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Speech Made By Premier KOISO Before the 85th Diet Session.

Unexpectedly I received the Imperial Command to form the cabinet with Admiral YONAI and to assume the grave responsibility of administering the affairs of state. Truly I am filled with trepidation. Under the extremely serious situation, I firmly resolve to make every effort in order to meet the Emperor's wishes. It is my greatest delight that I could get the chance of revealing the government's attitude on the occasion of this 85th Diet Session. His Majesty, the Emperor, issued a specially gracious rescript at today's opening ceremony, by which we were deeply moved. In obedience to the Imperial Rescript, I, with your cooperation, will carry out the important duties of wartime and try to achieve the object of the war as soon as possible. By these means I wish to set his Majesty's heart at ease. Now is the most important time when the fate of the Empire will be decided.

I think this is the very time when we should manifest our glorious and everlasting history, in accordance with the divine spirit of our Imperial ancestors, and should keep our national constitution which is quite unique in the world. Holding the firm belief of victory with 100 million compatriots, and concentrating all efforts, I wish to gather the national strength together with a harmonious national unity to achieve the war's end, in accordance with the expected operation of our armed forces, which will soon be realized, to destroy America and Britain. This Greater East Asia War, as stated clearly in the Imperial Rescript declaring the war, is one which Japan was compelled to start in order to protect herself and simultaneously has as its chief object the reconstruction of Greater East Asia. The fate of the YAMATO race, as well as that of one billion Asiatic people, will be decided by this war.

The good points of our national character, which have been inspired by one difficulty after another in the past, have been actually proven very often in the process of this war also. The enemy's attacks against our homeland have become frequent and are being conducted on a larger scale. In the present state when enemy landings are feared, we should concentrate every effort and sacrifice ourselves to maintain the national constitution. We should renew our firm resolution to wage the war and after purifying ourselves we should pray to God and do our best.

In the front line, our armed forces are fighting bravely day and night without flinching under the enemy's "material attack". Their morale is very high, and they are fighting very bravely thwarting the enemy's attacks

everywhere. I hereby, together with you, express my deep gratitude towards the men of the Imperial forces, and at the same time I mourn for those who gave their lives in the battles and feel sympathy from the bottom of my heart for the wounded officers and soldiers and the bereaved families. Moreover, I pay my respect to the 100 million compatriots who are diligently engaged in production and national defense under these serious war conditions and at the same time I do believe that the people will respond to the efforts of the officers and soldiers at the front.

The situation today is quite serious. The fate of Japan depends upon today. In order to break up today's deadlock it is natural that we should centralize the fundamentals of national policy for management of state affairs upon the attainment of the objectives of war, and thru the cooperation between civilians and the men of the armed forces bring forth a close tie between the supreme command and the ministers of state, thus fully realizing the strong leadership of carrying out the war. This was the reason why the Supreme Headquarters for the Direction of the War was set up recently.

It has been decided that hereafter the basic policy for the management of state affairs should be decided by this Headquarters, which represents the synthesis of the Supreme Command and the Ministers of State. All the national plans are to be developed in accordance with this decision.

The first plan to meet the present war situation lies in arousing the fighting spirit and the establishment of the national system for inevitable victory. It goes without saying that the fighting spirit should be aroused by promoting the idea of the national constitution. The firm resolution to keep the national constitution, which has no equal on the earth, through all difficulties is the source of the belief in victory, and the firm conception of national polity is the greatest source of war power. The arousing of the fighting spirit can not be expected without the free expression of the people's will. The government, at the present stage of decisive battle, wants to share the patriotic sentiments of the people by letting them know the real conditions at home and abroad and by arousing a common feeling of responsibility towards the war. At the same time, trusting deeply in the people's loyalty and listening to their fair opinion, the government wishes the whole nation to face the national crisis with a bright spirit.

To guard and maintain the Emperor's reign, which is coeval with heaven and earth, has been the national faith of 100,000,000 Japanese for thousands of years, and it has become the people's flesh and blood. When this spirit is aroused it turns out to be the national character lasting for thousands of years, outwardly crushing the enemy's propaganda, and at home becoming the basic power of the people's unselfish service to the country. And it establishes a firm national situation. Although there are many plans to establish a national structure for inevitable victory, the point lies in adopting effective and suitable measures to break up the deadlocks that are hindering the production without feigning originality or sticking onto conventionalism. Thus, by renewing the people's mind and demanding the fullest cooperation of the people, I wish to pay more attention to the raising of the national moral standard.

While the fullest cooperation is being required of the people, Korea and Formosa, as powerful parts of the Empire, have been contributing to the prosperity of the Empire and the achievement of the war's end, manifesting the special characteristics of the respective areas. Formerly they have done splendidly as special volunteers in the army and navy. It is a matter for national congratulation that since the conscription system has been promulgated so many of our fellow countrymen in Korea and Taiwan are participating in this Holy War and are devoting themselves for the sake of the country. At the same time consideration should be made as to their treatment. The second important national policy is intensification of fighting power. Namely, it is required to concentrate all the national power that will be available into the rapid promotion of fighting power, especially that of the air forces. The key to taking the initiative in the war and developing the war favorably for us lies in these points: The endeavors of the workers in the munitions factories has never been so necessary as today. Laying the emphasis on these points we are making every effort to mobilize everything, including manpower, goods, money and all other things for war purposes. Such installations and industrial activities as cannot be effectively turned into fighting power should be shut down and converted into essential industry. From these points of view, we have been adopting suitable measures for some time. Needless to say, the promotion of munition production is necessary for the purpose of increasing war power, especially that of the air forces, and the security and the perfection of transport on sea and land is quite necessary also. The government intends to take the most suitable measures to promote production by breaking up all bottlenecks.



The third chief point of the national policy lies in the promotion of increased food production and the security of the national life. It goes without saying that the minimum standards of national livelihood should be guaranteed during the war. Up to this time, the people have endured quite hard living conditions and have been striving to achieve the war's end. We are much moved to find that this fact is attributable to our sound national character. The government is making every effort to improve the situation as much as possible. We also deem it best to stabilize and improve the people's livelihood. We also recognize the necessity of brightening people's minds, which is most essential in arousing the fighting spirit and promoting efficiency.

The government, immediately after the cabinet was formed, took emergency food measures for the large consuming centers, such as Tokyo, Osaka and so on. Especially for the production, delivery and distribution of perishable food, we took temporary measures, changed the price policy, and adopted other measures. Generally speaking, there are no worries about the amount of food produced at home, judging from the real amount of food which will be obtained from the Japan-Manchurian combination. It goes without saying, however, that the promotion of food production is very important and at the same time the food problem is one of the important factors of victory. For this reason we are presenting a draft for the supplementary budget to the Diet.

The fourth important policy is the problem of labor and national mobilization. Under the serious situation existing today we cannot allow the existence of even one idle man nor one on-looker, irrespective of his age or sex. The 100 million people should be located in the battle line for victory and they must strive for the achievement of the mission imposed upon them. Thus only, after we have done our best, can we expect God's help. Industrialists, company employees, engineers, farmers and fishermen, all these men as Industrial Warriors, in accordance with the spirit of the universal conscription system, and with the mental attitude of drafted men not yet summoned to the colors, should do their best to fulfill their duties and to try to attain the maximum efficiency. Only when they have done so do they deserve the name of Japanese people, together with the armed forces who are facing death on the battle fields.

As to the compulsory labor system and the distribution and control of labor, the government is ready to make adjustments and improvements after investigation, and at the same time will adopt every means to complete national mobilization.

The fifth important national policy is the strengthening of national defense. Recently we have had several air raids on the western part of the mainland. At such times the damage has been limited to the minimum by the united efforts of the government and the people, which fact has inspired me with great confidence. In the future, however frequent the air raids may become, the government and the people should strive to defend the country with so much the more fighting spirit. It is today's urgent business to strengthen the defense of important industrial installations and to strengthen anti-air raid measures. Consequently, it is important to devise and establish immediately a defense system which will meet the real conditions. A city evacuation plan is now being carried out. As to the security of the inhabitants' lives in case of air raids, the perfecting of our anti-air raid system and intensifying of air defense maneuvers, we are making every effort to put these things into practice under carefully laid plans. Besides the above, we should, of course, strive to defend the nation, and the government has made clear the fact that the whole nation should be armed. The government has also decided on a concrete plan to reinforce the interior defense organization and intends to carry out this plan thoroughly.

As to the sixth of the important policies, I wish to say a few words on the utilization of scientific techniques. Now, the war has begun to bear the aspect of a "war of science". Accordingly, the government has set up a special organization which has as its purpose the unification of the applications of scientific techniques of both the Army and the Navy, besides the immediate conversion of Japanese scientific techniques into war power to meet the present military situation, and the planning of the rapid and smooth mass production of weapons. Besides this, we encourage the invention and creation of new weapons in non-government circles, and it has been decided that these should be dealt with in the above-mentioned organization. By this measure all the Japanese scientific techniques have become rapidly converted to war objectives. From the viewpoint of scientific technique, the technique of the people in general can now play a part in the war. We have much to expect from the result.

Coincident with the domestic policy as mentioned above, the Japanese wartime diplomatic policy is to strengthen the close relationship with Germany. In cooperation with our affiliated countries in Greater East Asia, we will strive to carry out the war with all our efforts. At the same time we wish to retain friendly relations with the neutral countries. Germany is fighting under extremely serious situations, believing in her final victory, which courage I admire very much. I firmly believe that she will overcome the present difficult situation and will change the tide of the war in her favor in the near future. I fervently pray for her success.

The nations and races of Greater East Asia do not show any restlessness despite the present military situation. On the contrary, they have been awakened to the necessity of achieving their mission concerning the reconstruction of Greater East Asia. They are actually intensifying their preparations to fight bravely in cooperation with Japan, which fact inspires me with great confidence. It is needless to say that the relationship between Japan and Manchukuo is inseparable. The relationship between Japan and China also is being solidly tightened under the motto of "to live and die together". The Japanese armed forces have been fighting for more than seven (7) years in south and north China. The real intention of Japan lies in the expulsion of Anglo-American influence, the emancipation of China from oppression by those countries which has continued for 100 years and the reconstruction of a Greater East Asia based on morality and a mutual cooperation. As this real intention has gradually penetrated into the Chinese people, the cooperation between Japan and China is steadily increasing. As to Thailand, the cabinet has been changed and the new cabinet under the presidency of Mr. APATWONGPHON still holds the policy of carrying on the war based on the pact. This should, of course, be so but this fact may be said to be the evidence of the solid unity of Greater East Asia. One year has already passed since Burma became an independent country and she is overcoming many difficulties under the ardent leadership of BAW MAW, the representative of the nation. Her sound development and her ardent resolution to carry out the war give us much hope. The Philippines will soon have her first anniversary of independence also. Under the direct leadership of President Laurel she is tiding over present wartime problems such as food and public peace and is steadily adjusting her own wartime structure. In these respects the Philippines could be called a trustworthy friendly country.

I hereby pay my profound respect to the Chief Executive of Free India Provisional Government, Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, and his followers for their desperate efforts for the independence of India. Needless to say, Japan will give them further powerful support and will cooperate with them in achieving independence.

As to the East Indies, Japan permitted the inhabitants to participate in politics according to their wish. The inhabitants throughout the East Indies have continuously endeavored to carry out the Greater East Asia War, recognizing the real intention of Japan. They have also been cooperating remarkably with the military government there.



In view of these facts we declare here that we intend to recognize their independence in the future in order to ensure the eternal happiness of the East Indian race. In this way the Japanese government intends to continue with her former policy toward Greater East Asia and by developing strongly the spirit of the Greater East Asia Joint Declaration, she expects to live up to the trust of the nations of Greater East Asia. Thus, if Greater East Asia, with Japan as its center and under the firm belief of victory, further increases its solidarity, concentrates its forces both spiritually and materially, and prosecutes ardently the "Holy War", which aims at the reconstruction of Greater East Asia, we firmly believe that we can destroy the ambitions of America and England and can express our ideals concerning the world forever.

In view of the present serious military situation, we hereby have revealed the government's will to prosecute the war with 100 million people. I hope you will understand the government's resolution, and, taking the lead among the 100 million people, will strive for the completion of the war. The government has proposed the temporary military draft budget in order to complete the armament to meet the present critical situation. I hope that approval will be given after discussion of this budget, together with the above mentioned budget concerning food measures.