

Comdes Case

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Def. Doc. No. 1112

Rejected

COMMENTS MADE BY MR. KAWAI.

September 29, 1937.

Vivid and blood-curdling accounts of wholesale massacres of non-combatants, destruction of hospitals and schools have been broadcast by the Chinese propagandists of whom the least is not Madam Chiang Kaishek herself. The reason for this campaign is clear to all; the Chinese are using this arm as they see no hope of successfully staving off the military measures which their irresponsible attitude has compelled Japan to take, especially our attacks by air on their military establishments and the interruption of traffic enforced along their coast.

The very recklessness of their propaganda has sometimes defeated its end; it is hardly necessary to recall the complaints made by foreign correspondents in Shanghai about the inaccuracy --- to say the least --- of the news given out by the Chinese spokesman. It may be more to the point to recall the orders given by Chiang Kaishek a few days ago that truthful news only should be issued as the reputation of the Chinese had been badly damaged by giving out information which proved to be erroneous.

The Chinese have specially concentrated their propaganda on attacking our air forces. They have stated that Japanese planes

bore Chinese marks and that two of them had been actually shot down --- a clever way of explaining the destruction of their own planes. No Japanese soldier or sailor would consent to fight for his country in an airplane bearing the enemy's insignia. He would consider himself dishonoured and prefer death.

Another example of the Chinese way of handling news was seen when the Cathay Hotel in Shanghai was bombed, on August 14. The Chinese censors deliberately replaced the word "Chinese Planes" by "Japanese". The result, however, made the garb of the text to read as if Japanese planes had attacked the battleship, "Idzumo", which gave away the whole show.

It is well-known that such interference with messages has obliged correspondents to send their reports by mail to Hongkong from where they are relayed to the head offices, and the messages thus forwarded proved to be vastly different from those filed in Shanghai on the same subject.

Another fact to point is the story about Chinese junks having been torpedoed by Japanese submarines causing more than 300 casualties. This is unimaginable as the Japanese submarines have strict orders not to interfere with the junk traffic; further, no Japanese submarine is actually cruising in the adjacent waters where this incident is alleged to have taken place. I can affirm that this story is absolutely untrue.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in English consisting of 2 pages and entitled "Comments made by Mr. KAWAI September 29, 1937." is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 8th day of April 1947.

(signed) K. HAYASHI
Signature of Official

Witness: (signed) K. URIBE



川合氏の論評

一九三七年（昭和十二年）九月二十九日

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非戦闘員に對する大規模な虐殺と病院學校の破壊の眞に迫つた、戦慄悲
 慘な有様が支那の宣傳者―その中で蔣介石夫人自身もかなり活躍したの
 であるが―に依つて放送された。此宣傳の理由は「ペイの人々に明らか
 である。支那人は彼等の無責任な態度の爲に日本が餘儀なく取るに至つ
 た軍事行動時に飛行機による軍事施設の攻撃及び支那沿岸に實施した交
 通遮断を喰ひ止む得る見込全く無き爲此武器を用ひつつあるのである。
 彼等の無謀な宣傳そのものが時として其宣傳の目的を無効にした。上海
 に於ける外口通信員が其不正確さ―少くとも支那の代筆者に依つて公表
 された報道の不正確な事について苦情を言つた事を想ひ起す迄もない
 ことである。

誤報を公表する事に依つて支那人の名譽がひどく損はれて來たので今後

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は眞實の報道のみを發表すべきであるといふ二、三日前の蔭介石の命令を根拠にする方がもつと氣が利いである。

支那人は特に日本の航空隊の攻撃にその宣傳を集中した。彼等は日本の飛行機は支那のマークを附けて居り其中の二機が上海に墜落されたこと並べである。夫れは彼等自身の飛行機が破壊されたことを隠明するに都合の好いことである。日本の陸海軍人は敵の攻撃を附けて居る飛行機に乗つて自らの爲に戦ふ事には同意するものは一人もないであらう。さうする事は不存に思ひ死ぬ方がましと思ふであらう。

支那式の報道の真偽方のもう一つの例は八月十四日に上海の力セイホテルが空襲された時に見られた。支那の新聞官は故意に「支那の飛行機」を「日本の」と言ふ字に換へた。

併し其結果は文章が恰も日本の飛行機が日本の戦艦「出雲」を攻撃した事に似せられることになり、其の化の皮を剥はした。

此等な宣傳の被害は吾等國民をして報道を密に監視することを餘蘊な

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くさせたし、かして香港から本店へ中へ送られた。斯くの如くして送られた
新道は同じ門口に於いて上海に於いて隠されたものとは大いに異つて
あることが判明した。

指摘すべきもう一つの事は日本潜水艇に依つて魚雷を投げ三百名以
上の死傷者を出した支那のジャンク船に於いての話である。日本の潜水
艇はジャンク船の交通を妨害しない様に慎重な命令を受け持っている。こ
れは思ひもつかないことである。更に此事件が起つたと云はれてゐる場
所の近所には日本潜水艇は一隻も巡行してゐない。此説は全く虚偽であ
ると確言することが出来る筈である。