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EXCERPT FROM " SHARING OUR FATE "

Reference for the present article: Vol. 25.  
Talk by President Wagn, on the First Anniversary of the Campaign to Purify  
the Land.  
July 1, 1942 (Showa 17), at Nanking.

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In May last year, the Nationalist Government gathered together its political and military strength and, delimiting districts in Changsu Province, executed its land-purifying program. The program was begun in the rural districts in the first and second periods, and in the third period it was extended to the city districts, and even to the north and south of the railway line.

Further effort is to be exerted in future operations but during the course of the past year in those districts where the land-purifying campaign has been completed, peace and order have been secured, population is increasing, prices are gradually becoming stabilized and people's lives are rapidly improving. All these are physical results of our campaign to purify the land. These results have all been obtained by those who have taken charge in the land-purifying operation, suffering continuous hardships, but receiving the united cooperation of the people in the districts where the campaign has been conducted. I should like to express respect concerning this particular point.

We are highly gratified indeed that our friendly nation, according to her original desires, is still continuing to give her assistance to our state even after the outbreak of the Great East Asia War. In each landpurifying operation of each period, I have exerted myself toward the execution of the operation by making inspection tours to all districts involved and giving people their explanations and instructions concerning the significance of the campaign and the necessity of sincere effort and cooperation on the part of persons engaged in the operations.

Today, on the first anniversary of the land-purifying campaign, I wish to tell my impressions to all parents and brethren in the purified districts and all our friends throughout the whole nation. The purpose of land-purifying is, just as its name indicates, to wipe out Communist guerilla troops, and to rescue the people from danger. However, this is only the first step of the operation. If the Army were content to stop at this first stage of the campaign, that much could be accomplished in less than a month, by a force of merely one unit of the Army.

The purport of land-purification, therefore, lies not only in sweeping away the Communist guerilla troops, but also in completely repelling and exterminating them and in making it impossible for them to return. Moreover there is still another purport to this campaign; that is to say, the improvement of people's life and the establishment of peace and order, which are today of vital importance. The Communist guerilla troops are the enemies of peace and order, noxious insects endangering public life. Also evil and powerful clans as well as vagabonds in rural districts do just as much evil as those Communist guerilla troops, and they too must be expelled. Again, selfish and covetous officials in the provinces, and shrewd and haughty military men are even greater enemies of the people, and everyone of them should also be expelled.

In order to accomplish the things mentioned above, we cannot wholly rely upon military power since it is insufficient. It is vitally necessary to rely upon the strength of the people. Those things can be attained only when each individual is determined to leave the evil and to follow the good. As I have said, "land-purification takes its first step in heart-purification". This phrase expressed this fact. The land-purifying operation is conducted in accordance with the dictates of technical necessity, by dividing its whole course into several periods. It establishes peace and order in a certain district and improves the people's lives there. Moreover, its influence is not confined to the people in that district alone. In other words, the land-purifying operation is charged with a great political duty, and namely, has the responsibility of setting an example for the establishment of peace. This is the way to contribute to the strengthening of the National Government and to accelerate the advent of peace.

Looking at the present condition of the purified districts, people outside them will see that the Communist guerilla troops have been expelled, that those districts are free from the disasters of land-burning and bombing, that the population is increasing, that production has developed, and that prices have been stabilized. This is because those districts are permeated with peaceful influences. There, the model for peace is gradually being established, and soldiers and people are no more enemies, for they are cooperating and putting forth concerted effort for the sake of their native land and their nation.

Again, there the Chinese army and the Chinese people are sharing their fortunes and hardships with the army and the people of their friendly nation, without suspicion arising between the two nationalities, and are uniting their

will and their sword to make their way toward their common goal, for the sake of the protection of East Asia. When the people in those districts reflect on their own environment and the improving conditions of their lives, they can see that it is a benefit not only to each individual there, but also to their native land, and that they should exert themselves to set a good example so that efforts might be made to bring about such conditions not only in those small districts but also in counties, in provinces and even throughout the whole nation.

Public order and economic conditions within the land-purification districts are, of course, much better than in other districts. However, we still have a great number of difficulties to be solved. Why? Because we have not yet attained over-all peace. We are compelled by continual warfare and the lack of over-all peace to pay constant attention to difficulties which remain unsolved in places outside our purification districts, as well as to our **numberless brethren who are awaiting relief from us.** When we began our operations to purify the land, Japan cooperated with us in various ways. And since the outbreak of the Great East Asia War, she has given us constant help. This is solely because we have a common aim. Japan demands of us nothing whatever except our cooperation. On the other hand, in regard to the defense of East Asia, we have nothing to give Japan but our cooperation. In fact, in this period of world-wide upheaval, the destiny of China is closely connected with that of Japan. Just as no one can turn over a bird's nest without damaging the eggs in it, China cannot hope to survive, as long as the whole of East Asia has not been freed from bondage.

If the country ceases to exist, all the villages and families are likewise destined to destruction. Therefore, if you love yourselves, you must also love your village. If you love your village, you must also love your country. Fortunately, in the present Great East Asia War things have been remarkably favorable to our side. We must always keep in mind that it is only by clearing our country of the vestiges of Anglo-American arrogance and aggression which have grown for more than a century that we can reconstruct our country and lay a basis for the defense of East Asia. Accordingly, we are now endeavoring to strengthen our position behind the gun and to contribute to the establishment of a co-prosperity sphere in East Asia after the war. It is in the execution of this task that our land-purification operations will play an important part.

It is a great pleasure for me on this first anniversary of the land-purification to express to the people

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of the purification districts my respect for their cooperation and to express to our sympathizers in Japan my hearty thanks for their assistance.

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TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE

I, Charlie S. Terry, 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.

(signed) Charlie S. Terry

Tokyo, Japan

Dated: May 12, 1947