

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Communicated to  
the Council and  
the Members of  
the League.

C.751.M.350.1931.VII.

Geneva, October 23rd, 1931.

APPEAL OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT UNDER ARTICLE 11 OF THE COVENANT.

Answer of the Japanese Government to the identical telegram sent by the Signatories of the Briand-Kellogg Pact ~~to~~ Japan and China.

Note by the Secretary-General.

At the request of the Japanese Representative on the Council the Secretary-General has the honour to circulate the following Note which he has just received.

Text of the Answer.

1. The Japanese Government realise as fully as any other signatories of the Pact of Paris of 1928 the responsibility incurred under the provisions of that solemn Pact. They have made it clear on various occasions that the Japanese Railway guards in taking military measures in Manchuria since the night of September 18th last have been actuated solely by the necessity of defending themselves as well as of protecting the South Manchuria Railway and the lives and property of Japanese subjects against wanton attacks by Chinese troops and armed bands. Nothing is farther from the thought of the Japanese Government than to have recourse to war for the solution of their outstanding differences with China.

2. It is their settled aim to compose those differences by all pacific means. In the note of the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Chinese Minister at Tokyo dated October 9th the Japanese Government have already declared their readiness to enter into negotiations with the responsible representatives of China for an adjustment of the present difficulties. They still hold to the same view. So far as they are concerned they have no intention whatever of proceeding to any steps that might hamper any efforts intended to assure the pacific settlement of the conflict between Japan and China.

3. On the other hand they have repeatedly called the attention of the Chinese Government to the organised hostile agitation against Japan now in progress in various parts of China. The suspension of all commercial intercourse with Japanese at present practised in China is in no sense a spontaneous act of individual Chinese. It is enforced by the anti-Japanese organisations that have taken the law into their own hands and are heavily penalising even with the threat of capital punishment any Chinese who may be found disobeying their arbitrary decrees. Acts of violence levelled against Japanese residents also continue unabated in many places under the jurisdiction of the Government of Nanking. It will be manifest to all fair observers of the actual situation that those activities of the anti-Japanese organisations are acquiesced in by the Chinese Government as a means to attain the national ends of China. The Japanese Government desire to point out that such acquiescence by the Chinese Government in the lawless proceedings of their own nationals cannot be regarded as being in harmony with the letter or the spirit of the stipulations contained in Article 2 of the Pact of Paris.