, KAWAI, Misao

Members of the Committee of Examination

Privy Councillor, Viscount, ISHII, Kikujiro

Privy Councillor,

ARIMA, Ryokitsu

Privy Councillor,

HARA, Kadō

Privy Councillor,

MOTODA, Hajime

Privy Councillor,

SUZUKI, Sōroku

Privy Councillor,

FUJISAWA, Akunosuke

Privy Councillor,

ISHIZUKA, Eizo

Privy Councillor,

SHIMIZU, Toru

C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI, Naoru, Chief of Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document attached in Japanese consisting of 5 pages and entitled "REPORT ON THE EXAMINATION OF THE REVISION OF IMPERIAL ORDINANCE ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MINISTRY AND ANOTHER SUBJECT" is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.
Certified at Tokyo 19 November, 1946.

• /S/ K. Hayashi
Signature of Official

Witness: Nagaharu Udo

TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE

I, Yukio Kawamoto, 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/ Yukio Kawamoto

Tokyo, Japan

Date 19 Feb. '47