

No. 2300

Part I, Excerpts from "Failed Politics" (Prince KONOE Fumimaro's Memoirs) published by the ASHI News.

As soon as I formed the Cabinet, the Marco Polo Bridge Incident broke out. Despite the policy of the Government to localize the affair the hostilities spread to the entire North China, and then to even Central China. During that period the attitude of the Army was entirely unreliable. Even the remarks of the War Minister himself were inconsistent every time he made a speech. Embarrassed greatly in such state of things and with the intention of changing the policy towards China, it was necessary for me to change the War Minister with one who was able to follow the "localization" policy which was being advocated by Lieutenant General ISHIHARA, Kanji, of the General Staff Headquarters. I emphatically proposed to the Army that General ITAGAKI, Seishiro, whose ideas were generally similar to those of ISHIHARA should enter the Cabinet as War Minister. However, UMEZU demanded as a condition that TOJO be appointed Vice-Minister of War. With this condition I succeeded in changing the Minister of War. I was rather happy at that time that the change of War Minister was effected by the Cabinet's own suggestion. Thus I went ahead with the KONOYE Message.

(PP. 21 to PP. 22)