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Defense Language Branch

Excerpt from "Twilight In The Forbidden City"
by R.F. Johnston (Exhibit # 279) . .

On November 15th I returned to Shanghai and learned
from private telegram that the emperor had left
Tientsin for Manchuria.

The Chinese endeavored to make out that the emperor had been kidnapped by the Japanese and carried off against his will. This statement was widely circulated among Europeans, many of whom believed it; but it was wholly untrue. The extraordinary statements recently published to the effect that the emperor and empress had telegraphed to Chiang Kai-shek at Nanking and to Chang Hsueh-liang at Peking "asserting their loyalty and asking for sanctuary" are equal false. So is the allegation that the emperor had "sworn a pact with his wife to commit suicide before he would consent to be king of Manchuria." I need hardly say that the last persons in the world to whom the emperor would have appealed for sanctuary were Chiang Kai-shek and Chang Hsueh-liang; and that had he wished to escape from danger of being kidnapped and carried off to Manchuria, all he had to do was to walk on board a British steamer bound for Shanghai. His loyal and devoted servant Cheng Hsiao-hsü was most emphatically not his jailor. He left Tientsin and went to Manchuria of his own free will, and his faithful companions were Cheng Hsiao-hsü (now his prime minister) and his son Cheng Chuei.

八月三十日 B、

十一月十三日に私が上海に歸つたとき、ある非公式の電報に依り帝は天津を去つて滿洲に向はれた事を知つた。支那人は、日本人が帝の意志に逆らつてその身を奪ひ誘拐し去つたものだといふ風に知らせんと努めた。この話は歐洲人間に擴く流布され、多くの人々はそれを信じた。しかしそれは全くでたらめであつた。帝並に妃が南京の蔣介石と、北京の張學良にあてて、彼等の忠誠を求め、避難所を要求する電報を打つたといふ事を最近實際に發表した驚くべき話も同様に偽である。帝は又滿洲の國主となる事を承諾されない内に自殺し様と、妃と誓ひを結ばれたとか言ふ事も勝手にいひたてられた。帝が避難所を求められたかも知れない世界中で前後の人物は蔣介石や張學良ではないといふ事をいふ必要はあるまい。尙假令、皇帝が滿洲へ奪衣誘拐されたる危険から逃れる事を欲して居られたなら彼がなさねばならぬ全ての事は上海行の英國船へ上船されて行かぬ事であるのはいふまでもない。帝に忠實とその身をささげた鄭孝胥の様な人が帝の獄中であるといふ様な事は全く絶對に、あり得べからざる事である。帝は天津を去つて滿洲へ行かれたのは御自身の自由意志である帝の信頼のあつた同伴者は現在國務總理の鄭孝胥とその息子であつたのである。

禁苑の黎明、荒、木、武、行、著 六五六頁

Twilight in The Forbidden City : R.F. Johnston