

Exhibit 2720

9

Translated by
Language Branch

Extra Number of the Government Gazette.

Feb. 19, 1941.

Shorthand Record No. 15 of the Proceedings of the House of Representatives at the 76th Session of the Imperial Diet held at 1:06 P.M. Feb. 13 (Tuesday), 1941.

(Omitted)

Interpellation regarding the Phrase "Hakko Ichiu"

We respectfully present the above according to the House regulations, Feb. 13, 1941.

The Interpellator IKUTA Kazuhira, and one other.

Interpellation on the Phrase "Hakko Ichiu"

Prime Minister Prince KONOE, soon after his formation of the Cabinet, last July, in accordance with the Imperial Command, announced his basic national policies. At the outset he stated roughly as follows:-

"The guiding national policy of our country is to bring about world peace based on the spirit of our National Inauguration, namely of "making the world one home" (T.N. Translation of the Japanese phrase "HAKKO WO ICHIU TO SURU" according to the popular version). This means to say that "Hakko Ichiu" is our guiding national policy."

Again at the 2nd sub-Committee meeting of the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives held on January 31, 1941, Education Minister HASHIDA made his reply to the interpellation of MORITA, Jujiro about the meaning of the phrase "Hakko Ichiu". In it, he stated his version of the great spirit of our National Inauguration. It seems to us that it was really a very important utterance. We, thereupon, make the following two questions.

1. What version does Prime Minister Konoye entertain of the phrase "Hakko Ichiu"?

2. Is the phrase "Hakko Ichiu" similar in meaning to the phrase "amomoshita o oite iye to semu"? (T.N. "I will make a house of the firmament.")

We respectfully enquire on the above points.

KOYAMA Matsutoshi Esq., Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sir: To the interpellation made by IKUTA Kazuhira and one other regarding the phrase "Hakko Ichiu", we present a written reply as herewith enclosed.

Prince KONOYE, Fumimaro,

Prime Minister.

February 18, 1941 (16th year of Showa)

(Enclosure)

Reply to the interpellation of IKUTA Kazuhira and one other re the words "Hakko Ichiu".

1. The phrase "Hakko Ichiu" originated in the following passage which we find in the rescript of Emperor Jimmu on the occasion of the inauguration of his seat of government. "I will respond to the Virtue of the Sun Goddess high in Heaven who bestowed on us this Land and will propagate the Spirit of Her Grandson (T.N. NINIGINO-MIKOTO) who cultivated Righteousness. Then isn't it good to open up a capital on the basis of the entire land and build up a house or houses (T.N. nothing is mentioned which denotes that it must be considered singular) under heaven?"

This, it seems to me, is to respond to the Virtue of the Sun Goddess who bestowed on us all things and nourished them and leads them to propagate the Spirit of Her Grandson (T.N. NINIGINO-MIKOTO) who cherished Righteousness and, thus, by the ^{Grandeur} Grandson of the Virtue of the

Sun-Goddess to make the firmament one affinital body like one home. For this reason by the phrase "Hakko Ichiu", we understand the manifestation of the Imperial Will of enabling various nations including our own to secure their due places and develop their respective specific traits.

2. I consider the phrase "Hakko Ichiu" to be of the same meaning as the phrase "Hakko o oite Iye to se" (T.N. "To make a house of the firmament")

The above is our reply.

Feb. 13, 1941.

Prime Minister, Prince KONOYE, Fumimaro,

Education Minister, HASHIDA, Kunihiko.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, YAMAZAKI Takashi, Chief of the General Affairs Section, House of Representatives, hereby certify that the Enclosure of 4 papers in Japanese writing, is a true copy of the Shorthand Record No. 15 (page 211) of the proceedings of the House of Representatives held on February 13, 1941, which are in my official custody.

December 16, 1941

YAMAZAKI Takashi (seal)

House of Representatives.

I certify the above to have been signed in my presence.

MATSUI Tokuhira

Date and Place same as above.

T R A N S L A T I O N C E R T I F I C A T E

I, William E. Clarke, of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the above certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/S/ William E. Clarke

Tokyo, Japan

Date 27 Jan. 1947