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DRAFT NOTES RE: JAPANESE

32/15

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~ JAPANESE

(Taken from "Foreign Affairs" (An American Quarterly Review)
Vol. 18, 1939-40)

Draft notes — to be fixed up later

"You all remember the condition of affairs in 1937. You may remember that Eden said 'If honourable members opposite are advocating sanctions, I would remind them that there are two possible forms of sanctions - the ineffective, which are not worth putting on, and the effective, which means the risk, if not the certainty, of war. Do right honourable gentlemen really think that the League of Nations today, with only two great naval powers in it, ourselves and France, have got that overwhelming force?'

The appeasement policy failed - the British had run another risk, the loss of prestige, and with it the power to mitigate Japanese aggressive action.

Assistance to China, in order to aid her reconstruction conflicted with Japanese determination to dominate that country -

Britain had been continually presented as Japan's real enemy. The Japanese pointed to the flow of foreign munitions and other war supplies through Hong Kong, up to the fall of Canton in 1938, and called them British supplies, although a very small percentage was of British origin.

Japan was satisfied it could not establish its New Order in East Asia unless and until foreign rights and interests, mainly British, had been liquidated - the Army therefore insisted that Japan's policy be directed toward undermining British influence.

A vindictive anti-British drive was carried on; -- In China there was a succession of incidents and even direct attacks on British vested interests.

There was a murderous assault on the British Ambassador, Sir Hughe Knatchbull-Hugeson,

The blatant bombing of British war-ships , merchantmen, missions, and other property,

The closure of the Yangtze and Pearl Rivers to British shipping,

Interference with commercial life and Municipal administration, including the Shanghai International Settlement and the foreign concession at Kulsangsu,

The blockade of the British concession at Tientsin, where British nationals were stripped by Japanese soldiers before crowds of Chinese.

To these 'intolerable insults', to quote the British Prime Minister, a once proud nation made but verbal protests.

With Hitler on the rampage in Europe, a policy of appeasement was in vogue, and Chamberlain had stated that the Government attitude was based on a desire for friendly relations on both sides; to give in to the Japanese on relatively minor issues rather than risk a show-down."

Vancouver "Sun", April 6th. 1937.

Following is an excerpt from a letter signed "J.S. Tanaka", of 396 Powell Street, Vancouver, and others:

"We Japanese are a proud and sensitive people, and the Imperial Japanese Empire has a way of dealing with those peoples and nations who show their insincerity by disregarding and flouting our most sacred sentiments and feelings."