

No. 2734

Message of the Prime Minister

Excerpt from Prosecution document (Exh No. 777 A)

On the occasion of the conclusion of the Three Power Pact between Japan, Germany and Italy, an Imperial Rescript has been issued, setting forth clearly the aims of our Empire and pointing the path our nation should follow. I am greatly moved by the boundless benevolence of our Sovereign.

To maintain world peace and to insure the stability of East Asia is indeed the immutable national policy of Japan, firmly rooted in the principle on which our Empire was founded.

With war breaking out in Europe last autumn, conflict and confusion have spread increasingly over the world. It is an urgent necessity of this moment to devise a measure for the cessation of the disturbances and the restoration of peace.

Germany and Italy share with our Empire in the same ideal and aspirations. Accordingly, with a view to joining hands with these Powers to establish a new order in the respective regions, and furthermore to co-operate with them toward the restoration of world peace, Japan has now concluded a Three Power Pact. The time has come for our nation to proceed with fresh resolve to construct a new order in Greater East Asia.

However, to carry out fully the conviction of our country and to enable all nations to find each its proper place is indeed a difficult task. The goal lies far. We must expect to encounter numerous obstacles as we go on.

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I confidently hope that, in obedience to the Imperial will, our people, in order to surmount the present emergency, will make clear the concept of our national policy, unite heart and soul, and overcome any and every obstacle -- and thereby set at ease the august mind of our Sovereign.

27 September 1940

Prime Minister, Prince

Fumimaro KONOYE