

Doc. 2630 Evid.

Folder 15

(3)

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 2630

5 September 1946

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Title and Nature: Certificate from O. ARAO of First Demobilization Ministry on General MINAMI Address to Division Commanders, 4 Aug 1931

Date: 11 Jul 1946 Original Copy Language: English

Has it been translated? Yes No

Has it been photostated? Yes No

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL

Document Division

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: First Demobilization Ministry

PERSONS IMPLICATED: MINAMI, Jiro


CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE: Manchurian Aggression

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS

Certifies that copy of address said to have been delivered by General MINAMI to Division Commanders is not in files of the First Demobilization Bureau.

Analyst: W.H.Wagner

Doc. No. 2630



7670
Minami
(Translation from the Kokumin Newspaper dated August 8, 1931 (Evening Issue of August 4th) No. 14241 9 Local Edition) (Page 1)

"Recent Aggravation of Manchurian and Mongolian Circumstances Really Regrettable; Correct Mistaken Views which are Disadvantageous to Japanese Army. War Minister's Speech in the Conference of Army Commanders and Division Commanders"

The principal points of War Minister MINAMI's speech at the conference of Army Commanders and Division Commanders on August 4th, were as follows:

"It is my great pleasure to seek your presence at this time when the draft of reorganization of the Military System has been concluded, to see you in good spirits, and have an opportunity to open my heart to you. Sometime ago when we received the Imperial order to make changes and adjustments in military administration. Feeling the greatness of our task, and it is unnecessary for me to repeat what I said at my address given at the installation (as Army Minister in April, 1931).

I. The Reorganization of the Military System

You know very well that the former Minister, after taking into consideration the state of affairs both at home and abroad, organized the Military System Research Institute to conduct a series of studies and investigations. When I took over his portfolio, this research had been mostly completed, therefore, I tried to bring it to a finish to the best of my ability. In order to do this, we submitted the matter to the Three Chiefs' Conference.

Also we asked the Supreme War Council to make a thorough investigation which enabled us to draft out a concrete plan, by the beginning of July. I will explain to you details and particulars of that draft some other time, but for the present I express my opinion on two or three points.

1. The Imperial Army needs much improvement in its organization and equipment. At the same time in the Army system there are not a few things which require renovation and improvement. However, the State's financial condition cannot afford the necessary expense. Therefore, the satisfactory settlement of this problem will have to be left for some other time until the financial condition of the State is improved. For the time being we plan only urgent and absolutely necessary expenditures for the army, financing them from the Army's own treasury. Therefore, the present provision for reorganization of the military system cannot be perfect, to our regret. Seeing the matter in the light of the present general situation, taking various particulars all around into consideration, and taking a large view of all the circumstances, I am sure that it will serve to secure the prestige and efficiency of the whole army. You Commanders please make clear the above mentioned to your officers and soldiers and have them thoroughly informed of it; also, please cultivate in their hearts the faith that can never be conquered.

2. Owing to the fact that we were obliged to draw necessary expense for this reorganization on the budget already allotted to the Army, when this bill goes into force, it may become necessary that some part of the Army will

have to be abolished or made smaller, some units will have to be removed from garrisons of historical attachment, and some groups of special character will have to be dissolved and their members transferred to newly organized units; or some units will be compelled to disband or make changes in their history and convention, further, it will become necessary to make a number of able generals and officers retire from the service. Indeed, these things are extremely grievous and pathetic. However, the above are matters concerning part of the Army and we must stand such, regarding them an unavoidable sacrifice for the betterment of the whole, for the sake of the total efficiency of the national army. You commanders kindly understand my true heart. I hope you will pay full attention in training your men.

3. The details of the bill for reorganization of the army represents the minimum demand for a revival of the army, and then in carrying it out in practice we have to pay a tremendous sacrifice; whereas some non-responsible outsiders often consider that the military staff are blind to the present situation of the State and dare present unreasonable demands; or without clear knowledge of the present conditions, not a few men dare advocate reduction in armament, and propagate their own views to the disadvantage of the Japanese country and the national army. You commanders please cooperate with the army staff and correct these wrong views, and further within your respective administrative district, make it thoroughly clear to the men both inside and outside of the army that the present reorganization is necessary and the reason why it is appropriate and thereby do your best to bring about a mutual understanding and cooperation between the army and the public centering around the Imperial family and the State.

II. Manchurian and Mongolian Problem

Manchuria and Mongolia are most closely connected with the existence and development of our Empire from the viewpoint of national defense, politics and economy. In spite of this fact, circumstances in these regions have lately taken a trend which is by no means desirable for an Empire, or rather to our regret, there is something that suggests aggravation of matters. Presumably the cause of such a situation is the change in the international political situation and a lessening of our national prestige in the eyes of foreign countries owing to a failing of the Japanese nation's vigor. Also it is rooted in the anti-foreign thought of our neighboring country which has been propagated and cultivated through many years in order that it might regain its rights, and in the economic strength newly acquired in Manchuria and Mongolia. So this has to be regarded not as a momentary phenomena but as an everlasting one. At this time I wish that those who are professionally in military service will strengthen their devoted hearts, and in education and training work with enthusiasm and sincerity, and take care to become fully prepared to fulfill their duty.

III. The Plenary Session of the League of Nations re Disarmament

The Plenary Session of the League of Nations is expected to be held in February coming spring and our country is to participate in it. In order to get prepared for it, the Army set up a Committee in Preparation for Disarmament in April. Ever since then they have been carrying on a really painstaking in-

investigation and working out a plan to meet the situation, and so in the near future we shall decide on a just and pertinent policy and attitude, and after consulting related officers, announce it at a proper time so as to seek an ardent support of the Government and public. Recently we find not a few persons who cry for reduction of armament in connection with the Disarmament Conference. But calmly observing the state of other powers we find that none have yet voluntarily proposed to effect their own disarmament. Whereas it is really regrettable that in our country there are not a few who will not face this fact or who, having twisted this fact, attempt to take advantage of the state of the public (which chanced to be restless, apprehensive of economic and financial failure) so as to fan enthusiasm for the reduction of armament internally. I hope you commanders will be able to get the general public to have a correct understanding of the real nature of this Conference and of the attitude of the world powers, and to keep the public opinion aright.

IV. Observation of the Jubilee of the Imperial Edict

January 4th of the coming year is the fiftieth anniversary of the Imperial Edict to the men in military service. We look back and find that in the past it was the source of inspiration for spiritual training and our firm union. Thus each accomplishing his duty, we discharged the great responsibility of national defense and consequently worked for the prosperity of this country. In future we must keep this edict still more firmly in mind; we must train our minds and thoughts so that the army might be perfectly united, and we must exalt the Imperial prestige and reinforce the foundation of the State. At this time when we observe the Jubilee of the Imperial Edict, I think what we should do is to greatly celebrate it and at the same time make it an opportunity to express our devoted spirit more than ever, and also to endeavor to contribute more than ever to the exaltation of the spirit. We are now in consultation with the Navy staff regarding preparations and investigations for a commemorative work. It will not be long before we get a concrete plan drafted to show to you. I wish that you commanders will keep in mind that each army and each division remember the above and make the best use of this rare and unique occasion so it will not lose but gain significance."