Manifesto Announcing The Central Political Conference

Issued by President Wang Ching-wei
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Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, founder of the Republic of China, has clearly stated that "from whatever angle, China and Japan must co-operate for the future of both. … China and Japan are the vital forces of the national independence movement of the Asiatic peoples." This all the compatriots and comrades should understand. Unfortunately, Sino-Japanese relations, which have not been readjusted for many years, have resulted in hostilities that have thrown the country into chaos and confusion.

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On November 3, 1938, Prince Konoye, the then Prime Minister of Japan, made the following statement:-- "What Japan desires of China is that the country will share in the task of establishing a new order in East Asia." He clarified this point in a broadcast speech stating that "Japan's real
intention is not the extermination but the prosperity of China, not the conquest of China but cooperation with China." Again, he declared, "there is no nation better aware of the racial fervor of the Chinese people, and no nation more anxious to see China a really independent State than Japan." On December 22, 1938, Prince Konoye solemnly declared that Japan desires China to cultivate the principles of "good-neighborliness", a "common anti-Comintern front" and "economic co-operation", and that "Japan not only respects the sovereignty of China, but she is prepared to give positive consideration to the questions of abolition of extraterritoriality and of the rendition of the foreign concessions and settlements -- matters which are necessary for the full independence of China."

Since the declarations of the Japanese Government, China realizes that the continuation of the war is unnecessary and that peace should be restored. Further, China realizes that these two countries should not only seek to end the present hostilities, but should fundamentally remove the causes of past disputes and re-establish friendly relations. Hence the Peace Movement which is gradually extending to the whole country.
The manifesto issued by the Sixth National Congress of the Kuo-Min Tang in August, 1939, solemnly declared that henceforth the national motto of "Resistance and Reconstruction" should be replaced by "Peace and Reconstruction". Again it declared that anti-Communism should be the principal task in the reconstruction of the nation through peace, and in view of the endangering of the interests of the nation by the system of personal dictatorship, Constitutional Government should be instituted without further delay. Further, it reiterated that within the shortest possible time the period of Political Tutelage should be brought to an end and the period of Constitutional Government inaugurated so that the resolutions adopted by the Fifth National Congress of the Kuo-Min Tang could be carried into practice.

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For the past few months sincere discussions with Japanese both in and outside the Government have been held on the basis of the principles of "good-neighborliness", a "common anti-Comintern front" and "economic co-operation", in the hope that these principles will be realized and both parties benefited. Earnest discussions have also been held with the existing Administration, with other political parties and with non-Party national leaders with a view to devising ways and means of saving the situation by determined and united effort. Hence the organization of the Central Political
Conference which will give birth to the Central Government.

Henceforth the people in the whole country, under the guidance and leadership of this unified and consolidated Central Government, will, externally, readjust foreign relations and, internally, enforce Constitutional Government; and by eradicating all the causes of conflicts and disputes of past years, inaugurate a new era of peace and national well-being.

With regard to the internal measure of enforcing Constitutional Government, we have laid down a political program and policy appropriate to the occasion in order to carry out this mission within the shortest possible time. With regard to the external measure of readjustment of foreign relations, it is yet premature to announce in its entirety the various concrete schemes which we have formulated, but with full responsibility and authority I assure the whole nation that the peace schemes do not go beyond the scope of Prince Konoye's Declaration nor contradict the basic principles laid down in that Declaration. The peace scheme does not impair the independence and existence of China. The legitimate interests of Third Powers in China will not be endangered but instead will be safeguarded and promoted by the restoration of peace in China. What is
more, after the restoration of peace, China, in addition to economic cooperation with Japan, will welcome the technical assistance and capital investment from foreign countries to accomplish national reconstruction and bring about prosperity in East Asia in accordance with the Industrial Plans as outlined in Dr. Sun Yat-Sen's "International Development of China." Therefore, the Peace Movement will benefit not only China and Japan but the whole world.

The Peace Movement should be regarded in the light of both the immediate and realistic and its ultimate and broader aspects. Since the outbreak of the Incident, the former capital of Peking and the capital Nanking have successively fallen to the Japanese. The three special municipalities, Tientsin, Shanghai and Tsingtao, and the provincial capitals of the thirteen provinces, Suiyuan, Charhar, Hopei, Shantung, Shansi, Honan, Kiangsu, Chekiang, Anhwei, Kiangsi, Hupeh, Kwangtung and Kwangsi, have followed suit. Several millions of the rank and file of the army have sacrificed their lives in the course of the war. The civilians, who directly or indirectly have lost their lives during the war, number several tens of millions. It is indeed an unprecedented calamity that has befallen China since the declining days of the Ming Dynasty. Over two years and a half have elapsed since the outbreak of the war of resistance. During this period none of the strategic
points that have been lost have been recovered. Only the suffering of the people in the occupied areas has intensified. The responsibility of the members of the Kuo-Min Tang toward the country and the people is heavy indeed. While the calamity can still be remedied we should therefore boldly accept responsibility of effecting an armistice and concluding peace with Japan, on terms which are acceptable in order to preserve the remaining national strength with a view to readjusting the present situation and regenerating the country which is the duty of the National Government and the Kuo-Min Tang. We should not abuse our authority and power to override the real will of the people. To repeat slogans of resistance to the bitter end and ultimate victory is to fool not only others but also ourselves and will result only in reducing the country to a yet more pitiable condition, to such a state indeed of exhaustion of the national vitality as, in the end, it will be impossible to remedy. This is taken from the point of view of the immediate situation. Speaking from the ultimate and broader point of view, the present Peace Movement not only aims at the cessation of the present conflict but also at removing the fundamental cause of the war and all the cankerous obstacles which in the past have obstructed mutual friendship. Its goal is the coexistence and co-prosperity of China and Japan. China and Japan are the pillars of East
Asia. If the two countries live in peace then peace in East Asia will be safeguarded and the foundation of world peace laid and secured. Thus, speaking from the immediate point of view of saving the country and the nation from extinction all must realistically accept responsibility for effecting and promoting peace. From the ultimate and broader point of view of securing the renaissance of China and east Asia we should spare no effort in making the peace Movement a success.

I, a member of the Kuo-Min Tang, serving in the National Government, was unable in spite of all my efforts to prevent the outbreak of hostilities to put an end to the intolerable situation. I have had no peace of mind. Ever since last year I have repeatedly, and in all sincerity appealed to the comrades in Chungking but my appeals have fallen on deaf ears. I have silently observed that undoubtedly the whole nation now desires peace. The only thing the nation doubts is whether peace can be realized. Therefore, I have assembled the comrades from the National Government and the Kuo-Min Tang, the leaders of the existing Administrations and of the other political parties as well as non-Party national leaders to join efforts to shoulder the responsibility of the Peace Movement in the hope that the peace so cherished and desired by the entire nation may be fully realized.
In view of the unanimous agreement to organize the Central Political Conference which is to be held shortly, I hereby call upon the nation to comprehend the real significance of the Peace Movement and the Peace Scheme. Henceforth the Central Government will honestly and energetically strive for the realization of the Peace Scheme in order to achieve the object of the Peace Movement. It is hoped that our compatriots will understand this purpose and undertake this gigantic task as of one mind and one body. It is again earnestly hoped that Chungking will divest its mind of prejudice and immediately cease the present hostilities, co-operating in re-establishing peace so that the realization of the Peace Scheme may be more expeditious and universal. On this depends the salvation and renaissance of the nation.