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Minutes of the Accounts Committee Meeting of The Diet  
7th Day  
February 10, 1942  
Speech by  
Navy Minister SHIMADA

I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the praises given just now concerning the various naval victories. The question asked, is not a matter which can be decided by the Navy alone. A part of the outline of the basic policy is primarily indicated in the Emperor's Declaration of War. The Government's Declaration also extends to this point. Premier Tojo has already reported at this Diet Session (T.N. 79th Imperial Diet Session) matters which can safely be revealed at this time. As for the Navy, it also has the desire to successively show good results by following the Government's policies, not to mention the Emperor's Declaration. I am in full agreement with the anxiety which was expressed, that perhaps it might be meaningless to have foreigners who already have foundations, grab the economic power despite our occupation, which was no easy task. I believe that this does not apply only to the southern regions. I believe that this should apply to the whole of the area which comprises the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. The JAPANESE race must be the leading power throughout the whole area of Greater East Asia. However, since JAPAN is the center of activities, whatever one may say, any element which does not conform to the will of the JAPANESE race must be eliminated completely. However, those who work on a foundation of righteousness will naturally be recognized. I am also of the conviction that we must never allow the sacrifices of lives to have been made in vain. In the future, concrete matters will be decided by the Government and not by the Navy alone. I am also of the opinion that this line of thought should be adopted. For the present, we must win this war at all costs, as the Premier has stated frequently. The opponent is a great enemy who possesses vast amounts of materials, and since two great powers are unitedly opposing JAPAN, it is no easy task to defeat them. Occasionally we hear people cry for materials and gasoline just because we have attained a few military victories, but we soldiers do not feel any such freedom from care. Even a drop of gasoline must be used for military purposes, and the war must be won somehow or other. After first winning the war, I would

like to build the foundation while eliminating the point which you have just indicated. (T.N. The last sentence was addressed to Committee Member KASAI who gave a talk just prior to SHINDA) In other words, as regards the great plan of devising various measures for the winning of the war and also the successive building of a foundation which will enable the JAPANESE race to expand in the future, I believe, as the Premier stated previously in the Diet, that an announcement will be made in the near future since appropriate organs are now ready. I want them to progress by striving to the utmost, taking into consideration the peoples ideas, and avoiding pitfalls. It is now only two months since this war started, but even if we think far in the future, if we make too much haste, mistakes are more likely to crop up. Therefore, I hope that perfect plans will be devised in order to avoid miscalculations.