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ADVICE TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE CHINESE REPUBLIC

General MATSUI issued the following statement under the title of 'Advice to all the people of the Chinese Republic,' and thus, gave the Chinese people a sympathetic warning so as to enable them to reflect themselves with their complete reconsideration of the real morality of East Asia.

1. It is a matter of deep regret to the two nations of China and Japan that immediately after the outbreak of North China Incident, the feelings of the both nations began to burst out, and by force of circumstance, it seems that a hundred year crisis is to be brought about in East Asia after the battle lines were finally expanded to a great degree.

At this juncture, for the good of a great number of the Chinese people in and out of government offices, I hope that the Chinese official and people would meditate and observe all the internal and external affairs, with their eyes wide open, and reflect themselves over and over again recalling that principle of morality for East Asia.

Indeed it means the destruction of the international morality and also, the disturbance of the peace in the Orient that such acts as to undervalue Japan's real power under a spell of their self-complacency principle, or to endanger their existence because of their over-readiness for communistic influence, and furthermore, for the sake of executing Peace restoration movement to utilize anti-Japanese and resistance principles for the means of unifying national opinion and to strengthen the political powers by emphasizing most strongly the necessity of advocating the above principles. Even in case their principle,

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'Down with Japan', which they are only too ready to decry, should, by any chance, be realized, I wonder whether they would still consider that the five races of China would be able to lead their happy life by so doing. There is no reason why such a plain reason should not be understood by them. However, it is indeed a fact of great regret to me that the Chinese people in general are placed in such a deplorable situation in which they can not speak out even such matters openly. My sincere hope for your reflection truly lies in this very point. It must be recalled, in my opinion, that Dr. SUN Chung-shan, great founder of the Chinese Republic, has always hoped for and endeavored to establish peace in the Orient as well as for the restoration of China.

2. What Japan really hopes for is the coalition between China and Japan, and I am of the firm belief that this is truly the principle which will bring about peace in the Orient. But if the thoughts or feelings of the Chinese Government and people toward Japan should remain just as they are, it would be necessary, to my regret, to uproot all their anti-Japanese and resistance movements, and to eliminate completely the fundamental cause of unhappy events which are prevalent at the present. The sole object of our Army rests on this point. It goes without saying that the Imperial Japanese Army should not be easily mobilized. It is our belief, however, that, if it should rise up in arms once, it is our real intention to annihilate the enemy completely so as to attain the object of its expedition. The aim of the attack of our Army is solely directed toward the Nanking Government and its Army

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which resist Japan, but we have no intention whatever to aim at the people in general for the object of our operation. That is to say, the time has come for the Chinese officials and people who have hitherto been busily engaged in the work of the firm establishment of the Nanking Military Clan Regime to return to their normal state by throwing away their former illusions. Hence, our Army would never hesitate to carry out a great work of constructing Greater Asia hand-in-hand with any country which would try to join us with sincerity for the maintenance of peace in the Orient. If, however, there should be some people who, under a spell of nightmare, would resist us or prevent us from taking actions, we should never be able to refrain from chastising them. I deeply sympathize with the innocent people in general who suffered from disasters of war or exposed themselves to the danger of losing their lives and properties. Furthermore, I hope that you would keep yourselves away from all the battle-fields for the time being instead of being misled by groundless rumors and rest upon perfect reliance for the Imperial Army especially at this juncture.

3. All the farmers who are residing in operation areas are truly to be considered as disregarding the blessings of heaven and earth, for they are not taking advantage of all the grains that are ripe, and that they have all stopped their own works by leaving their safe and peaceful houses at this good harvest time. I greatly regret this fact. Some troops of our Army requisitioned some grains which had been left in farm houses a while ago, but the fact is that there was no one for us to deal with directly, for there were no inhabitants

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left at that time. Under such unavoidable circumstances, everything has been left unsolved until now. For the compensation of the above, our Army would readily be responsible for its payment for them, and we are simply waiting for the advent of such opportunity. As it has already been mentioned above, our Army does not entertain any enmity toward the harmless people. And furthermore, it has been my constant desire to guarantee their safety, and to safeguard their means of livelihood. It is my sincere advice to all the good people in the areas in the rear of battlefields where our Army is garrisoned and that they will speedily return to their respective farms yearning after the lands where the spirits of their ancestors have been resting, and will continue their own works without any anxiety with perfect reliance for the Imperial Japanese Army.