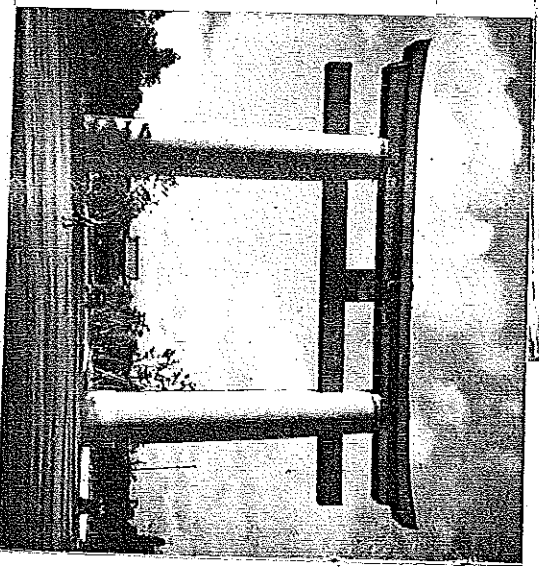
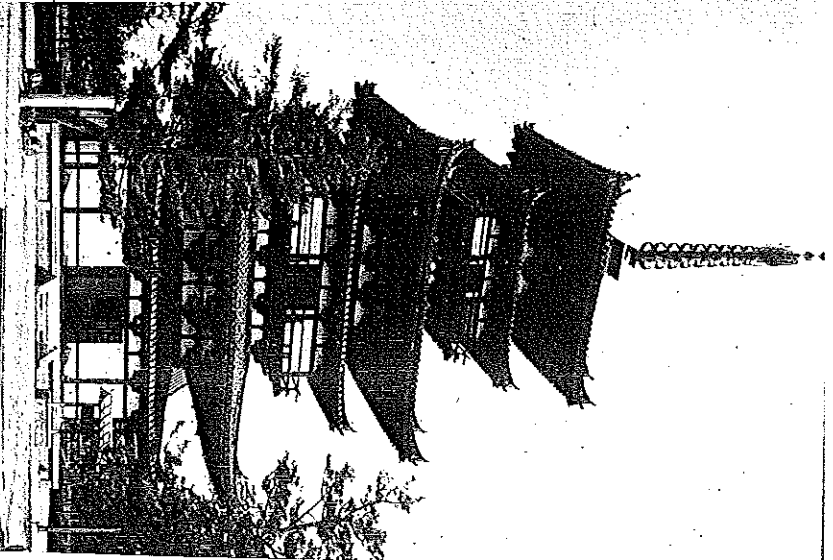


THE
SINO-JAPANESE
CONFLICT



Gate to Ancient
Capital of Kyoto

PUBLISHED BY
THE BUSINESS MEN OF KYOTO
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FOREWORD

Twenty years ago the United States went into the World War to end war. And now in the year 1937 we are again confronted with a spectacle, not only in Europe but also in the Far East, which is fraught with tremendous potentialities.

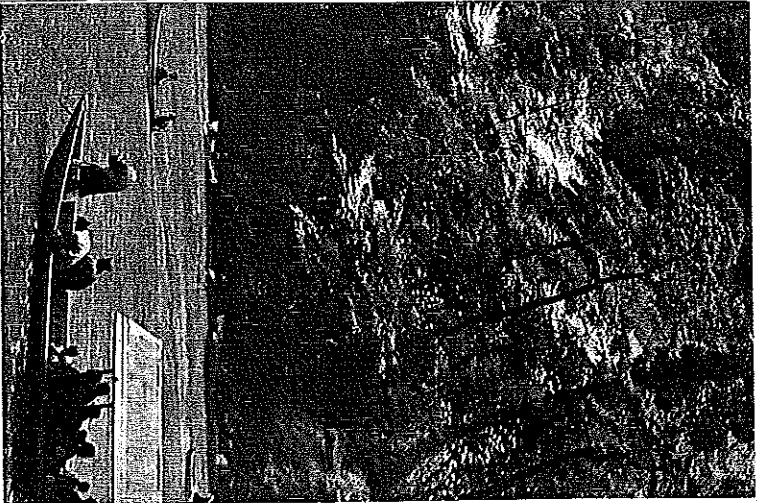
With Soviet Russia stretching her tentacles through Outer Mongolia in an effort to draw the 400 millions of China into an orgy of communism, Japan and the rest of the world cannot remain indifferent. Therein lies the threat of a world conflagration, which makes the ominous situation at the outbreak of the World War mild in comparison. These facts are clearly set forth in this pamphlet. We ask you, in view of the traditional friendship which has existed between the United States and Japan, to exercise great care and to ponder on the position of this country in her attempt to localize the Far Eastern difficulties and thus to prevent another worldwide calamity.

*We do hereby proclaim :
That it has been our constant desire to secure the stability and prosperity of the Far East by the effective collaboration and cooperation of the Empire of Japan with the Republic of China.*

It is a source of regret to us to see that the Republic of China, failing to understand the true intentions of the Empire of Japan, has wilfully created disturbances which have given rise to the present China Emergency. Our officers and men at the front have been displaying deeds of valor and loyalty solely in an effort to have China introspect and re-establish promptly the peace of the Far East.

With these words the Emperor of Japan on September 4 opened the Imperial Diet and in them is set forth the immediate issue of the present struggle—the determination of whether Japan and China can live together as next door neighbors and secure the stability and prosperity of the Far East by effective collaboration and cooperation.

We wish to make it clear at the very outset that the forces of Japan have not been sent to China for any aggressive

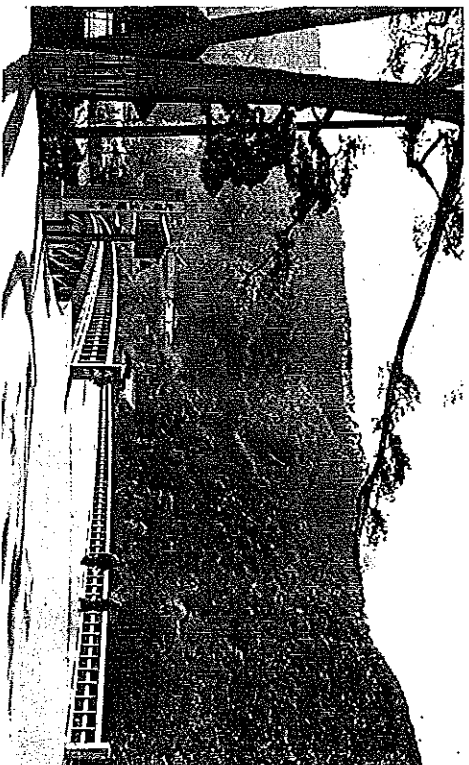


Arashiyama, Kyoto

purposes nor are they there to realize any territorial ambitions or designs. The forces have been sent to China to safeguard Japan's legitimate interests—to protect the rights and to secure the safety of our nationals. These troops will be withdrawn the very moment their presence is no longer required.

The situation that Japan finds herself in is not unlike that in which the

United States found herself in April, 1914, and again in January, 1916, when Americans were insulted and abused and their interests jeopardized by the machinations of an unruly Mexican government. On both occasions the United States intervened in Mexico. In 1914, Vera Cruz was occupied by American forces and the two countries were on the verge of declaring war. In principle it actually existed. Again in 1916, the United States not only intervened in Mexico, but actually sent an expeditionary force of more than 12,000 men into the country under the leadership of General Pershing and massed more than 18,000 troops along the border in an effort to crush the anti-American elements in Mexico.



Togasen Bridge, Kyoto

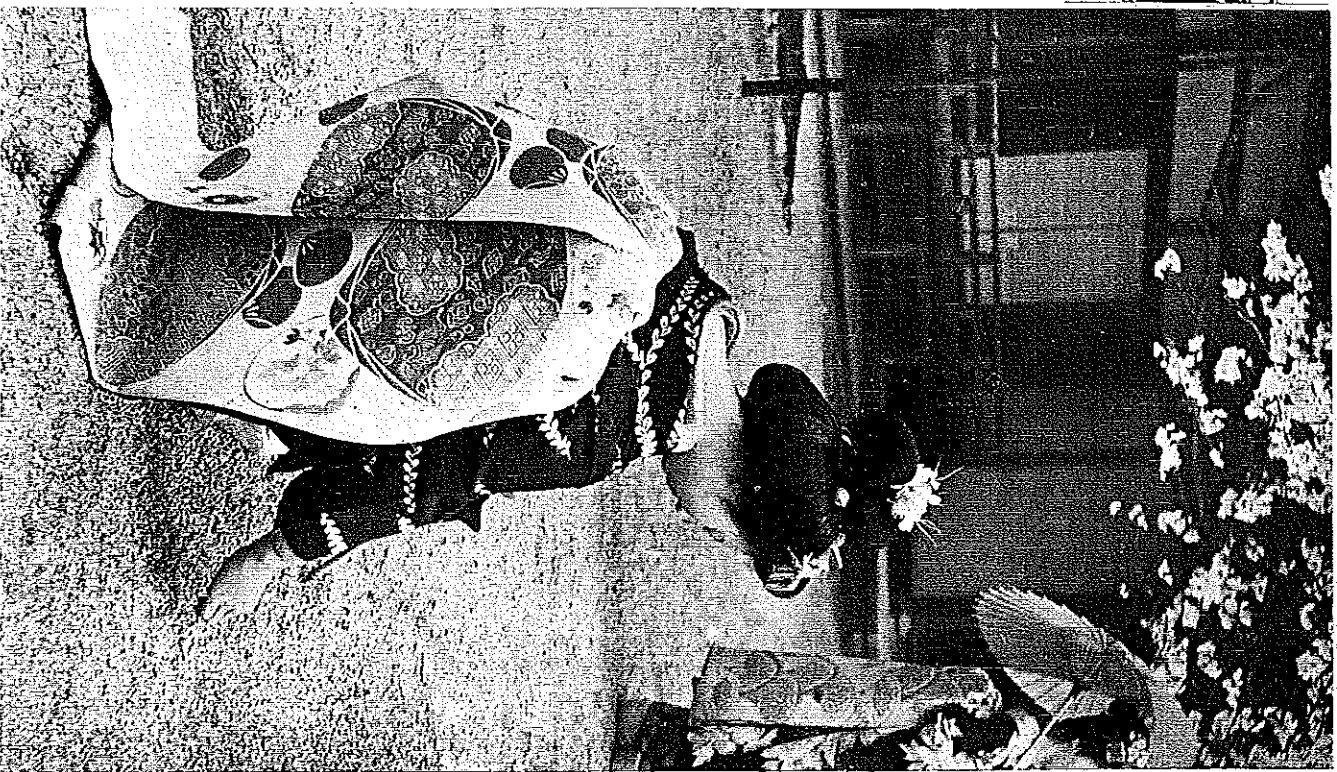
“For the peoples of East Asia there can be no happiness without a just peace in this part of the world. The Chinese people themselves by no means form the objective of our action. That action is directed against the Chinese government and its army which are carrying out such erroneous and anti-foreign policies”

Foreign Minister Koki Hirota on the same occasion declared: “. . . . All this is due to no other cause than the Nanking government and the local militaristic regimes in China, which have for many years past deliberately undertaken to incite public opinion against Japan as a means of strengthening their own political power and which have, in collusion with communistic elements, further impaired Sino-Japanese relations.

“It is hardly necessary to say that the basic policy of the Japanese government aims at the stabilization of East Asia through conciliation and cooperation between Japan, Manchoukuo, and China for their common prosperity and well-being. Since, however, China, ignoring our true motive, has mobilized her vast armies against us, we can only counter

her step by force of arms. The urgent need of this moment is that we take a resolute attitude and compel China to mend her ways. Japan has no objective other than to see a happy and tranquil North China and all China freed from the danger of a recurrence of such calamitous hostilities as the present and Sino-Japanese relations so adjusted as to enable us to put into practise our above mentioned policy.”

The immediate cause of the present conflict was the firing by Chinese soldiers upon a small unit of the Japanese garrison troops which were holding usual night maneuvers with blank cartridges in the outskirts of Peiping on the night of July 7. (This is authorized by the provisions of the Boxer Protocol of 1900, by which Japan, in common with other powers, has the right to maintain legation guards in Peiping and a garrison at Tientsin and to occupy other points in order to ensure the freedom of communication between Peiping and the sea. To hold military maneuvers is an accessory right. All troops including the American forces under the protocol have been accustomed



Kyoto Girls

to carry on maneuvers without being subject to any restrictions as to time and place.) Japan thereupon endeavored to minimize this incident by seeking a peaceful local settlement both on the spot and at Nanking through diplomatic channels. This friendly overture, however, was all in vain, for the central government of China at Nanking not only declared that any settlement concluded locally would not be recognized, but began to rush huge armies to North China.

Japan had hoped up to the last moment for a speedy and peaceful settlement of this untoward incident, but, in view of the hostile measures taken by the Nanking government, she was obliged eventually to take counter measures so as to avert the danger of a complete annihilation of the Japanese garrison and residents in North China. Japan found it necessary, therefore, to send reinforcements.

The scope of the conflict has since spread to Shanghai. It has now come to light that long before the North China incident broke out, soldiers of the regular Chinese army were filtering

into Shanghai under the guise of men belonging to the armed police force (Peace Preservation Corps).

This was in violation of the 1932 Truce Agreement signed by China and Japan and countersigned by the United States, Great Britain, France, and Italy. This agreement, made to ensure the security of the International Settlement, provides for a special zone in and around Shanghai within which all and every form of hostile action is prohibited.

Willfully disregarding this arrangement, the Chinese massed huge forces and erected military works around the Japanese quarter of the International Settlement, threatening the safety of our 30,000 residents there. Then to make matters worse, the Chinese Peace Preservation Corps murdered an officer and sailor of the Japanese Navy, creating a situation fraught with imminent danger.

To cope with the situation, the government sent a landing force to strengthen the small naval garrison then in Shanghai, which was enormously outnumbered by the hostile Chinese troops. In taking this step, however,

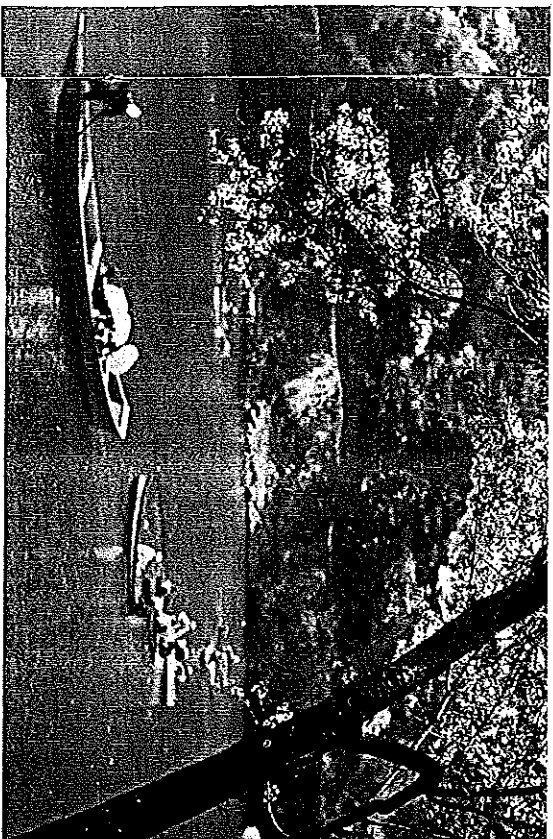
the Japanese government did everything possible to preserve the area from the disastrous consequences of conflict.

The Japanese troops were instructed to act with utmost patience, while the government expressed its readiness to restore them to their original position, provided the Chinese withdrew their forces which were massed near the International Settlement. Far from withdrawing these troops, the Chinese took the offensive against the Japanese and precipitated the frightful hostilities which are now raging around Shanghai. Then, on top of this came the gruesome butchering of 300 innocent Japanese residents of Tungchow on the morning of July 29, mention of which has already been made.

This brings us to the fundamental issue at stake in the Sino-Japanese conflict—a determination of whether or not China's struggling masses will be allowed to become steeped in communism. On the answer to this question will not only depend the peace of the Far East but of the entire world. America and the rest of the world cannot remain

indifferent. With Soviet Russia stretching her long red tentacles through Outer Mongolia into China's 400 millions of people, Japan is immediately confronted with a real threat. Once before Russia came down from the north and ran headlong into a conflict with this country and now she is coming again, but this time insidiously and, acting through the dupes connected with the Nanking government, she is again setting the stage for an upheaval of grave consequences. If ever China becomes saturated with communism, as is the deliberate plan of the Soviet Russia, we and the rest of the world must remain armed and await the next step in Russia's aggression.

When General Chiang Kai-shek, the leader of the Nanking government, was kidnaped in an abortive coup d'etat at Sian in December of last year by the Chinese communistic general, Chang Hsueh-liang, who is now acting as the liaison man between the red hordes of Soviet Russia and the central Chinese forces, he was released on the condition that he would shake hands with Com-



Hozu River, Kyoto

munist Russia. How well he has kept his promise is attested by the pact which the Nanking government signed with Communist Russia on August 29 in the midst of the present hostilities. Now Russia is openly supplying arms and ammunition to China and sending her agents and military leaders to Nanking and is thus piling faggots upon a smoldering fire which may develop into a conflagration of worldwide proportions.

This is in great contrast to the attitude of the United States which in the interests of mercy and humanity has declared an embargo on the shipment of

arms on government-owned vessels to the Orient. This we take as a friendly gesture on the part of the United States toward Japan in avoiding any complications between the two countries.

It is a well-known fact that the Nanking government was planning a wanton bombing of not only the Japanese section of Shanghai but also of the entire International Settlement at the time when the alliance with Soviet Russia was completed. A hitch, however, developed in the plans, only a part of them reaching consummation.

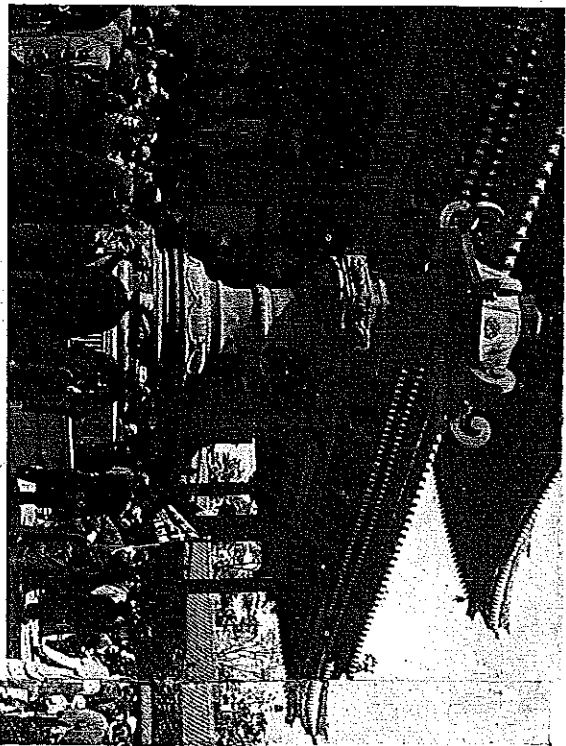
What was done by the Chinese bombing planes, purchased abroad, was enough, however, to show to what extremes the Chinese will go at the instigation of Moscow in its attempt to overthrow capitalism and the economy of the established nations of the world.

The deliberate and malicious bombing of the Cathay and Palace Hotels, the Wing On and Sincere department stores, the American flagship Augusta, the Dollar liner President Hoover, and the President Jefferson are almost too well-known to bear repetition.

P. V. Reeves, a member of the staff of the American High Commissioner Paul McNutt at Manila, who was a passenger on the President Hoover at the time of the bombing, had this to say in an international broadcast to the United States over JOBK :

"You may search the pages of history and you will not find a parallel case to that of the wilful, wanton, merciless, inhuman, and savage-like bombing of the President Hoover. The most savage tribes in our darkest ages would have shuddered and revolted at the suggestion of such stupid and unpardonable tactics as those employed by these Chinese warplanes in turning loose those death-dealing implements of hell on a passenger liner of a neutral nation.

"China's quick apology will not compensate China's claim that the bombing was an accident, which is contrary to all the facts. When the attack occurred, the President Hoover was anchored 20 miles off Woosung at the mouth of the Yangtse river.... I reached the bridge just as the first bomb exploded. "I hurried to the dining room below

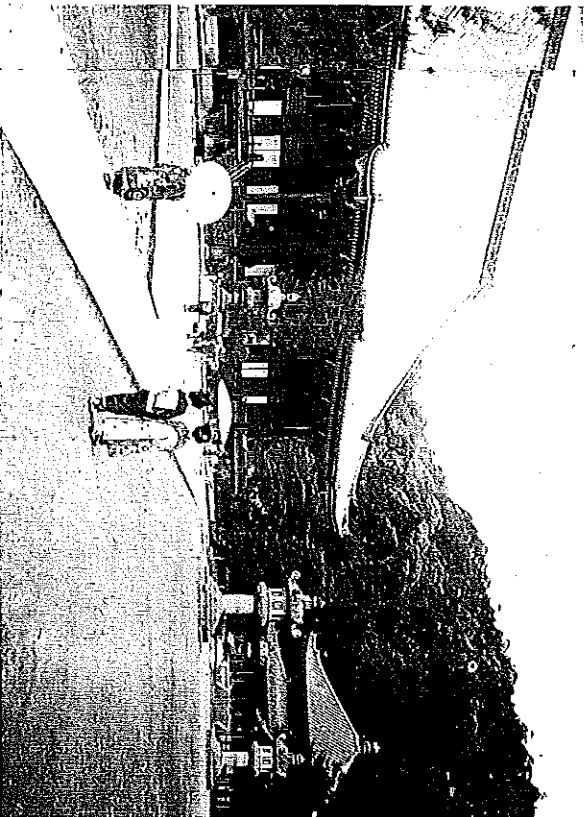


Hoogenji Temple, Kyoto

where all of the passengers were huddled, crying and wailing, some praying. I saw terror and fear on the faces of all. It was a sight I shall never forget.... The fourth bomb landed on the ship aft and port side aft. Thus you will note these death-dealing warplanes dropped bombs forward, aft, and on both sides, as well as topside. And yet those responsible for this unprecedented and unparalleled act would have us believe this bombing was an accident.... It should be borne in mind that this

bombing took place in broad daylight with a clear sky at 5 p. m.... The President Hoover carried no munitions and no war material whatsoever. There was not a Japanese passenger on board the boat.... A big majority of the passengers were American mothers and many of them had little children with them on the ship.... The accuracy of these Chinese aviators who bombed us, and the fact that they circled the ship many times and saw it from all sides, the fact that they came within a range of 100 feet from the boat cause me to

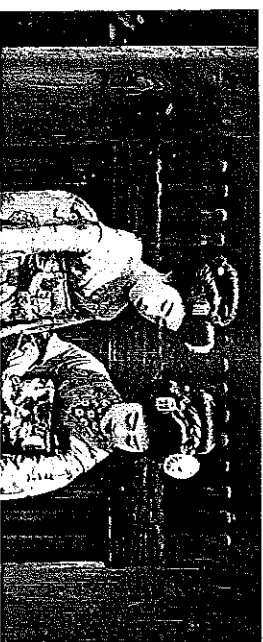
Chionin Temple, Kyoto



believe that those responsible for the tragedy knew the identity of the ship.

"Japanese warships came near our ship when they realized that an American liner, unarmed, was being attacked. If they had not come to our rescue, I feel certain (and this view is shared by many other passengers) that most of us would have been killed."

Japan has been singled out to bear the brunt of the Chinese attack. This is nothing but a smoke screen. Knowing well that some of the Occidental nations are jealous of Japan's rapid rise, the anti-Japanese hostilities are a trick on the part of China to stir up animosity against this country and at the same time unify her nation at the expense of Japan. The next step in China's well calculated plans is to exclude the influence of all other countries. Her idea is to take control of all of the international settlements in China, to renounce the extraterritoriality enjoyed by foreigners, to declare null and void all the loans floated abroad, and to confiscate all foreign rights and interests in China. Soviet Russia has done just this and China is



determined to follow suit.

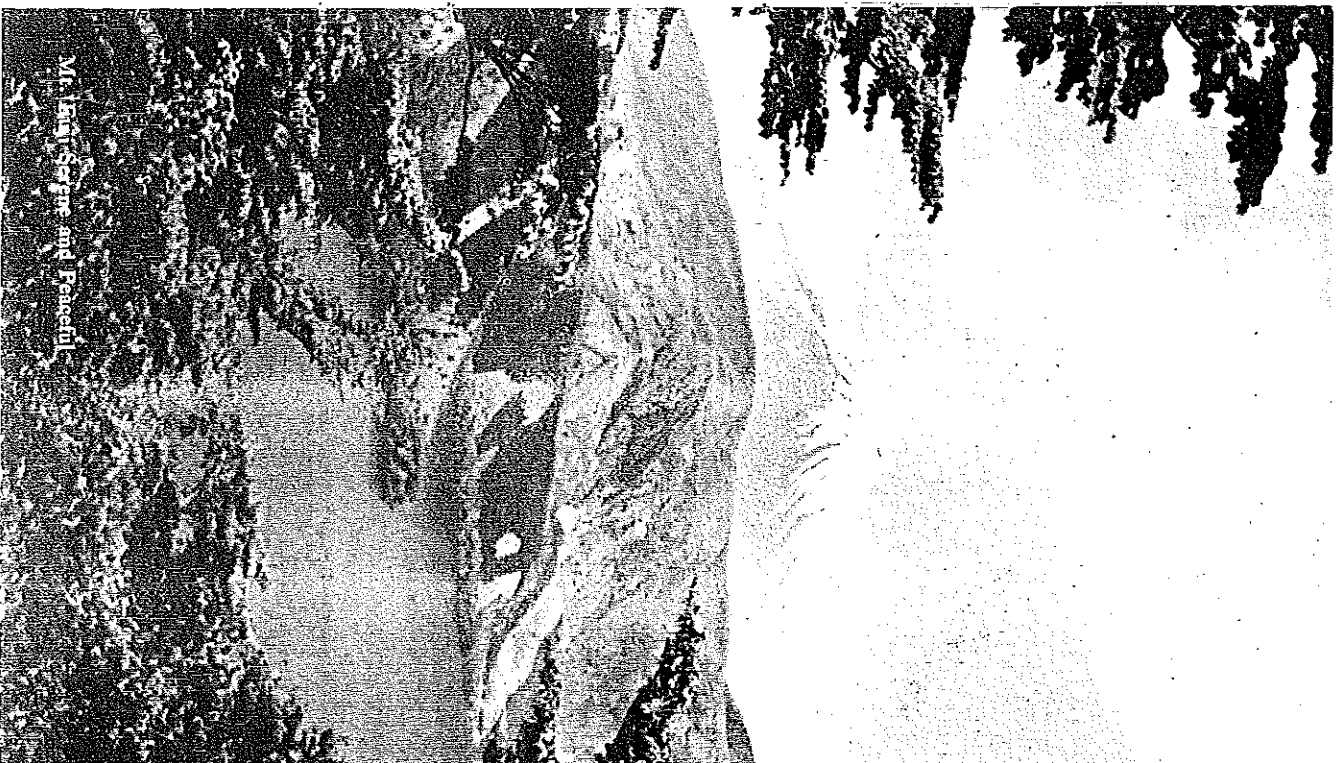
As Japan is the only country near enough to dispatch effective land forces to China, Nanking feels that if China is triumphant, none of the other nations of the world sharing vast investments in China will be able to rise in defense of their just interests. It is, therefore, easy to see that China is not only waging war on Japan, but against all of the Western nations with whom she has dealt with for centuries.

As part of this scheme, all of the communistic prisoners in the penitentiaries of China have been released; the huge Red army of General Chang Hsueh-liang with its Soviet officers, together with the communistic forces of the rabid leftist, Chu Te, have now been

made an integral part of the Central Chinese forces. With Soviet Russia not only giving moral but material support through Outer Mongolia, and rapidly spreading her communistic doctrines over all China, the outlook is anything but promising. If, in face of all these circumstances, the Russo-Chinese forces are successful, the red hordes of Moscow will not only step in, but will lead China's 400 millions in a tidal wave against civilization.

In conclusion, may we state that we, the businessmen of this quiet ancient capital of Japan with a history dating back more than twelve centuries, harbor no ill will whatsoever toward the people of China. We are all fervently hoping and praying that the day may soon dawn when the Central Chinese government at Nanking will come to its senses and realize the woeful and calamitous predicament into which it is forcing the civilized nations of the world and that once again peace and amity may reign supreme in the Far East.

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