

EXHIBIT No. 3167

(17)

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of the House of Peers in the Imperial Diet, No. 2
Sitting Opened at 10:09 a.m., Wednesday, 23 March, 1932.
Mr. ARAKI, Sadao, Minister of State.

(Omitted)

I should like to give an outline concerning the matters of the moment that are chiefly in my charge. The Anti-Japanese movement in China, which has been a great hindrance to permanent peace in the Orient and one of the most deplorable occurrences, has precipitately enlivened its activities of later years and the privileged rights of our country have not only been entirely ignored by the Manchurian authorities, but also great pressure has come to be laid on Japanese and Korean residents, until their insolence resulted in the slaughter of these people. This serious situation culminated in the murder of Japanese army officers. Our countrymen, as well as those living in Manchuria, that have tolerated these outrages with patience, have come to stand face to face with the imminent danger. This state of things has grown worse, and challenged by the riotous act of violence inflicted by Chinese soldiers under command of WANG I-CHE in the vicinity of

PEITAIYING near MUKDEN, the Japanese troops have been forced to rise against their will for their own self-defense.

Since then, the Japanese army has faced with minor forces the outnumbering enemy, making continuous operation night and day and getting over various difficulties. On the other hand, as we have just received here in the assembly an encouragement resolution, we have met with such an enthusiastic support, born of nation-wide public wrath, as not experienced for many years. Thus in unity of the people many international crises have been faced with and borne through.

The Japanese Army, in half a year, have repulsed frequent attacks of ex-soldier bandits, mounted bandits and Chinese plain-clothes soldiers. At present, the Japanese forces now staying in Manchuria number less than 30,000 and are stationed in the vast area of Manchuria and Mongolia more than two times and a half as large as our empire and are directly charged with protection of the lives and properties of the 1,000,000 Japanese and Korean residents and indirectly with the preservation of peace and welfare of the 30,000,000 inhabitants. The soldiers have fulfilled their duty with unflinching rectitude to take up their stand on the life-line of national defence and safeguarded national security.

I consider the honorable members are already well aware of such information.

At the time of the outbreak of the Incident, the Japanese Army forces were formed of the 2nd Division and the Independent Garrison numbering only 10,400 with the inclusion of those troops scattered in various localities. The forces in and about Mukden were only 4,000 strong at the time of the Incident. On the contrary, the Chinese army numbered approximately 220,000 in total and the forces stationed near Mukden were no less than 14,000. In consideration of this situation, at the outbreak of the conflict, the dispatch of a mixed brigade from Korea has been decided on and as is well known, other troops have been despatched from home and Korea to meet the requirement of various critical moments. In this manner, the minor Japanese forces have stripped Manchuria of the menace near LIAOHSI and swept away all disturbances in North Manchuria. Bandits have not merely been suppressed, but also they have been pacified with a view to the least casualties on the part of the Japanese Army. These endeavors have resulted in the present rest. On closer observation, however, the circumstances admit of no optimism and the authorities concerned are now in hasty endeavours for measures to cope with the situation. It is a matter of course that we hope for the preservation of eternal peace in Manchuria and her development even from the standpoint of our own national defence and needless to say, for this purpose, the prevailing condition necessitates the

existence of the present strength of the forces, and the more, if possible. The respective authorities are now engaged in the examination of this case. Concerning the state of things in SHANGHAI and its vicinity, the Army perceived the necessity of taking up measures with deliberation, judging from its peculiar character different in its nature from the disturbances in Manchuria and watched further development, but at the end of February, to meet the need of the emergency, it was decided by the Cabinet council to send a brigade from Kyushu and a division reinforced to a certain degree on a program designed by the Supreme Command. In view of the specially complicated situation of SHANGHAI, the Army authorities wished for the immediate solution of the problem without any bloodshed from the start and repeatedly carried on negotiations with the Chinese authorities, which showed no sincerity and replied with bombardment. It is a matter of great regret that these circumstances compelled us to exchange fire.

The Chinese army reinforced their strength with the guards under the command of CHIANG KAI-SHEK in addition to the 19th Route of CANTON then in active position, the whole strength totalling 6 divisions, threatened to take the offensive. Therefore, in accordance with our prepared plan, two Japanese divisions and adjunct troops required for the area have been despatched and early this month, with one blow, have irretrievably defeated the main body of the enemy. At present the

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Japanese forces are assembled in a certain limited area in a state of suspension of hostilities with a view to restoring peace. In perfect harmony with the fundamental policies of the Imperial Government and in co-operative operations with the Navy, the Japanese Army in due consideration of the situation of the time has succeeded in the attainment of its object, evading the full-scale conflict between Japan and China. The object of sending our troops to the SHANGHAI area is the protection of the Japanese residents and the preservation of peace in the International Settlement. Consequently, so long as China does not menace with a large-scale offensive, the Japanese Army authorities have decided, acting on the intention of the Supreme Command, to withdraw the forces of their own accord. In the middle of this month, the 11th Division and the 24th mixed brigade have been given instructions for evacuation and stand-by at home and they are now under transportation. The above-mentioned is the outline of the important military affairs of which I am in charge. In view of the present conditions, at home and abroad, careful examination of the nature and development of the Incident shows that it is not only incomparable in its gravity and seriousness with our expedition to Siberia or with the Manchurian Incident, but also it may be said to in its importance even the Russo-Japanese War. It is simply natural that the morale of our soldiers and

the nation has been enhanced as a result. It is our earnest desire to safeguard the security of the nation and the peace and welfare of the people by virtue of our loyalty to the country, unselfish devotion and exertion, and our strong unity and thus to see the glorious conclusion. The harmonious cooperation of the Army and the Navy demonstrated during the latest operations, in the excellence of which the Army may well take pride, is unrivalled in history and it should be particularly stated that it is worth our special attention. What with the august virtue of His Majesty and gods' grace, and what with the unrivalled devotion and loyalty of the soldiers, it has been clarified that the Army deserves the high regard of the countries of the world and that it can take its resolute stand on the unanimous support of the people. It is a matter of congratulation that the new dawning light of peace is now being noticed in the Orient. Impressed with the growing importance of the responsibilities, the authorities concerned are all determined, in consideration of our national structure, to tide over the crises by united efforts, to secure national defence to exalt the Imperial prestige abroad, to extend national virtues at home for the well-being of all the people, to abide by the KODO (The Imperial Way), instead

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of hereby, to make contribution toward perfect peace of the
Empire, and to redouble our efforts for the fulfillment of
our heavy responsibilities of guarding and maintaining Our
Imperial Throne.

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CERTIFICATE OF SOURCE AND AUTHENTICITY

I, MIYASAKA, Kanko, who occupy the post of Tae Chief of General Affairs Section, Upper House, hereby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese, consisting of 6 pages and entitled "The Official Gazette, Extra, 24 March, 1932, The Stenographic Record of the Proceedings of the 61th Session of the House of Peers in the Imperial Diet, No.2." 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 30 day of June, 1947

/s/ MIYASAKA, Kanko (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 : /s/ YAMADA, Itaru (seal)

The Chief of shorthand Section