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On the Occasion of the 15th Anniversary of the Issuance of the  
Imperial Rescript on the Awakening of the  
National Spirit.

Minister of Education, Baron  
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On 10 November 1923, the Emperor TAISHO, being greatly concerned about the contemporary condition of our Empire, reverently issued an Imperial Rescript on the Awakening of the National Spirit.

For the past fifteen years since then our people have observed its spirit day and night and have endeavored earnestly for its realization. The 10th of October marks its fifteenth anniversary.

This is just the time when CANTON and three principal cities near HANKOW have been captured in succession by our Imperial Army marking one phase of this incident. We have finally come to a period for actual activities in the long-term construction. In view of the gravity of the present situation of our Empire, I believe our people should proceed with the subjugation of difficulties with a determination much firmer than that made after the KWANTO earthquake disaster.

And now, as we await the anniversary of the issuance of the Rescript, I believe we must proceed on the path of supporting the Emperor's undertaking of expanding the Imperial Way by renewing the spirit with which we had received the Imperial Rescript.

I respectfully think that the Imperial thoughts are very vast and far-reaching, because, whenever the Empire was in a crisis and the people were at a loss how to meet the situation, the Emperor was pleased to issue an Imperial rescript, which was like a light on a dark night to the people, who were all encouraged to do their duties, were very high-spirited on their bright future, and overcame the crisis in every case. The great earthquake of Kanto gave a great shock to people both at home and abroad; some went so far as to miscalculate that Japan would never be able to rank again among the greatest Powers of the world. However, when an Imperial rescript was issued, the National morale was immediately enhanced and the areas damaged by the earthquake, such as Tokyo and Yokohama, were reconstructed in a very short time and prospered greater than before. I cannot think without deep emotion of the Emperor's eminent virtues.

The Imperial rescript teaches us, first of all, that the prosperity of the country depends upon the spirit of fortitude and manliness among her people. All the people have been obedient to this Imperial instruction ever since, but it is dreadful to find that they have sometimes been predominated by material profit and the like, and have forgotten the spiritual side. This results in unexpected failure, or rather, it is regretful that it has caused the dullness of things. As is shown in the Imperial rescript, spirit is a

basis, and soul is a source. The rescript teaches us that we must depend first of all on education for the cultivation and promotion of this spirit. We, who are engaged in education, feel ourselves very responsible in this respect.

In the Imperial Rescript, His Majesty the Emperor admonished us, the nation, to be frugal and stout-hearted, hearty and fair, loyal, filial and brave and to aim at humanity and co-existence, and further taught us about friendship and public virtue, order and responsibility. Above all, His Majesty, the Emperor, repeatedly and strongly gave the counsel that the whole nation should do their duty diligently and manage their fortune in frugality, and should do the utmost for the benefit of the general welfare and, thus, should make efforts for the national prosperity, the people's well-being and the social welfare, without leaning toward self-interest.

Having had the honour of reading this, I am deeply moved and alarmed at the result of the efforts which the nation has made hitherto. There is nothing more important than this for the iron-rules to set up the necessary elements for the mobilization of the national spirit, the reinforcement of armaments and the aggrandization of the production power.

The words in the Imperial Rescript, which should especially be kept in our mind are as follows: There is no way to develop and aggrandize the national strength other than to bring about practical results by following strictly the holy instructions by the late Emperor. What should the nation answer now to these two words "Practical Results"? Did the evil manners of frivolity and wilfulness, insincerity and violence disappear? Are not we regrettable in doing the utmost for the benefit of the general welfare without leaning to the interest of oneself? With this in mind, we are so deeply alarmed that we cannot help but apologize for having done so little. Fifteen years has passed since the Imperial Rescript was issued. At present we are facing a significant moment more serious than at the time the earthquake disaster. Now at this very moment we should exert ourselves right to bring about practical results in an effort to set up the national spirit and make double effort to fill up what we have hitherto done insufficiently.

As I have often repeated on several occasions, the fundamental question of the present situation does not lie in the China Incident but the present situation must be regarded as a sign of the dawn of a new world peace. Therefore, it is a great mistake to think that the occupation of some important strategic points in China will mean the settlement of the present situation. On the contrary, at present, we have only seen the first ray of the dawn of a new world that has been gradually approaching since the close of the World War. It is our country that has been playing a leading part in it as a pioneer, and I believe that Japan is in a position to play an important role in the coming new world. Consequently, we have an important duty imposed upon us, and we must be fully prepared for any emergency. Japan, who has sprung from "Japan in the Orient" to "Japan in the world," is now placed in such a difficult condition. So we must bear in mind, as the Japanese

subjects, the honor and the duty to play an important role on the world's stage in settling the present difficult question. The present condition, I think, will not come to an end in near future. Whatever Chiang Kai Shek or the world may say about us we must be pushing forward, slowly but steadily, towards the construction of a new world, ever storing up the national strength, ever reflecting upon our own essence and ever eradicating the roots of evils, as the subjects of a glorious country who is holding a heavy responsibility upon themselves, at this dawn of a new world.

Such being the purpose of this sacred war, it would be difficult to accomplish this great task with our exoteric contemplation in the past. Breaking through the hard crust of conventionalism, we must see far into the future, and understand both the great principle of the universal nature and the mission of our country, and entertain a high aspiration to meet with the general situation. It is said that the saint is delivered from everything at the last moment of attaining divine enlightenment; and that the buddhist, being free from Buddhism, and the past master, without slavish adherence to the traditional school or type, grasp the truth directly. Japan, who is to pride herself as master imposed this great mission at this changing period of the world, should get rid of the whole past, and have dignity enough to lead others from a higher position. Our national constitution and the teachings bequeathed by our Imperial Ancestors have something incomparably supreme that no other country has to compare with.

Japan, as she is called, "Divine Land Japan", has virtue which enables her to dispose all things and creatures in nature in their right places in accordance with their force of nature. And she has that natural power which in an emergency leads them into great principle in accordance with the general situation.

Therefore, in order to set our hand to the work of construction at this juncture, it is necessary to bear in mind, like a true Japanese subject, the teachings of our Imperial Ancestors, and to find in them the just and equitable principle of the Universe, thereby rendering service to our country for the object of saving the present situation. As a fundamental attitude of mind for doing this, I believe we should be wise and magnanimous enough to transact business with broad mind and greater ambition. For nearly three thousand years, Japan has been digesting the cream of the Eastern culture; for recent seventy years, she has also absorbed the best of the Western culture; and now she has grasped the fundamental principles of the world civilization. Think over this, and one will come to understand the true meaning of what the Government call, in its declaration, the establishment of international justice, the creation of a new culture, the internal renovation, or what it means by saying, "it derives from the spirit of the Foundation of the Empire". Thus, we will be able to realize that the significance of the present China Affair is deep and wide, because its aim is to establish peace in the East and to contribute to the world's peace

If we can accomplish this, Japan will obtain a fame as "Great Japan of the World", and I believe the glory of the Emperor will shine all over the world. But, if it should happen that the efforts of the nation is insufficient, and our plan is frustrated, the peace in the East would be lost, and there would be a terrible confusion on the whole earth. When I think of this, it makes my blood run cold. If such should happen, not only would we be disloyal to the Emperor, but we would be greatly ashamed of ourselves towards our ancestors and descendants.

According to yesterday's declaration by Chiang Kai-shek or what some quarter of the world have to say they are dreaming that we will surrender from financial difficulties or material shortage. As long as we are carrying the war more than a year and a half and still realize the great task of a long term construction we must take exceptional measures and prepare for the emergency, and it is a matter of course to suffer from some difficulties. But, as we are now experiencing we do not have such a dead-lock as they expect, and we can by no means stand at such a position.

Now, when we compare this situation with the one of the powers in the second year of the 1st Great World War, we find a great difference between them, and we can pride ourselves in it. Of course we can't stop even for a moment our efforts and plans, to satisfy everybody helping and ministering to each others want. But it is the true characteristic of the true-hearted Japanese to try his own ability against all the hardships and privations and there is nothing to regret in it. They not only esteem it an honour but they must apply to the test and eradicate the deepest root of evil for our posterity. But the most fundamental point is in the immortality of the strong and healthful soul. Today, we received an Imperial rescript and we are in high spirits. I appeal to our compatriots for efforts to obtain good result with all the tension of spirit.

We are now facing a turning-point of the Incident. At this moment, recognizing the vital importance of our preparedness for protracted construction and of combining national strength, I feel most keenly that the basic requirement for it lies in the strong national spirit. I came to the belief that without that all measures would not be effective. I earnestly hope that, during this awakening of the "National Spirit Week" which begins today you will bear the Imperial Message in mind; with fresh mind and patience realize the Emperor's wishes shown in the Imperial Rescript; tide over the present difficulties and exhibit the glory of Japan to the whole world, thereby complying with the Imperial intention.

(gist of the broadcast on Nov. 7, 1938)

Instructions at the National Conference of Principals  
of Agricultural Schools.

I have just been appointed by the Emperor to the post of Education Minister, and am to manage the educational administration. In view of the present situation, I am aware of the extremely heavy responsibility of the task, and expect to exert my utmost in carrying out my duty.

At this critical period the most important thing is the strengthening of the national spirit. In other words, it lies in the unification of a billion minds, with everyone discharging their duties faithfully and cooperatively. It is not an exaggeration to say that the only way to weather the present emergency depends entirely upon this attitude of the people. Consequently, at the outbreak of the Incident, the Government immediately launched a movement for the general mobilization of the national spirit in order to have its people become fully aware of the situation, and to cultivate their stability of mind.

Of course, the Government and the people should cooperate so as to steadily bring about the results of this movement, but among others, the educationists must exert their efforts by leading the way of this movement, and at the same time, they must become an example for the people by making reflections on their own daily lives and by putting the spirit of this movement into actual practice.

Needless to say, education is an enterprise which decides the fate of a state for one hundred years to come, and forms the basis of administration. Therefore, its promotion must be planned and we must endeavour to cultivate the foundation of the national power by educating the people so that they can carry out the great mission of the Empire in the future.

It is for this very reason that the Educational Investigation Committee was organized sometime ago, and came to devise ways and means for fundamental reforms by carrying out careful investigations regarding the entire system and quality of Education. Thus, the keynote of the educational reform lies in how to embody the great Imperial Way realistically into education. The import of the previous enactments and reforms which placed morals and civics as principal items of teaching also comes under this category. Therefore, I hope you will also pay careful attention to this point, and after becoming well acquainted with our national structure, you must concentrate on aiding the everlasting reign of the Emperor by elevating the national spirit.

Since the founding of our nation, agriculture has been called the foundation of our nation, and it still is so to this day. Not only that, I firmly believe that under the present crisis, its importance as a foundation of the nation is becoming greater.

There are among these brave officers and soldiers who are fighting in the front, many who came from farming districts, and it is these people of the farms who are producing and supplying foodstuffs and other resources in the home front. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to mention what a powerful service the agricultural populace is offering to the country in this critical period.

This is why I am aware of the honour of you men whose work is in agricultural education, and also the importance of your great mission.

In viewing the education which is carried out today in the agricultural schools, I am truly happy to see some suddenly manifesting a steady transformation recently. However, if a close observation should be made, there appear to be still various points which require reforms and improvements. Therefore, I wish to request you all to exert more efforts. From olden times, agricultural schools have been educating men who are to become leaders and the backbone of the local agricultural circles. Consequently, their education must not only consist of theories, but must place emphasis on experiments and actual practices, thereby teaching them fully the real meaning of labour and sweat. Also, I hope to have efforts made to thoroughly cultivate their ability as regards management and administration. In order to keep pace with the progress and intricacies of agriculture, I hope that the sense of application and ingenuity will be cultivated together with creative power. It is also desired that efforts be made to avoid falling into fixed patterns of education; to teach the students by keeping in touch with the actual world according to the actual conditions of the local agriculture; and strive to develop national agriculture and leadership of local agriculture. Furthermore, under the present situation in our country, we must strive our utmost towards increasing our national strength by striving for an expansion in production power. Therefore, I wish you will be fully aware of the roles of agriculture and agricultural communities in connection with this point, and while fully cooperating with the agricultural policies under the wartime structure, I hope you will especially guide the students on this point.

Next, in view of conditions in our country, I think it is very important to devise the overseas expansion of the people. Especially, in order to carry out the national policy

based on the unity of JAPAN, MANCHUKUO and CHINA, the most urgent mission is the advancement to the Continent of many youths possessing thorough education and firm faith. I desire everyone of you to fully understand the state of affairs in our country and endeavor to promote the spirit of overseas expansion of the YAMATO /T.N. JAPANESE/ Race.

The next point is that the development of the agricultural districts should not depend only on activities of men, but the part to be played by women is not small. Especially, during the present emergency, I feel this point strongly, when observing the conditions of the families on the home front in farms, forests and fishing villages. However, on viewing the state of agricultural education for girls, I find it truly insufficient, so I believe it is the pressing task of the moment to improve this by its widespread.

I desire earnestly that those of you at this meeting who are fortunately in charge of girls' education, will endeavour to produce satisfactory results in girls' education by further reforming and improving the quality of education. As for the others, I hope you will teach the girls and women of the rural communities to fully understand agriculture and agricultural communities and to make them love labour through methods such as short courses, and lectures, thereby contributing to the training of hardy rural women.

I further wish to speak about the nation-wide mass-labour operations movement which has finally begun to gain momentum recently.

This project is already being carried out in the agricultural schools which you are sponsoring, by practical training on the farms or in reclamation work. Furthermore, ever since the Incident, there are extremely many who are earnestly working for farm families who have someone called out for military service. I am happy to see also that these are bearing satisfactory results. However, not only are further efforts in this field naturally desired but I hope you will fully understand that this movement has an important meaning as an aspect of realistic spiritual education. I hope you will strive for the accomplishment of the aims of this movement by paying attention so as not to fall into sheer formality and by making an example of yourselves as leaders, thus contributing to the elevation of education as a whole.



In conclusion, I wish to expressly add a few words. Heretofore, the education at vocational schools was apt to view material and spirit as two separate and alien things. Therefore, it seems that there were persons who had wrongly thought that vocational training and spiritual education were separate matters. Needless to say, vocational training is an important spiritual education in itself, and its true mission lies in the bringing up of true talent by doggedly aiming at the drilling of a sound body and mind of the student through actual practice. The characteristic feature of education in agricultural schools lies in the so-called cultivating of people's minds. In this meaning, this education aims not only at the training of industrial workers, but is verily also a spiritual education for champions of thought.

This is the very keynote of the agricultural way of Japan, and I firmly believe that only after adopting this spirit will agriculture become to signify the foundation of the nation as mentioned above.

Thus, this is the most important point in education, so I hope you will all consider this thoroughly so that there will be no mistake.

The foregoing is a statement which is just a portion of my opinions concerning problems deemed important as regards agricultural education. I hope you will also seize this opportunity in freely expressing your views so as to bring about satisfactory results through this Conference.

(Synopsis of Instructions. June 9, 1938)

Doc. No. 2155-B

C E R T I F I C A T E

W.D.C. NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
I.P.S. NO. 2155-B

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, Chikara Tsujita, hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Government in the following capacity: Director of the Investigation Bureau and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of 7 pages, dated 9 June, 1938, and described as follows: Instructions at the National Conference of Principals of Agricultural Schools. I further certify that the attached record and document is an official document of the Japanese Government, and that it is part of the official archives and files of the following named ministry or department (specifying also the file number or citation, if any, or any other official designation of the regular location of the document in the archives or files): Ministry of Education

Signed at Tokyo on this

15 day of 1, 1947.

/s/ Chikara Tsujita  
Signature of Official

SEAL

Witness: /s/ Tatsuo Sawada

Director of the  
Investigation Bureau  
Official Capacity

Statement of Official Procurement

I, 2d Lt. Eric V. Fleisher 0-935000, hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above certification was obtained by me from the above signed official of the Japanese Government in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this

15th day of Jan., 1947

/s/ Eric V. Fleisher, 2d Lt. AUSMI  
NAFI

Witness: /s/ R. H. Larsh

Investigator, IPS  
Official Capacity

Doc. No. 2155-B

C E R T I F I C A T E

I.D.C. No. \_\_\_\_\_

I.P.S. No. 2155-B

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, Chikara Tsujita \_\_\_\_\_, hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Government in the following capacity: Director of the Investigation Bureau \_\_\_\_\_ and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of 8 pages, dated 7 Nov., 1938, and described as follows: Speech by Araki, Sadao entitled \_\_\_\_\_ "On the Occasion of the 15th Anniversary of the Issuance of the Imperial Rescript on the Awakening of the National Spirit" \_\_\_\_\_ I further certify that the attached record and document is an official document of the Japanese Government, and that it is part of the official archives and files of the following named ministry or department (specifying also the file number or citation, if any, or any other official designation of the regular location of the document in the archives or files): Ministry of Education \_\_\_\_\_

Signed at Tokyo on this

15th day of 1, 1947.

/s/ Chikara Tsujita  
Signature of Official

Witness: /s/ Tatsuo Sawada

Director of the SEAI  
Investigation Bureau  
Official Capacity

Statement of Official Procurement

I, 2d. Lt. Eric W. Fleisher O-953000 \_\_\_\_\_, hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above certification was obtained by me from the above signed official of the Japanese Government in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this

15th day of Jan., 1947

/s/ Eric W. Fleisher, 2d. Lt. AUSMI  
NAME

Witness: /s/ R. H. Larsh

Investigator. IPS  
Official Capacity