

No. 2533

Defense Document 1176

STATEMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTER UGAKI GIVEN TO
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ON
(6 June 1938)

I am very glad of this opportunity of meeting you representatives of the foreign Press for the first time since my assumption of the office of Foreign Minister. I earnestly hope for your cooperation in the future.

It is the inmutable policy of Japan to establish a permanent peace and promote prosperity in East Asia and thereby to contribute to the cause of world peace and welfare of mankind. Unfortunately the China Affair broke out in July last year. The Japanese Government, however, continued to maintain a calm attitude throughout the early period of the conflict and did everything possible to urge upon General Chiang Kai-shek to reconsider the policy of his regime toward our country. General Chiang not only failed to understand the real intention of Japan, but refused to alter his anti-Japanese attitude by declaring his stand for the so-called "prolonged welfare". Japan was thus compelled to embark upon an armed campaign in China. Our forces have since carried on their operations steadily and successfully, defeating the enemy on every front. In the latter part of last month they captured Hsuehchow, which the

Chinese had boasted to be impregnable. Anking, the capital of Anwei Province, has also been taken and our forces are now advancing farther into the interior. The greatest interest of the Japanese people at present is concentrated upon the prosecution of the hostilities toward a successful conclusion.

As regards the attitude of the other Powers in connection with the present conflict, we note that while there are some Powers which take friendly measures toward Japan such as those of prohibiting the exportation of arms and munitions as well the supply of war funds and military advisers to China, there are some which are apparently resorting to a policy of encouraging China, in her futile opposition to Japan, thereby causing an unnecessary prolongation of the conflict and untold losses of lives and property.

This is to be profoundly regretted from the standpoint of humanity, and any impairment in the friendly relations between Japan and some such Powers should be considered to be due to such action of their part.

However, I can definitely state that the relations of our country with other Powers are as a whole satisfactory, and it is my intention to put forth my utmost efforts towards their improvement.

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 con-
sisting of 2 pages and entitled "Statement of
Foreign Minister Ugaki given to Foreign Correspon-
dents on 6 June 1938" is an exact and true copy
of an official document of the Japanese Foreign
Office .

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 9th day of April 1947.

/s/ K. HAYASHI
Signature of Official

Witness : /s/ K. URABE