

Communicated to the
Council and Members
of the League of Nations.

Geneva, November 11th, 1931.

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

Communication from the Japanese Delegation.

Note by the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate to the Council the following telegram dated Paris, November 10th, at 8.5 p.m., which he has just received from the Japanese Delegation.

I have honour to communicate to you summary of telegrams received by Japanese Delegation regarding incidents which took place at Tientsin the day before yesterday and today:

November 8th at about 10 a.m. our Consul General at Tientsin was informed that disturbances had taken place in Chinese town. A riot was said to have broken out at the instigation of reactionary elements and fights were taking place between Chinese police forces and the rioters. Our General Consulate immediately had measures of security taken by Japanese police.

At 11.30 our troops were stationed along the line of demarcation between Japanese concession and Chinese town. Nevertheless a fusillade having been heard in the southern part of the town in the direction of the Japanese barracks, a rumour had spread that military action was being taken by the Japanese troops. In order to check the spread of this false report Japanese authorities immediately informed General Wang Chu Chang, in command of the second army corps at Tientsin, through the French Consul that the rumour was absolutely false and that there had even been casualties among the Japanese. They also made a verbal protest to the Chinese police forces against the assertion that the Japanese were responsible for the events.

Fighting was taking place on the borders of our concession and at about midnight a Japanese sentry was killed by shots from Chinese police. The proximity of Japanese and Chinese forces, which at one time were only fifty metres apart, being liable to give rise to unfortunate incidents, especially during the night, staff of Japanese garrison asked General Wang to withdraw his forces to a distance of 300 metres from the concession before 3 a.m.

At 2 a.m. commander of Japanese troops held a meeting of the chiefs of the French, British, Italian and American garrisons and gave them full information as to measures he had taken, inviting them to visit line of protection. Commanders of foreign garrisons declared themselves satisfied with information given and returned to their headquarters at about 4 a.m. without carrying out the proposed inspection.

At about 4.30 a.m. again a Japanese N.C.O. was hit by Chinese projectiles and Japanese command repeated its request to General Wang. The Japanese command having also convinced the provincial authorities of the necessity of separating the Japanese and Chinese forces, withdrawal of the latter was decided for 7 a.m. The rioters had been dispersed by Chinese forces, but a few skirmishes were still taking place on the banks of the Peiho.

At 7 a.m. the Chinese troops had not yet moved off and were even firing at Japanese forces, who were replying from within the concession. Nevertheless, as a result of further urgent representations of the Japanese authorities with a view to avoiding conflict, Chinese soldiers finally moved off at about 8 a.m. After 9 a.m. noise of fusillades was dying down. As a measure of prudence our General Consulate ordered that Japanese residents still outside the concession should be brought within the latter.