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ADDRESS OF THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE 72nd
SESSION OF THE IMPERIAL DIET OF SEPTEMBER
5th 1937.

Revised Draft
by J. G. Gatt.

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Gentleman:

I, am profoundly moved to say that His Imperial Majesty's most Gracious message regarding the China Affair was granted us at the opening of the Imperial Diet yesterday. It is my humble desire that we shall be able to set His Majesty's heart at rest by our loyal and devoted service to the Throne in accordance with the august will of our sovereign.

Since the outbreak of the Affair in North China on July 7th, the fundamental policy of the Japanese Government towards China has been simply and purely to seek the reconsideration of the Chinese Government and the abandonment of its erroneous anti-Japanese policies, with the view to making a basic readjustment in relation between Japan and China. This policy has never undergone a change; even today it remains the same. The Japanese Government has endeavoured to save the situation by preventing aggravation of the incident and by limiting its scope. This has been repeatedly enunciated;

I trust that it is full understood by you gentlemen.

The Chinese, however, not only fail to understand the true motives of the Japanese Government, but have increasingly aroused a spirit of contempt and have offered resistance towards Japan, taking advantage of the patience of our Government. Thus, by the outburst of uncontrolled national sentiment the situation

... ..
has first been aggravated, spreading in scope to Central and South China. And now, our Government, which has been patient to the utmost, has acknowledged the impossibility of settling the incident passively and locally, and has been forced to deal a firm and decisive blow against the Chinese Government in an active and comprehensive manner.

In point of fact, for one country to adopt as its national policy the antagonizing of and the showing of contempt for some particular country, and to make these the underlying principle of national education by implanting such ideas in the minds of the young, is unprecedented in the history of the world. Thus, when we consider the outcome of such policies on the part of China, we feel grave concern not only for the future of Sino-Japanese relation, but for the peace of the Orient and consequently for the peace of the entire world. The Japanese Government, therefore, has repeatedly requested the Chinese Government to reconsider and to change its attitude, but all in vain. This failure of the Chinese Government has finally caused the present affair. We firmly believe that it is in accordance with the right of self-defense as well as with the cause of righteousness and humanity that our country had determined to give a decisive blow to such a country, so that it may reflect upon the errors of its ways. For the peoples of East Asia, there can be no happiness without a just peace in this part of the world. The Chinese people themselves by no means form the objective of our actions, which objective is directed against the Chinese Government and its army who are carrying out such erroneous, anti

foreign policies. If therefore, the Chinese Government truly and fully re-examines its attitude and in real sincerity makes endeavours for the establishment of peace and for the development of culture in the Orient in collaboration with our country, our Empire intends to press no further.

At the present moment, however, the sole measure for the Japanese Empire to adopt is to administer a thorough going blow to the Chinese Army so that it may lose completely its will to fight. And if at the same time, China fails to realize its mistakes and persists in its stubborn resistance, our Empire is fully prepared for protracted hostilities. Until we accomplish our great mission of establishing peace in the Orient, we must face many serious difficulties, and, in order to overcome them, we must proceed steadily with our task, adhering to the spirit of perseverance and fortitude in our united body.

Now that our Imperial Army and Navy, with their loyal officers and men, are advancing with all dignity in the course of righteousness, exalting their might far and wide, we are filled with grateful emotion. Simultaneously, we feel highly encouraged to witness the sincere support displayed throughout the length and breadth of the Empire. Let us however, be on our guard against intoxication over victories already won, and maintain an unrelaxed vigil toward achieving our final purpose.

The Government is hereby introducing to the Imperial Diet urgent budgetary and legislative measures. In these measures

the Government seeks to adopt a financial and economic structure for coping with the present extraordinary situation. We are ready, however, to take all possible precautions to avoid unnecessary shock to financial circles. As for developments in the affair, foreign affairs and financial plans, they will be stated by the Minister in charge.

The Government feels greatly honoured to assist, together with you gentlemen, in the administration of affairs of the State and at the same time feels increasingly the graveness of its responsibility. We earnestly beseech you gentlemen to give approval after mature deliberation to the Government measures which will be introduced.

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 12 pages and entitled "Address of the Prime Minister at the 72nd Session of the Imperial Diet on September 5th, 1937" is an exact and true copy of an official translation of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 27th day of January, 1947.

K. Hayashi
Signature of Official

Witness: Nagaharu Odo

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Congress Case
Rejected

第七十二議案合リニ於ケル

國務大臣ノ演説（昭和十一年九月五日）

（國務大臣公館近衛文相登壇）

○國務大臣（公爵近衛文相）昨日開院式ニ當リマシテ、時局ニ對シテニ優渥ナル勸語ヲ拜シマシタコトハ、眞ニ恐懼感激ノ至ニ感ヘマセヌ、私ハ諸君ト共ニ謹ンテ聖旨ヲ奉職シテ一意報效ノ誠ヲ竭シ、最良ヲ安ンジ奉リタイト存ズルノデアリマス

去ル七月七日北支ニ暴變カ勃發攻シマシテ以來、帝國政府カ支那ニ對シテ採リ來リマシタル根本方針ハ飽マデモ支那政府ノ反省ヲ求メマシテ其誤レル併日政策ヲ拋棄セシメ、以テ日支兩國ノ國交ヲ根本的ニ調整セントスルニアルノデアリマシテ、此方針ハ今日ト雖モ何等變ル所カナイノデアリマス、唯此方針ヲ進行致シマスル手段ト改シマシテ、從來政府ハ出來ルダケ條件ノ擴大スルコトヲ防ギ、局面ヲ限定シテ事變ヲ收拾スベク努メタノデアリマス、此點ハ今日マデ屢々聲明致シタ通りデアリマシテ、諸君モ御承認ノコトト思フノデアリマス然ルニ支那側ハ公正ナル帝國政府ノ眞意ヲ諒解セザルノミナラズ帝國政府ノ隱忍ニ乘ジマシテ益々侮日ノ氣勢ヲ擧ゲ、統制ナキ國民感情ノ激スル所、

華艦ハ急速ナル悪化ヲ來シマシテ 局面ハ北支ノミナラズ中支南支ニマデモ
 波及スルニ至ツタノデアリマス、隱忍ニ隱忍ヲ重ネテ容リマシタ我カ政府モ
 是ニ於テ從來ノ如ク消極的且ツ局部的ニ惡化ヲ收拾スルコトノ不可成ナルヲ
 認ムルニ至リマシテ、遂ニ斷乎トシテ積極的、且ツ全面的ニ支那軍ニ對シテ
 一大打撃ヲ與フルノ巴ムナキニ立至リマシタ次第デアリマス（拍手）
 抑々一國カ特定ノ他ノ一國ヲ排斥侮殺スルコトヲ以テ其國策トナシ、
 教育ノ方針トシテ斯ル思想ヲ幼少ナル兒童ノ頭腦ニマデ注入スルカ如キコト
 ハ、古今東西ノ歴史ニ於テ未ダ曾テ類例ヲ見ザル所デアリマシテ、是カ將來
 ニ於ケル結果ヲ考ヘマスル時ニハ、獨リ日支兩國ノ關係ノ爲ノミナラズ東洋
 ノ平和、延テハ全世界ノ平和ノ爲ニ眞ニ寒心ニ堪ヘナイモノカアルノデアリ
 マス、帝國政府ト致シマシテハ從來屢々支那政府ニ對シ其態度ヲ更メンコト
 〇要求シタニ拘ラズ、毫モ顧ミル所ナク、遂ニ今次ノ事變ヲ惹起セシムルニ
 至ツタノデアリマス、斯ノ如キ國家ニ對シテ其反省ヲ求ムル爲ニ、帝國カ斷
 乎一途ヲ加フルノ決意ヲ爲シタルコトハ、獨リ帝國自衛ノ爲ノミナラズ、正
 義人道ノヒヨリ見マンテモ、極メテ當然ノコトナリト固ク信ジテ疑ハヌモイ
 デアリマス（拍手）蓋シ東亞ノ和平ナクシテ東亞諸民ノ幸福ナシト信ズルカ

テデアリマス、固ヨリ帝國ノ打撃ヲ加ヘントスル目標ハ、斯ル誤レル併外政
 策ヲ實行シツツアル所ノ支那政府及ビ軍隊デアリマシテ、帝國ハ新ジテ支那
 國民ヲ激トスルモノデアリマス、又支那政府ニ望シマシテモ、眞
 ニ能ク反省ヲ致シ、今後我國ト提携シテ、相共ニ東洋文化ノ發達ト、東洋平
 和ノ建立ニ同ツテ力ヲ盡サントスル誠意ヲ示スニ至リマシタナラバ、帝國ト
 シテハソレデモ尙ホ之ヲ追究セントスルモノデアリマス
 併ナカラ今日此際帝國トシテ採ルベキ手段ハ、出來ルダケ、速ニ支那島ニ
 對シテ徹底的打撃ヲ加ヘ、彼ヲシテ敗意ヲ喪失セシムル以外ニナイノデアリ
 マス、新クシテ尙ホ支那カ容易ニ反省ヲ致サズ、何マデ執拗ナル抵抗ヲ續ク
 ル場合ニハ帝國トシテ長期ニ亘ルモ勿論辭スルモノデアリマス
 惟フニ東洋平和ノ確立ノ大使命ヲ達成スルカ爲ニハ尙ホ前途ニ幾多ノ難關カ
 横ハツテ居ルノデアリマシテ、此難關ヲ突破スルカ爲ニハ、上下一致堅忍持
 久ノ精神ヲ以テ邁進スルノ覺悟ヲ要スルト思フノデアリマス
 今ヤ、我カ忠勇ナル將兵ハ全文ニ亘リ萬難ヲ排シテ堂々正義ノ陣ヲ進メ、
 臍重ノ威力ヲ中外ニ宣揚シツツアルコトハ、國民ノ齊シク感謝感奮ニ感ヘヌ
 所デアリマス（拍手）又是ト同時ニ全國津々浦々ニ至ルマデ統後ノ熱誠カ萬

↓G. ↓loc

立チマシテ、美ハンキ學國一體ノ旨ヲ示シツツアルコトモ、誠ニ力強ク感ズル次第デアリマス（拍手）願クハ一時ノ敗勝ニ醉フカ如キコトナク、此緊張ヲ持度致シマシテ、時難ヲ克服シ、終局ノ目的ヲ達成シナケレバナラヌト思フノデアリマス

政府ハ茲ニ時局ノ急務ニ應ズル爲ニ必要ナル豫算案及ビ法律案ヲ帝國議會ニ提出致シテ居リマス 是等ノ法律ニ於キマシテ政府ハ此非常事態ニ對應スルヤウニ財政經濟ノ體分ヲ整フルコトト致シタイノデアリマス、固ヨリ是カ爲ニ財界ニ無用ノ拘束ヲ與ヘルコトハ、出來ルダケ之ヲ避クルヤウニ十分ノ注意ヲ拂フ積リデアリマス、尙ホ國體ノ經過、外交ノ事情、財政ノ計畫等ニ付キマシテハ、ソレゾレ主務大臣ヨリ申述ベマス

政府ハ此重大ナル時局ニ當リ、諸君ト共ニ此國家ノ大難ヲ裏贊シ奉ルコトヲ以テ洵ニ光榮トスルト同時ニ、其責任ノ愈々重大ナルコトヲ痛感スルノデアリマス、諸君ニ於カレマシテモ 宜シク政府ノ意ノアル所ヲ諒トセラレマシテ、慎重御審議ノ上協賛ヲ與ヘラレンコトヲ切望スル次第デアリマス

（拍手）

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右署名捺印ハ自分ノ面前ニ於テ爲サレタリ

同日於同所

立會人 佐 藤 武五郎