

Communicated to the
Council and the
Members of the League.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS. C.827.M.409.1931.VII.

Geneva, November 10th, 1931.

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

Communication from the Chinese Representative
on the Council.

Note by the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General has the honour to circulate to the Council the following letter, dated November 10th, which he has received from the Chinese Representative.

To the Secretary-General.

Sir,

The following information, just received from my Government, reveals the bloodshed and disorder at Tientsin as but a further step in the policy of the Japanese authorities of suborning the dregs of the population in order to foment revolt against the Chinese Government:

On the 7th and 8th of November the Chinese authorities received information indicating that the Japanese had decided to utilise elements among the Chinese population hostile to the Government, so as to disturb peace and order in Tientsin and Peiping before November 16th. On the morning of November 8th it was reported that the Japanese distributed more than 500 small arms to anti-Government Chinese. On the night of November 8th, at half past ten, more than two thousand men, in separate groups and flaunting Japanese flags, issued from the Japanese Concession and made surprise attacks on the police stations in Sanpeikwan and Heikwanse which are contiguous to the Japanese Concession in Tientsin and also that in Nankai which is contiguous to the Japanese Barracks. They had planned to proceed to the Provincial Government and the Municipality as well as to the Public Safety Bureau. Fortunately effective defence measures had been taken by our police so that order was quickly restored. At four o'clock on the morning of the 9th, when the irregular forces from the Japanese Concession had been mastered by the Chinese police, the Japanese Commander at Tientsin requested General Wang, Chairman of the Hopai Provincial Government, by telephone, to withdraw Chinese military and police forces to a distance of three hundred metres from the Japanese Concession by six a.m. General Wang asked the reason for this request and pointed out that there was no military force but only Chinese police and members of the Public Safety Bureau; as they were at that very moment doing their duty by putting an end to the disturbance precisely within the three hundred metre zone it was difficult to order their withdrawal.

The Japanese authorities at 5.30 again pressed their demand upon the Provincial Government. This time, as the irregulars had either returned to the Japanese Concession or been killed or captured, General Wang ordered the withdrawal to take place as requested before 6.0 a.m. Nevertheless, at 6.30 a.m., the Chinese City was suddenly bombarded by more than 30 shells, coming from the direction of Heikwanse, the Japanese Barracks and the Garden of the Japanese Concession. The Japanese Commander excused himself when asked by the Chinese authorities for an explanation by saying that he knew nothing about the incident. But to the representatives of other nations he is said to have explained that it was due to a clash between the 29th Brigade of the Kirin Army and the police force and members of the Public Safety Bureau at Tientsin. It is a sufficient commentary on this explanation to point out that there is no Kirin Army at Tientsin, nor, for that matter, any 29th Brigade in the Kirin Army.

(Sgd) Sgo-Ke Alfred Sze.