

DEF. DOC. #2437

Exh. No. \_\_\_\_\_

A-10

Japanese Consulate  
Changchun  
May 3, 1932.

RECORD OF INTERVIEW  
with  
MAJOR GENERAL DOIHARA,  
FORMERLY OF SPECIAL SERVICE,  
KWANTUNG ARMY.



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Gen. Doihara began by explaining that he left Harbin on the 1st of May, and on hearing that the Commission was at Changchun he was anxious to have an opportunity of meeting it.

Lord Lytton: We should like first of all to congratulate the General on his promotion.

Gen. Doihara: Thank you very much.

Lord Lytton: We are very glad to have the chance of meeting you. We understand that you have just come back from Harbin.

Gen. Doihara: Yes..

Lord Lytton: What are the conditions there?

Gen. Doihara: After the troubles on February 5th, conditions have become quieter and the entire population is now following its business as usual. But near the town and surrounding the city some difficulties are being caused by



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disturbances, scattered bandits, etc. Some of the country districts have been affected by the disturbances. The bandits are mostly in small groups of 100-500, but larger groups of from 2000-3000 are also in evidence and are equipped with arms.

Lord Lytton: Is that all the General wishes to say?

Gen. Doihara: Yes.

Lord Lytton: We understand the General has had a very experience of China and is a great authority on the subject, and has played a very prominent part in recent events, and we should be glad to hear from him anything which he can tell us regarding present conditions in Manchuria and of the causes which gave rise to the events in which he played such a prominent part.

Gen. Doihara: Any specific points?

Lord Lytton: We would like to follow the story out. We understand the General took over the civil administration at Mukden immediately after the events of September 18th. Would he please describe conditions at that time, state what steps he took, etc?

General Doihara: At the time of the outbreak in Mukden I was assigned to other duties in Tokyo and was on my way to Mukden. I had the first news of the incident near Antung, so I arrived in Mukden the following day. When I arrived in the city the major military conditions which had broken out



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during the night were practically over. Some small parties were in pursuit of the fleeing troops. It was the time just when the Headquarters staff was arriving in the city from Port Arthur, and I was assigned to the duties of the intelligence service in these special conditions. It is a military intelligence service for publicity work, and I was appointed chief of the section.

The conditions following that incident became hopeless because of the disintegration and disorganization of the civil authorities in the city. Then the military authorities took action and induced some of the Japanese local leaders to engage in planning something for Municipal affairs, but it was difficult to coordinate these leaders to function properly, and I was requested by these leaders and by our Headquarters to take charge of organizing the work and devote my services to municipal activities.

For about a month the municipal temporary authorities functioned until the time when the Chinese leaders of the city returned and organized a committee for the preservation of peace and order, and while I was in the office my work was chiefly directed towards the restoration of peace and order and to inducing a feeling of security and getting rid of bad anxieties on the part of the population of the city, and also carrying on relief work necessitated by the incidents.



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After the committee organized began to function, the entire force of our work was turned over to that committee, and Dr. Chao was appointed Mayor of the city.

Lord Lytton: I expect the General is much too modest in regard to his activities, for I understand that at the end of a month everything was brought back to peaceful conditions and he felt that he could then hand matters over to someone else.

Gen. Doihara: Well, perhaps I contributed a very modest part to the restoration of peace and order and gave a feeling of security to the people. During my service there the financial conditions gradually recovered, banks began to function almost normally, and the Mukden-Kirin Railway began to function as before. General conditions were restored to normal and our staff, in cooperation with the committee organized for the preservation of peace and order, worked to standardize conditions in the city, and discovered they were able to take care of the affairs of the municipality. We turned over all the duties to them.

We observed that many leaders in the city had fled, as well as almost 50,000 of the population, after the incident, but by the 20th of October, as conditions became more normal, many of them returned, which was an indication of the return of normal conditions in the city.



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Then the conditions in Northern China gradually began to cause us to take notice, because there were many factions remaining and other agents instigated and utilized by Chang Hsueh-liang's forces causing disturbances in that region. Then, from a strategical point of view, it was necessary that we should establish contact with forces stationed in Tientsin, and so our Kwantung Army was placed on that duty and went to Tientsin.

On the 27th of October I arrived in Tientsin and remained there until the end of November, when I went to the Tokyo office to report on my activities.

I submitted a full report concerning conditions in Manchuria and North China to my headquarters in Tokyo, after which I was sent back to Mukden and arrived there on the 1st of January. On the 12th of January I was sent to Tientsin again, where I remained for a week, and then returned to Mukden.

We have a small office in Harbin. On the 26th of January I was appointed to proceed to Harbin to take charge of that office. I arrived there on the 27th of January. Fighting was occurring between two Kirin forces, one led by Hsi Hsia of Kirin, which moved northward and came in conflict



with forces under Generals Ting Chao and Li Tu. Fighting continued for about ten days around Harbin.

The fighting between these two opposing forces caused much anxiety to the Japanese residents, particularly in that section which was menaced. At the same time there were many Koreans residing in that district who were terrified, being exposed to the danger of massacre. The citizens of Harbin, also, especially the Chinese merchant element, and other elements in the city, sent many repeated requests for the Japanese army to safeguard their lives and property, and at the same time Japanese residents sent repeated requests for Japanese troops to come for the same purpose. These were the conditions created by the disturbances. The Japanese were in a very difficult position, being surrounded by anti-Kirin forces who were antagonistic to them.

Japanese forces were sent out to protect lives and property of their nationals, and met with opposition from forces of Generals Ting and Li. Finally, after fighting, the Chinese forces were completely disorganized and fled to the north, but fortunately no fighting took place in the city; consequently, the 4000 Japanese residents were safe, and not much difficulty was encountered from Russian residents in the city, or others.



Lord Lytton: I should like to ask at what moment in the time the General has been telling us about - November to January - did he first become aware of any local desire for a new State?

Gen. Daihara: In the first part of February in the Kirin province the movement was first noticeable, and proclamations of independence were issued first in Kirin, then in Heilungkiang province.

Towards the end of February manifestos were issued in different provinces, and a new administrative committee was formed by leaders of different provinces and the special district of Harbin. Governors Hsi Hsia and Tsang Shih-yi of Kirin and Fengtien provinces, Chang Ching-hui of Harbin special district, and General Ma of Heilungkiang province, got together and organized an administrative committee of the North-Eastern provinces.

Of course, these are my observations, but there were different autonomous governments declared in different parts of Manchuria. I presume the leaders got together and united with different autonomous provinces into one central form of administrative organization, formulating a plan for establishing a new unified government.



Lord Lytton: When had the idea first expressed itself of securing the late Emperor as head of the new State?

Gen. Doihara: About the 10th and 11th of November conditions in Tientsin were such that his personal safety was endangered and he secretly left the city for Manchuria. That was my understanding of the situation then. I have had the acquaintance of Mr. Pu Yi for a long time. I remember I paid a visit to his place at the end of October. At that time he was receiving many threatening and blackmailing letters, and he also received a packet containing gifts, which really contained a bomb, and these things showed that his personal safety was in extreme danger, and that, I suppose, was one of the chief reasons for his flight from the city of Tientsin. The bomb was sent in the early part of October, but he intimated to me that he was in a very nervous condition when I met him.

Lord Lytton: Did the General have any subsequent negotiations with him regarding acceptance of this new post?

Gen. Doihara: I had nothing to do with his acceptance or his coming to Manchuria. As I explained I was engaged on other duties elsewhere and the first time I met him since that time was yesterday to say goodbye to him. That was the first time since leaving Tientsin on the 30th of October.



Lord Lytton: I asked this question because we were told in China that the General had kidnapped Pu Yi, brought him over a prisoner to Manchuria, and kept him till he was ready to go into the new government.

Gen. Doihara: Entirely incorrect. I met him on the 30th of October and I talked with him in a casual way, and to a certain extent I tried to comfort him in the circumstances; and up to yesterday that was all I had seen of him.

Lord Lytton: And was nothing mentioned then about his becoming head of the new State?

Gen. Doihara: We discussed his danger and his personal safety but nothing about his coming to Manchuria.

Lord Lytton: And the General had no discussions with him about the matter when he was living in Manchuria?

Gen. Doihara: No communication whatever. I had no occasion to meet him because I was first stationed in Mukden then in Tientsin, then back in Harbin. It is unfortunate that you should have all this incorrect information; it seems to be propaganda and not in accordance with the true facts.

Since going to Harbin I had a somewhat similar experience myself. Mr. Hanson, the United States Consul-General, held the same opinion that the Chinese did. He seemed to think

I was a pirate chief but gradually we became friends and he discovered  
/that I am very far from what he thought I was.



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Lord Lytton: Not a pirate - only an ex-mayor?

Count Aldrovandi: What kind of treatment did the young Emperor receive when he was in Tientsin?

Gen. Doihara: He lived in the Japanese concession in Tientsin and occupied a house previously owned by a former Minister to Japan. He was not very well blessed with this world's goods.

Count Aldrovandi: Yes, but he was threatened in Tientsin. What kind of threats did he receive? Did they indicate what would happen? What did they mean?

Gen. Doihara: General ordinary blackmailing letters such as one finds almost anywhere, threatening his life if he stepped out of the city, etc., and his personal safety was in danger: they indicated, if I remember rightly, that some plain-clothes agents might be sent to assassinate him.

Lord Lytton: But we do not understand why he was threatened, or by whom.

Gen. Doihara: In case he should return to Mukden for instance: these blackmailers were sent to keep him from moving out of the city.

Lord Lytton: The Chinese were trying to prevent him, because he had been Emperor, from trying to regain political power?



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Gen. Doihara: Yes. He was suspected of some political move engineered by him or by his supporters.

Count Aldrovandi: Already in October?

Gen. Doihara: Yes. These reports were appearing in the newspapers, too, already in October.

Gen. McCoy: Has the General in view of his going about the country and knowing everyone so well and knowing that we come here to investigate conditions any suggestions to give us for collecting the proper facts in places like Harbin, by seeing any particular people, not only Chinese and Japanese but other people in Harbin whom he thinks we might usefully meet so as to get an interpretation of these rumours and stories?

Gen. Doihara: The Mayor of Harbin, Mr. Pao, is a member of the reception committee of your mission who will be one of the able men there who could interpret the conditions there.

Gen. McCoy: The Chinese told us that he was imprisoned in Mukden and that the General took him up there and made him Mayor. What are the real facts?

Gen. Doihara: Such is not the case at all. The year before last Mr. Pao for no reason was arrested by Marshall Chang and imprisoned for almost one year. After the incident he was still in prison and I gave my assistance in releasing



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him because I know there was no reason why he should be in prison. Ever since that time he became a good friend of mine and I discovered his unusual character and ability and I introduced him to the Governor of the Special District, General Chang Ching-hui, who also realized his ability and he was induced to accept the Mayoralty of Harbin. It was not I who made him Mayor.

Lord Lytton: When was he released?

Gen. Doihara: I think it was in the early part of October.

Gen. McCoy: Why was he put in prison by the Young Marshal? Political offences or what?

Gen. Doihara: I presume it must have been for political reasons. He himself does not know the cause of his imprisonment. How he came to be arrested and imprisoned he does not know, though he had something to do with political intrigues in Mukden at the time.

Then the President of the Chinese Eastern Railway, Mr. Li, might be of some use for information.

General Ting was at first a good friend of mine and I assured him that his life and property would be well protected, but somehow he is still in fear and does not come forth as I urged him to do. Another General, Li, has now disappeared. We have invited him to come to us and reach some understanding.



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Gen. McCoy: Does the General think conditions are getting better now, or worse?

Gen. Doihara: Conditions in the northern part of Manchuria are far from peaceful. There are many elements, especially bandits, who are against the Manchukuo Government. They constitute disturbing factors, but I do not feel that they are an extreme danger.

Gen. McCoy: What has become of the notorious General Ma? I read that he was in prison.

Gen. Doihara: He went towards Heiho to suppress an anti-Ma force, and then he said he would take a rest because of his illness, and since then we have had no news of him. He is, in fact, sickly. I remember him attending a committee meeting when he was quite ill. He has a very poor stomach and suffers from intestinal disorder. At the time when the administrative committee of the North-Eastern Provinces was organized he was one of its most earnest leaders. I remember attending the installation ceremony of General Ma as Governor of the Province in Tsitsihar. It went off very well. He gave an address and also sent out a manifesto stating that he was taking up the office for the benefit of the entire population. He was thus very earnest.



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Then he went to the North near Hoiho in the early part of April, and has not shown up since. We do not know what has become of him.



1 March 1946

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, J. R. Lovell, Colonel, General, Staff Corps, United States Army, Deputy Director of Intelligence for Research, War Department General Staff, hereby certify:

1. I am the officer in charge of Military Intelligence Service Library of the United States War Department.
2. Set no. I of "Military Narrative of the Travel and Work of the Far Eastern Commission of Inquiry" consisting of: (a) Narrative, (b) Annex A - Interview, (c) Annex B - Photograph has been in the files of the Military Intelligence Service Library until this date, said being received by the Library from the Far Eastern Section of the Military Intelligence Service of the United States Army.
3. Several packages of Documents, letters and reports on the Far Eastern Commission of Inquiry were also received from the Far Eastern Section and have been in the Military Intelligence Service Library until this date.
4. On the 1st day of March 1946 the above mentioned set No. 1 of the "Military Narrative of the Travel and Work of the Far Eastern Commission of Inquiry", and the packages of documents, letters and reports mentioned in paragraph 3 above were turned over to Captain Edgar G. Boedeker, Judge Advocate General's Department, Army of the United States as the representative of Joseph B. Keenan, Chief of Counsel, International Prosecution Section, GHQ-SCAP, APO. 500 Tokyo, % Postmaster, San Francisco, California.

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J. R. Lovell  
Colonel, GSC