

No. 2536

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for Identification

Def. Doc. No. 1077-A

GENERAL MATSUI'S STATEMENT

At this juncture, on the afternoon of October 8th, at 5, p.m. General MATSUI Iwane, Highest Commander in the Shanghai Area, issued the following statement to clarify the Japanese Army's righteousness:

Having received the Imperial command, I, with heavy responsibilities of carrying out foreign expedition, landed some time ago at the Kiangnan Area which is in the south of the Yangtze River. Since that time, our Army's influence has been sufficiently increased, and the devil subduing sharp bayonets are just on the point of being unsheathed so as to develop their divine influence. The mission of the Army, based upon the principle of the Japanese Government's statement, is to fulfil all its duties of protecting our rights and interests and of safeguarding Japanese residents, and to chastise the Nanking Government and the outrageous Chinese, as well as to have them throw away all their anti-foreign and anti-Japanese policies which are being generally influenced by communism so as to establish firmly the foundation for the pleasant and peaceful East Asia. I deeply sympathize with the innocent people in all operation areas, that is to say, although our Army does not regard the people in general as its enemy from the outset, yet those who would resist to or injure our Army, irrespective of soldiers or civilians, would be punished without the slightest

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reserve. I cannot help sympathizing with the various foreign officials and peoples who are exposed to war disasters, or whose lives and properties are being threatened. As for the rights and interests of the powers, they have been respected as well as protected, and they have never been damaged even in the slightest degree. I am of the firm belief that all the Japanese forces, ever virtuous and strong, will, with perfectly united Army and Navy, most certainly clear away all war clouds above all Kiang-nan areas and, in this way, will be able to establish the happy dawn of peace at no distant date.

General MATSUI Iwane

The Imperial Japanese Army,
Highest Commander of the Army
in the Shanghai Area,
October 8th, 1937.