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EX 2587
Translated by
Defense Language Branch

THE GIST OF THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN
PRINCE KONOYE AND WANG

June 14, 1939

From 3 p.m.
To 4 p.m.

Wang: Formerly I sought your opinion while informing you of my view concerning the management of the current situation by sending you a message through Kuo Tsung-wu in February of this year. I will relate again the problems which were presented at that time. The first question was how to face the current situation, and the suggestions about the means for that end were as follows;

- (1) to negotiate for peace with Chiang, or
- (2) to have a new regime organized by those who are neither Nationalists nor members of the National Government, or
- (3) to organize a new central government, with the peace-inclined, anti-Communistic elements of the National Party, as its centre, and taking in various other parties and groups in its constitution.

And I understand that of the above three your Excellency supported the 3rd proposition.

The next was the problem of the Three-People Principle. It was the

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desire expressed on the Japanese side to have the Three-People Principle revised so as not to be incompatible with the purposed construction of a new order in East Asia. However, the prime object of Dr. Sun Wen's principle was to have Japan and China go hand in hand, Dr. Sun always saying that the revolution of China could not be achieved without Japan's understanding. Sun Wen had a sound knowledge of Japan and the Japanese and hoped for the emancipation of Asia through a Sino-Japanese cooperation. Even during his last northward trip he dropped in Kobe on purpose and gave two long speeches there. Sino-Japanese cooperation was indeed Sun Wen's original intention and we are most sorry for the outbreak of this incident and feel the deepest regret not only for the sake of the two countries but also for thwarting Dr. Sun's plan. There are some who think our "peoples life" principle to be very close to communism, but there is a clear distinction between the two. And that is why our Government has been doing its best for these ten years to suppress the Communist Army. If you seek the Three-People Principle in its original form, it is no other than what perfectly accords with the triple-pointed principle Your Excellency proclaimed last year----of friendly relations, common anti-Communist front and economical cooperation of the neighbouring countries. Sun Wen's Principle has no need of revision at all. When in the first year of the Republic of China Sun Wen met Prince KATSURA, he told that

"without Japan there would be no independence of East Asia."
We can declare without reserve that we will be able to come to real cooperation with Japan by returning back to the spirit of Sun Wen. As for the third of the proposition, which was the solution of the current difficulty by having the Nationalist Party as the main factor, I agree with you to deal with the situation by acting in concert not only with the Nationalist Party but also with various other parties. But as for the substance and form of the Central Government, there will still be some room for careful study. The principle advocated in the KAOYE Declaration was what had been already presented on the occasion of the kind offer of mediation by the German Ambassador. And for the first time now, a whole year after that time, it became a grave issue. This delay is due to the incessant interference by the Communist Party on one hand, and the Chinese people's general misunderstanding of Japan's true intention and consequent misgiving about Japan's action on the other. Prime Minister HIRANUMA, however, has stressed the moral basis of Sino-Japanese relations, while Navy Minister has declared that Japan has no intention to interfere with the internal affairs of China; and Finance Minister that Japan has no ambition to monopolize economic advantages in China. I am happy to say that they have given me great hopes. Now that the true intention of Japan has been proved by these, we should concentrate our efforts on the

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realization of this hope. If we achieve this task, the sacrifice caused by this incident will not be wasted.

KONOYE: I understand quite well the principle and cause of Dr. Sun Wen. My father was on intimate terms with him, and he visited my father's grave when he came to Japan in the First Year of the Republic of China. I met him twice after that and had a long talk each time. And coming to know his ideals and aspirations on these occasions, I had a great esteem for him. My father spent almost the whole of his life in devotion to the China problem, and moreover, among my seniors and friends, there are many who have been for many years doing their best to settle the problem of Sino-Japanese relations. And I feel the deepest regret for the fact that when I myself have been holding this important position in the Government, this incident broke out to bring the two countries to the present lamentable situation. I feel most ashamed thinking of my father and the above seniors and friends of mine. I sincerely wish that you will adhere to the original intention of Sun Wen and steadily go ahead to achieve success in the settlement of the Sino-Japanese problem. This will be not only for China's sake but also for the benefit of East Asia.

Wang: There are enough difficulties on the Chinese side as well in establishing a new Sino-Japanese relation based on Your Excellency's

declaration of last year; I will point out a few instances; first of all, Japan and China must cooperate to achieve the same purpose, and to realize this cooperation, there must be a free and independent government in China. This means that while the Chinese Government must fully cooperate with Japan on one hand, it must maintain on the other hand the independence of its own. We must make this independence and cooperation compatible to each other. There would be no difficulty for the mutual understanding and cooperation between Japan and China if the relations between the two countries were such as existing between Britain and France or Germany and Italy, because in either case the two countries are founded on modern state system. But in case of Japan and China, one is a strong senior nation, while the other is a weak and backward nation. Therefore Japan is likely to blame China for lagging behind, and China to feel the pressure of Japan. Moreover the Chinese public still fear lest China should be ruined by Japan. First of all this kind of suspicion must be cleared. The reason why I insisted on sticking to the name of the Nationalist Government and the Sun-in-the-Blue-Sky Flag is not a mere question of form, but because I sincerely wish to clear off this kind of fear and suspicion from the Chinese people's minds and make them feel at ease. To put it in other words: Although it is needless to say that China will cooperate with Japan in all military, diplomatic and economic

matters, it is feared on the one hand that excessive control over the actions of China will result in an apparent loss of her sovereignty and, on the other hand, that a too generous laissez-faire policy may eventually bring about a collision between the two nations. I desire that the Chinese will devise from a patristic standpoint concrete measures which will satisfy both of the two nations at the same time and which will keep the two governments free from any criticism on the part of the people. I am ashamed that I have done nothing for these six months since my escape from Chungking. Now I am planning as the first step to rally together my friends in the Kuomintang and with their cooperation to clarify the true intention of Japan. Then I will take up again the 'Three Popular Principles' and accept formally the main demands of Japan as a representative of the Kuomintang, and will undertake to make them widely known to the public. However, as for the actual measures to be materialized after that, I confess that I am not confident enough for the task. Anyhow my plan is first to hold an assembly of the representatives of the Kwomintang throughout the country, then to convene the Central Political Council, and then to take steps to establish a central government. In case this plan should prove impracticable, there will be no way left for us but to concentrate on propagandizing activities.

KONOYE: As may be you have been told by Premier. HIRANUMA and other ministers, the whole Japanese nation places confidence in you

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and expects that you will make utmost efforts to cope with the present situation.

Wang: I am at a loss how to express my feeling of sincere gratitude for the unreserved confidence you place in me.

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CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

I, who occupy the post of the Chief of the Document Section of the Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached, printed in Japanese consisting of 4 pages and entitled "the Gist of the Conversation Between Prince KONOYE and Wang (June 14, 1939)" is an exact copy from the document in the custody of the Japanese Government (Foreign Office).

certified at Tokyo,
on this 12 day of March, 1947

(signed) HIYASHI, Kōru (seal)

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: (signed) URABE, Katsumo (seal)