

Ref.

FOREIGN OFFICE STATEMENT

October 9, 1937.

The League of Nations has declared that the actions now being taken by Japan in China are a violation of the Nine Power Treaty and the Treaty for the Renunciation of War, and the State Department of the United States has issued a statement to the same purport. However, these steps must be attributed to an unfortunate lack of understanding of the real circumstances as well as the true intention of Japan, a state of affairs which the Japanese Government deem very regrettable.

The present Sino-Japanese affair originated in the unwarranted attack made by Chinese forces on Japanese garrison troops legitimately stationed in North China under rights clearly recognized by treaty. The troop which was maneuvering at the time of the outbreak was a very small unit. The Japanese garrison force was then scattered in different parts, engaged in peace-time duties. After the outbreak of hostilities, Japan did everything in her power to reach a local settlement of the incident, even at the sacrifice of strategical advantages. These facts are sufficient to prove that the action of the Japanese force was by no means premeditated but simply defensive.

China is undoubtedly responsible for the spread of the affair to Shanghai and then to other points of Central China. She openly violated the Agreement for the Cessation of Hostilities concluded in 1932 by concentrating overwhelmingly numerous forces of more than forty thousand men in the

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demilitarized zone and attempted to annihilate our Naval Landing Party, numbering but a scant three thousand, and wipe out our 30,000 nationals living in the Settlement, amongst whom were many women and children.

The subsequent development of the Japanese military action has been but the unavoidable consequence of the hostile operations of China, who, ignoring our policy of a local settlement and non-aggravation of the situation, moved and concentrated her large armies against us. The action which Japan is taking at the present time is a measure of defense to which she has been compelled to resort by the premeditated provocative acts of China.

What the Japanese Government seek today is merely the abandonment by China of her anti-Japanese policy and the establishment of enduring peace in East Asia, through sincere cooperation between Japan and China. They have no territorial designs whatever.

In the light of these circumstances, it must be firmly declared that the present action of Japan in China contravenes none of the existing treaties which are in force.

The Chinese Government, lending themselves to Communist intrigue, have brought about the present hostilities by their persistent and malicious anti-Japanese measures and their attempt to do away with the rights and vital interests of Japan in China by force of arms. It is they who should be deemed a violator of the spirit of the Treaty for the Renunciation of War -- a menace to the peace of the world.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, H. YASHI, 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 Statement, October 9, 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. URABE

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六四 外務省聲明(昭和十二年十月九日)

國際聯盟ハ明ニ帝國ガ支那ニ於テ執リツツアル行動ヲ以テ九國條約及不戰條約違反ナリト斷定シ米國國務省亦同類ノ聲明ヲ發表シタルガ右ハ今次支那ノ實況及帝國ノ意ヲ理解セザルヨリ來ルモノニシテ帝國政府ノ甚々遺憾トスルトコロナリ。

今次支那ハ條約上明白ニ認めラレタル陸兵總ニ其キ合法的ニ北平ニ在リタル帝國軍隊ニ對シテ不法攻撃ニ與テシタルモノニシテ當地警察機關ニ於テ清初ニ從軍シタルハ總メテ小部隊ナリシノミナラズ其間我國駐屯軍ハ平時任務ノ爲各地ニ分散シ居タルコト又其間勸告の日下ガ作戦上ノ不利ヲ忍ビテ迄モ局部的解決ヲ計ランコトニ拘泥努力シタコトヲ見レバ我國ノ行動ガ何等計画的ノモノニ非ズシテ悉ク自衛ノ措置ニ限ラザリシコト明カナリ、又上海ニ次デ中支各地ニ軍隊ガ増大スルニ至リタルハ支那側ガ一九三二年ノ上海停戰協定ヲ破リテ非武裝糾紛ニ四萬余ノ優勢ナル軍隊ヲ入レ三千内外ノ僅少ナル我國軍隊ト爲女子ヲ含ム約三萬ノ特異在留一

民トチ集結セソトシタルニ起因スルモノナリ而シテ其ノ後ノ重要事件ノ發展ルモ
 ハ偶ニ支那側ニ於テ帝國ノ利益に及及時局本指大ノ方針ヲ無視シ大ニ其ノ利益
 集結シテ我方ニ對シ全面的ニ敵對行動ニ出デタルガ爲メ我方モ亦ムチ其ノ面
 的行動ヲ以テ之ニ應ジタルニ基クモノニ外ナラズ然ルニ帝國ガ今日支那ニモ
 於テ執リツツアル行動ハ支那側ノ計畫的挑發行動ニ已ムナクセラレタル自
 措ニシテ而シテ帝國政府ガ現下ノ對支行動ニ依リ支那ニ求メソトスルモノ
 ハ前記對日挑發行動ノ根源ヲ成ス排日抗日政策ノ根本ト日支兩國ノ民衆ナル
 協同ニ依ル東亞平和ノ具現トニ存シ何等領土的企圖ニ出ツル次第ニ非ズ終
 帝國ノ對支行動ハ如何ナル保存條約ニモ違反セズ却ツテ赤色勢力ニ對シテ
 策トシテ執拗惡性ナル排日抗日ヲ實行シ武力行使ニ依リ自國內ニ於ケル日
 ノ利益ヲ排除シ去ラセトシテ今次支那ヲ招致セルガ爲メ政府コソ不睦條約ノ締
 結ニ背反シ世界ノ平和ヲ脅威スルモノト首ツベキナリ

文部省ノ出所並ニ成立ニ關スル證明書

自分、林 義孝ハ外務省文書課長ノ職ニ居ル者ナル處、茲ニ添付セラレタル
日本語ニ依ツテ書カレ貳百ヨリ成ル外務省文書（昭和十二年十月九日）ト
付スル書類ハ日本政府（外務省）ノ根據ニ依ル公文書ノ正確ニシテ長官ヨリ
ル寫シナルコトヲ證明ス

昭和二十二年四月八日 於東京 林

右署名捺印ハ自分ノ面前ニ於テ寫サレタリ

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