

EX #129

Doc. 219B

Page 1.

EXTRACTS FROM FOREIGN RELATIONS of the UNITED STATES
JAPAN 1931-1941 VOLUME I

Pages 11-12:

793.94/1946

The Japanese Embassy to the Department of State
STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER EXTRAORDINARY CABINET MEETING
September 24, 1931.

(1) The Japanese Government has constantly been exercising honest endeavors in pursuance of its settled policy to foster friendly relations between Japan and China and to promote the common prosperity and well-being of the two countries. Unfortunately, the conduct of officials and individuals of China, for some years past, has been such that our national sentiment has frequently been irritated. In particular, unpleasant incidents have taken place one after another in regions of Manchuria and Mongolia in which Japan is interested in especial degree until an impression has gained strength in the minds of the Japanese people that Japan's fair and friendly attitude is not being reciprocated by China in like spirit. Amidst an atmosphere of perturbation and anxiety thus created a detachment of Chinese troops destroyed tracks of the South Manchurian Railway in the vicinity of Mukden and attacked our railway guards at midnight of September 18th. A clash between Japanese and Chinese troops then took place.

(2) The situation became critical as the number of Japanese guards stationed along the entire railway did not then exceed ten thousand four hundred while there were in juxtaposition some two hundred twenty thousand Chinese soldiers. Moreover, hundreds of thousands of Japanese residents were placed in jeopardy. In order to forestall imminent disaster the Japanese army had to act swiftly. The Chinese soldiers, garrisoned in neighboring localities, were disarmed and the duty of maintaining peace and order was left in the hands of the local Chinese organizations under the supervision of the Japanese troops.

(3) These measures having been taken, our soldiers were mostly withdrawn within the railway zone. There still remain some detachments in Mukden and Kirin and small number of men in a few other places. But ^{nowhere} does a state of military occupation as such exist. Reports that Japanese authorities have seized customs or salt gabelle office at Yingkou or that they have taken control of

Chinese railways between Supingkai and Chengchiatun or between Mukden and Sipingtun are entirely untrue, nor has the story of our troops having ever been sent north of Changchun or into Chientao any foundation in fact.

(4) The Japanese Government at a special cabinet meeting September 19th took decision that all possible efforts should be made to prevent aggravation of the situation and instructions to that effect were given to the commander of the Manchurian garrison. It is true that a detachment was despatched from Changchun to Kirin September 21st, but it was not with a view to military occupation but only for the purpose of removing the menace of the South Manchurian Railway on flank. As soon as that object has been attained the bulk of our detachment will be withdrawn. It may be added that while a mixed brigade of four thousand men was sent from Korea to join the Manchurian garrison the total number of men in the garrison at the present still remains within the limit set by the treaty and that fact cannot therefore be regarded as having in any way added to the seriousness of the international situation.

(5) It may be superfluous to repeat that the Japanese Government harbors no territorial designs in Manchuria. What we desire is that Japanese subjects shall be enabled to safely engage in various peaceful pursuits and be given an opportunity for participating in the development of that land by means of capital and labor. It is the proper duty of a government to protect the rights and interests legitimately enjoyed by the nation or individuals. The endeavors of the Japanese Government to guard the South Manchurian Railway against wanton attacks would be viewed in no other light. The Japanese Government, true to established policy, is prepared to cooperate with the Chinese Government in order to prevent the present incident from developing into a disastrous situation between the two countries and to work out such constructive plans as will once for all eradicate causes for future friction. The Japanese Government would be more than gratified if the present difficulty could be brought to a solution which will give a new turn to mutual relations of the two countries.

Doc. 219C

Page 1.

" ; EXTR.CTS FROM FOREIGN RELATIONS of the UNITED STATES
JAPAN 1931-1941 VOLUME I

Page 50.

793.94/2856: Telegram

The Ambassador in Japan (Forbes) to the Secretary of State
(Paraphrase)

TOKYO, November 24, 1931-10 p.m.
(Received November 24-11:45 a.m.)

234. With reference to the telegrams of the Department. At 6 o'clock this evening I conveyed the purport of your messages to Baron Shidehara. The attitude of the Foreign Minister was wholly conciliatory and cordial. He made the statement that the Premier, the Secretary of War, the Chief of Staff, and he are agreed that towards Chinchow there shall be no hostile operations, and orders have been issued to that effect. The clause in the draft prohibiting hostilities he agrees to, but is insistent that Japanese citizens must be protected by Japanese troops against marauding bandits which infest the country. In this respect the situation is extremely difficult as these men who are actually members of marauding bands claim to be soldiers one day and appear in citizens clothes the next. There will be no objection on the part of Japan, he states, if hostilities were defined as operations between national armies. The exact wording I have not undertaken to quote. The retention of troops at Tsitsihar he states has no political significance; and its purpose is purely for picking up the dead, collecting the frostbitten and wounded, and effecting evacuation. With the thermometer 30 degrees below zero, troops have operated over an extended area with great suffering. The necessity for collection and caring for the sufferers-a matter of days-is the reason for the delay; when pressed he could not give me the number of days but says he is also in complete agreement with the officers of the War Department in the policy of this evacuation; he claims that the fighting reported in progress today is not near Chinchow and is merely to drive off a force of bandits, not exceeding 2,000, threatening to cut the South Manchurian Railway.

FORBES

Ex #191

DOC. 219I

EXTRACT FROM FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE
U. S. - JAPAN 1931-1941, VOL. I, P. 65.

793.94/3285:Telegram

THE AMBASSADOR IN JAPAN (FORBES) TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
(Paraphrase)

TOKYO, December 22, 1931--2 p.m.
(Received December 22--5:43 a.m.)

273. Saturday after Inukai called at the Embassy and I quoted the words of an observer who had told me that in Manchuria Japan was creating a situation which was fraught with the certainty of future war, for with the alienation of Manchurian sovereignty China would not rest a gun. I was assured by Inukai that never would Japan allow such a situation to arise and never would Chinese sovereignty be impaired. He reiterated that Japan merely desired the protection of Japanese persons and interests, and expressed the expectation that with the restoration of order and improvement in the means of transportation in Manchuria there would be greatly increased influx of Chinese inhabitants.

In the meantime, active preparations are continuing for further operations in Manchuria where a free hand seems to have been given to the military.

FORBES