

ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER, GENERAL
HIDEKI TOJO, DELIVERED AT THE
EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE DIET 2262

November 17, 1941.

At the 77th session of the Diet convened at this
hour, I am profoundly moved that His Majesty the
Emperor was pleased to grant a most gracious Rescript at
this opening ceremony. The Government desire at this
opportunity to state frankly their views and conviction
regarding the execution of national policies, and with
the cooperation of the people, to surmount the unprecedented national
crisis with an inflexible will of the united nation and
to bring about the hope to set our Sovereign's mind at rest.

In looking over the present world situation with
reference to our Empire, we find that, in the China Af-
fairs, thanks to the vigorous efforts of the loyal and
brave officers and men of the fighting services under
the great virtue of His Majesty the Emperor and to the
courage and determination of the people on the
front, brilliant results have been achieved, and
the fighting regime's power of resistance is fast
increasing. The constructive work of the National
Government of China on the other hand has made a steady

Progress

resulting in the recognition of that Government
 friendly Powers. The task of settling the China
 has thus entered upon its final stage. However,
 economic and military activities of the countries
 China Kai-shek have become increasingly more
 . They constitute the last remaining pillar of
 the peace of resistance, obstructing the success-
 fulness of the China affair.

In the region of the North, the situation since
 the outbreak of the German-Soviet war in June of this year
 has led us to think of possibilities of its eventual future,
 but we cannot afford to be indifferent to its development.
 We are, therefore, seeing to it that all the necessary measures
 are taken in order to secure the stability in the North. In
 1943, there took place last year the peaceful entry of
 Japanese forces into northern French Indo-China, and as
 a result of the conclusion of an economic agreement be-
 tween Japan and French Indo-China and our mediation of a
 settlement between Thailand and French Indo-China, close and
 friendly relations between our country and French Indo-China had
 already been established and Japan's peaceful advance-
 ment towards the South was about to commence. But, as

○

the

military and economic co-operation of Great Britain, United States and the Netherlands East-Indies became imminent, Japan's economic negotiations with the United States and the Netherlands East-Indies fell through, a situation pregnant with grave menace to the position of Japan in the southern Pacific. Japan, thereupon, entered into an agreement with the Vichy Government for the joint defence of French Indo-China and in accordance with this agreement our reinforcements were despatched to southern French Indo-China in the latter part of July. But Great Britain, the United States and the Netherlands East-Indies, viewed these hasty measures of self-defence with suspicion and misgivings. They froze our assets in their countries, resorted to virtually complete embargoes, enforced economic blockades, and at the same time, rapidly augmented their military resources against our country. It is difficult to see how such a situation, which requires an explanation that economic blockades between non-belligerent countries constitute a more or less hostile in character than an armed conflict. Such an act not only impedes the settlement of the dispute which Japan intends to bring about, but it also seriously affects the existence of our Empire, and as such

END

... by no means acquiesce in it.

Notwithstanding this, Japan, earnestly desiring as she always does, has consistently maintained patience and perseverance and has exerted her utmost efforts for a peaceful solution of the situation arising over the crisis through diplomatic negotiations. Our purpose has not as yet been realized, and the Empire has come to face a serious situation where she must literally decide her course for generations to come. Nevertheless, the Government, in a peace-loving spirit which has inspired the nation since the foundation of the Empire, are even now devoting their utmost efforts to a diplomatic settlement in order to safeguard the existence and prestige of the Empire and establish a new order in East Asia. The Japanese Government expects that:

1. The third Powers will refrain from obstructing a successful conclusion of the China affair which Japan has in view;
2. The countries surrounding our Empire will not only refrain from presenting a direct military

cesses to our Empire, but nullify such measures of hostile character as economic blockades and restore normal economic relations with Japan; and

2. Utmost efforts will be exerted to prevent the extension of the European war and the spread of the disturbances into East Asia.
- The above-mentioned triple purpose is realized by diplomatic negotiations, it will, I believe, be a matter for hesitation not only for the sake of Japan alone but for the sake of peace in East Asia and the world at large. In view of past experiences, however, the prospect of the realization still remains uncertain.

The Government, therefore, anticipating obstacles in their path, are determined firmly to assure the peace of our Empire by perfecting all kinds of programs leaving no stone unturned for the purpose of fully executing the fixed national policy of our Empire.

As our Empire now stands at a crossroad of national history unparalleled in her history of more than two thousand six hundred years, the Government are fully

received

and to fulfill with all their power their responsibilities of assisting the Throne.

Whatever may be the development of the situation, perfection of a state structure for high degree of national defense is a matter of most urgent importance. For this purpose it is essential to enhance the national life to a higher pitch and to increase the industrial and economic efficiency to a maximum degree.

Although the Government are simultaneously taking all possible measures to assure the livelihood of the people, a further curtailment will be unavoidable. I earnestly hope that the entire nation, with a firm belief that our Empire must now make a great forward stride and may well expect an unlimited development of national life, will share together the present hardships, and, forward as one man in assisting to accomplish the great work of His Majesty. The Government are prepared, in regard to the political and economic administration, to undertake renovations and perfections of various kinds, and in their execution they intend not to follow idealism but to take measures in conformity with the actual situation so that the organic efficiency of various

technical

... systems may be given a full play.

I am firmly convinced that the entire nation, understanding the intentions of the Government, will give their whole-hearted co-operation.

The budget which has been submitted consists of the expenditures required in meeting the present critical situation, and the proposed bills have been limited specially to those which are now urgently required.

I desire that you will understand the intentions of the Government, carefully deliberate upon them, and give your approval. In conclusion, the Government wish to express their deep appreciation for the constant co-operation extended to our Empire by the British Government and the National Government of the Republic of Italy. The Government also wish to express their sincere felicitations on the accomplishments of the British and Italian Governments, especially of Germany and Italy. They are confident that these Powers will achieve success together with our Empire in establishing the new world order based on peace.

In coping with the grave situation prevailing at present

at, I feel greatly honoured to assist the Imperial
together with you, gentlemen, and feel deeply the
responsibilities. I believe that the difficulties
surmounted and the present crisis solved only
the entire nation do their part for the cause
service in their respective occupations and
the total strength of the nation is concentrated
purpose. I earnestly request that you will give
support and co-operation to the Government.

Lastly, I wish to render my sincere respects to
spirits of those who gave their lives for the defence
Empire, and to express my profound appreciation
my fellow countrymen on the front-line and the
front for their strenuous endeavours.