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(Translation)

THE ADDRESS OF MR. HICHIRO ARITA, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
AT THE 69TH SESSION OF THE IMPERIAL DIET, MAY 6, 1936.

Having assumed the responsibility of conducting our foreign affairs in these eventful times both at home and abroad, I have the honor to-day of stating my views concerning the foreign policy of Japan.

To insure the stability of East Asia, contributing thereby to the cause of world peace, and at the same time to promote the happiness and welfare of mankind by upholding firmly international justice, has always been our national policy. And in the execution of this policy it should be, I believe, the guiding spirit of our diplomacy to seek the security and development of our national life as well as to work for concord and co-operation among all the nations and especially to maintain, upon the basis of our special and inseparable relationship with Manchoukuo, our position as the stabilizing force in East Asia.

Under such a policy animated by such a spirit, we shall of course be independent and positive in dealing with various international questions. On the other hand, we must take care not to impair the honor and dignity of Japan as a great Power but strive assiduously to conform to the august wishes of our Sovereign by cultivating, as is set forth in the Imperial Rescript issued at the time of Japan's withdrawal from the League of Nations, "mutual confidence between Our Empire and all the other Powers and make known the justice of its cause throughout the world."

Nowadays there prevails all over the world an atmosphere of dissatisfaction and unrest, and tendencies are rife everywhere that are threatening to the preservation of peace. We must first of all eliminate the causes that underlie this atmosphere of unrest and dissatisfaction if we are to insure the peace of the world. While it is only natural that all nations should try to safeguard their own interests, excess of ardour in that attempt often leads a country to disregard the position of others. This is one of the prime causes of the universal unrest today. One cannot but hope that the statesmen of the world will give serious thoughts to this point as they address themselves to the task of readjusting international relations, political and economic.

With these preliminary remarks I shall now speak on our relations with the Powers.

We desire for the sake of the peace of East Asia the maintenance of normal and peaceful relations between Japan and Manchoukuo on the one hand and the U.S.S.R. on the other. It is scarcely necessary to say that neither Japan nor Manchoukuo harbors any aggressive designs. That there should occur, nevertheless, incidents, such as have so frequently occurred in recent months, along the frontiers both between Manchoukuo and the Soviet Union and between Manchoukuo and Outer Mongolia, is most regrettable. Our Government have already called the attention of the Soviet authorities to the fact that wanton resort to arms on a dogmatic assumption that a trespass has been committed upon their territories, where there exists no clear border demarcation, can serve no useful purpose and only injure the friendly relations between the nations concerned. I take this occasion

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to emphasize this point again most strongly. The Japanese Government, after consultation with the Government of Manchoukuo, proposed in the middle of March last a plan for taking proper and effective measures for the clarification of the border line all along the Soviet-Manchoukuo frontier, and, simultaneously, for setting up an organ for the peaceful solution of all border disputes. We proposed to put this plan into execution, beginning with the zone between Lake Khanka and the Tumen River on the eastern frontier, where disputes have been most frequent. And in view of the fact that nearly all of the recent incidents have taken place in this region, it was thought that our practical proposal would speedily be accepted by Government of the Soviet Union. Now that they have indicated their concurrence with our views, I hope that discussions of concrete questions will begin in due course.

Direct negotiations are now in progress between Manchoukuo and Outer Mongolia. Along with the progress of these negotiations it is, I am told, the intention of the Government of Manchoukuo to solve amicably the various pending questions and to establish good neighborly relations with Outer Mongolia. It is hoped that these direct negotiations will result in an early solution of all questions, and particularly in the exchange of Representatives between Manchoukuo and Outer Mongolia.

As may be surmised from what I have said so far, the present relations between Japan and the Soviet Union cannot be said to be altogether felicitous. The fundamental cause of this unfortunate state of things lies, if I may say so frankly, in the lack of comprehension on the part of the Soviet statesmen of Japan's position in East Asia, coupled with their baseless fears

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and suspicions. The fact that the Soviet Union maintains excessive armaments at her remote outposts in the Far East constitutes a real menace to peace in this part of the world. I desire to state definitely on this occasion that Japan in her solicitude for the peace of East Asia cannot remain indifferent to that fact.

As regards Manchoukuo, we are pursuing our immutable policy which is rooted in the inseparable relationship between our two countries, and aims consistently at the establishment of normal tripartite relations among Japan, Manchoukuo and China. While we continue to assist as much as possible in the economic development of Manchoukuo, we are also making preparations for carrying out step by step the abolition of extraterritoriality and the adjustment and transfer of the administrative rights in the South Manchuria Railway zone.

With China we are to proceed with negotiations on the basis of the three principles expounded at the last session of the Diet by the then Foreign Minister, Mr. Hirota. Only it is essential in order to expedite these negotiations that the Chinese authorities should take a truly broad view of the situation in East Asia and enter upon them with a firm resolve. It is very unfortunate that apparently China as yet has not come to a full decision. However, in the face of the obvious and imperious necessity of adjusting Sino-Japanese relations in the interest not only of the two countries but also of the peace of East Asia, it is our intention to urge the Chinese Government to make up their mind and at the same time to do everything possible on our part to bring about the readjustment of our relations along all lines. The Japanese Government are greatly concerned

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over the inroads of the communist influence into East Asia. It is reported that a part of the main force of the Red armies, that moved into Shensi from Szechuan sometime ago, has recently invaded Shansi, and is still active in that province. Moreover, in view of the likelihood that they may march on northwards at any favorable moment, we are watching the developments with particular attention.

On the 22nd of January last King George V passed away -- an illustrious monarch, universally loved and admired for his wisdom and the rare personality which, during his long reign of twenty-five years, enabled him to guide his people through great trials, including the World War. The new King, Edward VIII, who once visited Japan, is thoroughly conversant with the intricacies of the international situation. I desire to express our country's best wishes that the British Empire may prosper as ever under His Majesty's rule, and our confident hope that the traditional friendship of our two countries will continue to grow. There are a number of questions in various parts of the world, which affect our mutual interests and which await settlement in one way or another. However, if the two countries, keeping in mind their old friendship and their common responsibilities toward world peace, give full consideration to each other's special needs, the adjustment of their interests should not, I believe, prove too difficult.

In Japanese-American friendship lies the very key to the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. It is most fortunate that not only are the economic relations of the two countries complementary, but their mutual understanding is being steadily deepened. I believe that the two nations, always respecting each other's position and aims, should collaborate more and more for

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insuring the peace of the Pacific. I shall devote my best efforts to the furtherance of Japanese-American amity and understanding.

In the field of international trade the tendency is more in evidence than ever among many countries abroad to attempt the exclusion of foreign products under one pretext or another, or to form the so-called economic blocs, heavily armed with weapons of trade war. If this tendency is left unchecked, it will, as has always been pointed out by our Government, serve only to aggravate the world-wide depression, ultimately paralyzing international commerce and shattering the economic life of all peoples. We have taken every available occasion to urge upon those countries the abolition of their economic armaments as the true and only means of saving the world from the throes of economic depression, of realizing the common prosperity and happiness of all peoples and of promoting peace in the world. However, I regret to say that our just claims have not been accepted by most countries, which are expanding the scope of their obstructive measures against trade more widely than ever--in some cases apparently for the sole purpose of excluding Japanese goods. This is a serious matter for our nation, which cannot sustain its economic life except by securing abroad a supply of raw material and a market for finished products. We shall have to continue our efforts by friendly means for the mitigation or abolition of economic armament. But should the conditions fail to improve despite our endeavors, we might be compelled to adopt the necessary measures in order to meet the situation. Even then, we would, of course, have no other end in view than that of causing the Powers concerned to reconsider their policies and of placing international trade relations in a free and wholesome atmosphere.

Finally, I should like to say a few words on international cultural relations. The knowledge and appreciation of one another's culture and civilization is essential for promoting amity and good understanding among nations. Since 1934 the Japanese Government have given their support to the inauguration of various international cultural enterprises and have encouraged their expansion, besides carrying on as hitherto the activities in China of the Cultural Work Bureau. As a result, a marked growth of interest in the study of things Japanese has been recently seen abroad. We shall continue to foster the enterprises in this field in order to advance the cause of international understanding and human well-being. It is also our plan to improve and expand the various facilities and institutions now under the auspices of the Cultural Work Bureau for fostering cultural co-operation among Japan, Manchoukuo and China, and for contributing to the advancement of the world's civilization through the dissemination of the noble and profound culture of the Orient.

The recent unfortunate incident in Tokio seems to have shocked the whole world. But for the august virtue of our Sovereign and the spirit of loyalty and solidarity manifested by our people on that occasion, Japan's foreign relations might have suffered untoward consequences. I firmly believe that our people in all walks of life should, with a full grasp of the international situation, work together with courage and determination if we are to surmount the difficulties now before us and to put into execution the national policy of our empire. Let me rely upon your earnest and whole-hearted co-operation while I, on my part, will do all in my power to fulfill the responsible duties of my post.

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CERTIFICATE OF SOURCE

I hereby certify that the book hereto attached, written in JAPANESE consisting of 4 pages and entitled "EXCERPT FROM THE SHORTHAND RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AT THE 69TH SESSION OF THE IMPERIAL DIET No. 3 (WEDNESDAY MAY 6, 1936)" is a book which was bought in 1936 at TOKYO, and which has been thenceforth in the custody of our OFFICE.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 12 day of APRIL, 1947

/s/ TSUKASAKI, Naoyoshi (seal)
(President of Tokyo
Lawyers association)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the witness.

at the same place, on the same date

Witness: /s/ OKO, Mitsuo (seal)

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