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The Course Towards the Opening of the Imperial Conference.
(January 14, 1938. East Asia Bureau,
Section 1. MATSUDAIRA)

WANG KO-MIN recently put before Commander TERAUCHI a question on these three points:

1. Whether or not Japan will give full-scale support to the new North China Regime.
2. Whether or not it is Japan's intention to regard CHIANG Kai-shek as a party to deal with.
3. Whether or not it is Japan's intention to make North China similar to Manchukuo.

Commander TERAUCHI conveyed the above to the Central Army authorities. The central authorities, however, were unable to reach a decision, and the time was wasted in vain. Commander TERAUCHI, in view thereof, urged the War Minister or the Vice War Minister to come to Tientsin. Meanwhile, almost simultaneously, Commander MATSUI urged the central authorities to establish a policy, stating that it was inadvisable to save the situation by dealing with CHIANG Kai-shek. Under these circumstances, the Central Army authorities had come to hold the Liaison Conference and the Imperial Conference.

As to the outline decided by the Imperial Conference, I understand that Vice Minister UMEZU carried it with him to China. (The foregoing is a private talk by one of the staff officers of the Army General Staff, which I heard indirectly through a high ranking official. Therefore, I am doubtful as to its reliability.)