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Def. Doc. # 1121

FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE OF  
AVOIDING WARFARE IN SHANGHAI. (August 16 1937)

The indiscriminate wholesale bombing by Chinese aeroplanes have not only inflicted heavy casualties upon innocent Chinese themselves but also resulted in considerable casualties among the foreigners in the French Concession and in the International Settlement.

The misfortunes of the foreign population in Shanghai have risen to protest against making Shanghai a theatre of war. It is argued that Japan, regardless of who started the conflict, should refrain from conducting military operations in and around the city,--namely she is asked to abandon her present base of defense operation in order to rescue Shanghai foreign quarters from further calamities.

The grievances of the foreigners are quite understandable, but their protest to Japan is injustice. It was exactly to avoid such disastrous developments that at the time of the Oyama incident Japan exercised utmost patience and restraint and proposed the withdrawal of Chinese troops to a safe distance. But the Chinese rejected the proposal and invaded the Settlement. The Japanese civilian population in Shanghai, swollen with refugees from inland cities, now number over 30,000. In order to protect the lives and property of our nationals there, it is obviously impossible for our naval forces to abandon their

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positions. How are they to protect the 30,000 Japanese, including women and children, from sure death and destruction at the hands of the lawless Chinese troops? This very morning (August 16), when the Chinese airplanes passed over the French Concession, the French garrison opened fire in self-defence upon them with anti-air guns, it is reported. That is exactly what the Japanese naval forces are doing.

In the 30th Incident of 1927 it was an infuriated mob of anti-British demonstrators who invaded the International Settlement. The Municipal Council took forceful measures to suppress that disturbance, and not a word was said about the moral or legal responsibilities of the British in the matter. At that time, Britain sent 17,000 men to protect her interests and the Settlement. It now happens to be large forces of Chinese regular troops who are attacking the Settlement, with the Japanese as their objective. The two cases do not differ except in scope, and Japan cannot be held responsible for what damages Chinese have caused, or may cause hereafter.

Again, further back in 1925, the Shamen Incident was purely a battle between the British and the Cantonese. The French and the Japanese and other nationals on the island suffered frightfully but no one lodged complaint with the British authorities on that account. Why then should Japan be made a target of protests in similar circumstances now?

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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 2 pages and entitled "Foreign Office Spokesman expressed his Desire of avoiding Warfare in Shanghai (August 16, 1937)" is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,  
on this 8th day of April 1947.

(signed) K. HAYASHI  
Signature of Official

Witness: (signed) K. URAHE

Ref.  
外務省代表、上海ニ於ケル威嚇忌避ノ希望ヲ  
發表ス  
(一九三六年八月十六日)

支那飛行機ノ行ヒタル大規模ナル無差別爆撃ニ依リ、無<sup>き</sup>幸ノ支那民自身  
間ニ多数ノ死傷者ヲ發生セルノミナラズ、佛國租界並ニ歐際居留地ニ在  
リシ外國人ニモ亦相當ノ死傷ヲ出シタノデアアル。  
上海在留外國人ガ斯ノ如キ災害ヲ蒙リタル爲上海ヲ戰場化スルコトニ對  
スル反對ガ起ツタ。コノ戰鬪ヲ開始セル者ノ何人タルヲ問ハズ、日本ハ  
上海市並ニ其附近ニ於テ軍事行動ヲ停止スベキデアルト論ゼラレテキル  
即、上海ノ外國人居留地區ニ對スル現在以上ノ災禍ヲ防止スベク日本ハ  
ソノ現在所有スル防禦作戦其地ヲ放棄スルコトヲ要求セラレテキル。  
其等諸外國人ノ苦情ハ尤モ至極デアアル、然シ乍ラ彼等カ日本ニ對シテ爲  
ス抗議ハ的ヲ外シテキル。斯ノ如キ悲惨ナル結果ニ發展スルコトヲ避ケ  
ンカ爲ニコソ、日本ハ大山事件ニ際シ極力隱忍自制シテ安全ナル距離マ

デ支那部隊ヲ撤退スルヤウ提言シタノデアアル、然ルニ支那側ハコノ提言  
ヲ拒否シテ租界ニ侵入シタ。現在、上海ニ於ケル一般日本人ノ人口ハ吳  
地ヨリノ避難者デ増加シ三萬人以上ヲ算シテキル。彼處ニ在ル之等ノ同  
胞ノ生命及ビ財産ヲ護ランガ爲ニハ我日本海軍ガソノ陣地ヲ放棄スルコ  
トハ明カニ不可能デアアル。

法ヲ知ラザル支那兵ノ手中ニ在ツテ明ナ死ト破壊ニ晒サレテキル婦女子  
ヲ含ム三萬人ノ同胞ヲ日本海軍ハ如何ニシテ護リ得ルデアラウカ、現ニ  
今朝（八月十六日）支那機ノ他國租界上空通過ニ對シ備置守備隊ハ自衛  
上高射砲ヲ以テ之ヲ攻撃セリト報ゼラレテキル。而シテ之ハ日本海軍  
ノ現ニ爲シテアルト全ク同一ノ事デアアル。

一九二七年ノ三十日事件ニ在ツテハ國際居留地ニ侵入シタノハ、反英示  
威ヲ行フ激昂シタ群衆ノ一因デアツタ。市會ハコノ暴動鎮壓ノ爲メ力手  
段ヲ採ツタノデアアルガコノ事件ニ關スル英國側ノ道徳上又ハ法律上ノ責  
任ニ就テハ一言モ云々セラルルコトハナカツタ。當時英國ハ其ノ權益ト  
租界防護ノタメ一萬七千ノ兵ヲ送ツタノデアアル。偶々今次ノ場合ハ租界

ニ攻めヲ加ヘテキルノハ、日本人攻めヲ目的トスル正規軍兵ノ大軍隊ヲ入攻  
メナノデアツテ、之等ノ二ツノ場合ニ於ケル差違ハ單ニソノ範圍ノ問題ノ場合ニ於  
ミデアリ、之マデニ支那側ノ惹起セル又ハ今後モ惹起スルデアラウ、始末起セル  
何ナル損害ニ對シテモ日本ニソノ責任ガアルト考へルコトハ出來ナイソノ責任  
デアアル。

尙更ニ一九二五年ニ逆リ沙面事件ハ純然タル英國人ト廣東人トノ間ノ戦争ニ於  
デアツタ。同島ニ在ツタ英國人、日本人其他ノ外國人ハ甚シイ災害ヲ蒙リ、  
ツタノデアアルガ、何人モソノ故ニ英當局ニ苦情ヲ提出シタ者ハナカツタ<sup>3</sup>ニ英  
ノデアアル。然ラバ何故ニ現在ソレト同様ノ立場ニ在ル日本ガ抗戦ノ目標ソレト  
トサレナケレバナラナイノデアアラウカ。