

Def. Doc. # 450

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ARMY'S THREAT

TO ACT

DUAL "DIPLOMACY" FOLLOWS THE

NAKAMURA MURDER

PUNITIVE HINTS

The Army General Staff is seething with indignation at the murder of Captain Nakamura by Chinese troops, which it regards as a glaring case of defiance of the Japanese army by the Chinese, says the Jiji. Dissatisfied with the general attitude of the Foreign Office towards China the Army General Staff is keeping a watchful eye on the negotiations just opened with the Chinese authorities, ready to step in when it see signs of weakness in the attitude of the Foreign Office.

When the information was first received by the Army General Staff Office early in July that Captain Nakamura was missing, and that there were indications that he had been shot, says the same paper, the Chief of the General Staff issued telegraphic instructions immediately to Major-General Miyake, chief of staff of the Japanese Garrison in Kwantung province (leased territory), ordering him to make inquiries. Acting under these instructions, Major-General Miyake sent his subordinates to various points for purposes of investigation. These inquiries led to the discovery of sure proof that the murder was committed by Chinese troops.

It seems that the Japanese diplomats in Manchuria and Mongolia did not adopt a resolute attitude while these inquiries were going on. They even manifested a dislike of the strong attitude of the military authorities. A similar hesitancy was shown by the Foreign office in the publication of the facts of the case by the military authorities a few days ago. These facts have aroused in the minds of the Army General Staff authorities a strong suspicion that the present affair may be dealt with by the diplomatic authorities in their usual mild manner, contenting themselves with the lodging of a formal protest with the Chinese authorities. They are determined not to allow the Foreign Office authorities to treat the case in this perfunctory way.

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"THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE"

The Nakamura case has further stimulated the strong general attitude of the Army General Staff towards Manchuria and Mongolia. In the opinion of the Staff authorities, the Chinese authorities in Manchuria and Mongolia are so pronouncedly anti-Japanese that there is no room whatever for the settlement of such issues in a spirit of mutual accommodation. The only alternative left open to Japan is to resort to the final step for their solution. To avoid this extreme step means to abandon Japan's right and interests in Manchuria and Mongolia.

Such being the mood of the authorities of the Army General Staff, says the Jiji, the Foreign Office attitude may exasperate them so that a very serious situation may be precipitated.

A Mukden dispatch to the Asahi says that Major Mori, of the Army General Staff, arrived there on the 18th instant to watch the negotiations opened by Mr. Hayashi, the Consul-General at Mukden, with Mr. Tsang, head of Lianning province. Soon after his arrival, the officer visited Mr. Tsang and informed him of his mission. He told Mr. Tsang that he had been specifically dispatched by the Japanese Army General Staff to watch the progress of the negotiations just opened to see whether the Chinese authorities are sufficiently sincere in their attitude. If the Chinese authorities betray a lack of sincerity, he broadly indicated, the Japanese military authorities are ready to resort to arms to obtain satisfaction.

SEIYUKAI MISSION'S REPORT

At a meeting of the leaders of the Seiyukai on the 18th instant, Mr. Mori, who led the party's mission of inquiry into the Wanpaoshan and the Korean affairs, made a general report of the result of the mission's inquiries. After assuring the assembly that a regular and more detailed report would be made at a later meeting, the speaker said it is obvious that if present conditions in Manchuria and Mongolia are allowed to continue, Japan's national prestige will be entirely gone and her special rights and interests be trampled underfoot. The present weak policy of the Foreign Office must be discarded as quickly as possible. A strong policy, as some people are fond of calling it, is necessary for the preservation of Japan's legitimate rights and interests. Mr. Mori regretted that there is no adequate appreciation of the importance of the Manchurian and Mongolian problem among the Japanese people.

Referring to the growth of a strong sentiment in military circles, Mr. Mori said that setting apart the correctness or otherwise of the behaviour of some military officers, the fact cannot be denied that the weak China policy of the present Cabinet is responsible for it. He observed that the nation is greatly indignant at the Nakamura murder, just disclosed, and believes that popular indignation will soon take the shape of a movement for the overthrow of the present Cabinet.