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千九百三十年「ロンドン」海軍會議關係文書集

第一部 倫敦海軍會議ニ關スル帝國側公表及聲明

(一) 外務省公表並政府當局聲明

(1) 昭和四年八月五日地方長官會議ニ於ケル幣原外務大臣演說

(東京朝日新聞ニ據ル)

地方長官會議ニ於ケル幣原外相ノ演說ハ左ノ通りテアル

軍縮問題ハ今ヤ世界ノ注目スルトコロトナツタカ最近英米兩國政府間ニオケル商議ニヨツテ補助艦制限ノ問題ハ再ヒ解決ノ初光ヲ現ハスニ至ツタ、「ジュネーヴ」ニオケル最難關ハ補助艦問題テアツタカ今回ハコノ難關ヲ突破スル目的ヲモツテイハユル戰鬪力測定ノ尺度ヲ設ケルコトカ案出サレコノ尺度ニヨツテ主要海軍國ノ巡洋艦ヲ制限セントスル意見カ行ハレテキルノテコノ點ニオイテ來ルヘキ軍縮會議ハ意外ノ成功ヲ收メ得ルカモ知レナイ、要スルニ軍縮ノ實現ニヨツテ各國トモ對内的ニハ國民ノ負擔ヲ輕減シ對外的ニハ世界平和ノ保障ヲ確實ナラシメルモノテアルカラ政府トシテハ熱心ニコレニ對シ協力ヲ惜シマサルモノテアル

(2) 昭和四年八月五日地方長官會議ニ於ケル 財部海軍大臣演說要旨

(東京朝日新聞ニ據ル)

財部海相ハ五日首相官邸ニ於ケル地方長官會議席上ニオイテ軍縮問題ニ關スル幣原外相ノ演說ヲ補足的ニ説明スル所アツタガソノ要領ハ左ノ通りテアル

海軍軍縮問題ニ關シ海軍首腦部ニオイテハ反對ノ意向ヲ有シテキルカノ如クニ宣傳スル向カアルヤウダガ海軍トシテハ世界ノ永久の平和ヲ確立シ人類ノ幸福ヲ増進スル立場カラ絶對的ニ贊成シコレカ實現ニ向ツテ諸列強ト同様ニ最善ノ努力ヲ惜マヌモノテアル、マタ補助艦艇ノ比率問題ニ關シ前年我國ハ「ジュネーヴ」ニオイテ主張シタ所ハンノ根據薄弱ナルカ如ク傳ヘラレテキルカ決シテソウテハナイ、右ハ専門的ニ見ルモ將マタ實際上カラ見ルモ斷シテ一步モ讓歩スルコトノ出來ナイ比率ナノテアル、從ツテ從來軍縮會議等カ開カレル場合ニ於テハ帝國海軍カ補助艦艇ニ關スル限り前年ノ「ジュネーヴ」ニオケル比率ヲ主張スルコトハイフマテモナイ所テアル

(3) 昭和四年十月七日附倫敦海軍會議ニ關シ英國政府ノ寄セタル招請狀

英國外務大臣ハ一九二九年十月七日附ヲ以テ在英帝國大使ニ宛テ左ノ書翰ヲ寄セ來レリ
(昭和四年公表第九號 十月九日公表)

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the informal conversations on the subject of naval disarmament which have been proceeding in London during the last three months between the Prime Minister and the Ambassador of the United States have now reached a stage at which it is possible to say that there is no point outstanding of such serious importance as to prevent an agreement.

From time to time the Prime Minister has notified Your Excellency of the progress made in these discussions and I now have the honour to state that provisional and informal agreement has been reached on the following principles:

1. The conversations have been one of the results of the Treaty for the Renunciation of War signed at Paris in 1928 which brought about a re-alignment of our national attitudes on the subject of security, in consequence of the provision that war should not be used as an instrument of national policy in the relations of nations one to another. Therefore, the Peace Pact has been regarded as the starting point of agreement.

2. It has been agreed to adopt the principle of parity in each of the several categories and that such parity shall be reached by December 31st, 1936. Consultation between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and His Majesty's Governments in the Dominions has taken place and it is contemplated that the programme of parity on the British side should be related to the naval forces of all parts of the Empire.

3. The question of battleship strength was also touched upon during the conversations and it has been agreed in these conversations that subject to the assent of other signatory Powers it would be desirable to reconsider the battleship replacement programmes provided for in the Washington Treaty of 1922, with the view to diminishing the amount of replacement construction implied under that treaty.

4. Since both the Government of the United States and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom

adhere to the attitude that they have publicly adopted in regard to the desirability of securing the total abolition of the submarine, this matter hardly gave rise to discussion during the recent conversations. They recognise, however, that no final settlement on this subject can be reached except in conference with the other naval Powers.

In view of the scope of these discussions both Governments consider it most desirable that a Conference should be summoned to consider the categories not covered by the Washington Treaty and to arrange for and deal with the questions covered by the second paragraph of Article 21 of that Treaty. It is our earnest hope that the Japanese Government will agree to the desirability of such a conference. His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of the United States are in accord that such a conference should be held in London at the beginning of the third week of January, 1930, and it is hoped that the Japanese Government will be willing to appoint representatives to attend it.

A similar invitation is being addressed to the Governments of France, Italy and the United States; and His Majesty's Governments in the Dominions are being asked to appoint representatives to take part in the conference. I should be grateful if Your Excellency would cause the above invitation to be addressed to the Japanese Government.

In the same way as the two Governments have kept Your Excellency informally au courant of the recent discussions, so now His Majesty's Government will be willing, in the interval before the proposed conference, to continue informal conversations with Your Excellency on any points which may require elucidation. The importance of reviewing the whole naval situation at an early date is so vital in the interests of general disarmament that I trust that Your Excellency's Government will see their way to accept this invitation and that the date proposed will be agreeable to them. His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom propose to communicate to you in due course their views as to the subjects which they think should be discussed at the conference, and will be glad to receive a corresponding communication from the Japanese Government.

It is hoped that at this conference the principal naval Powers may be successful in reaching agreement. I should like to emphasise that His Majesty's Government have discovered no inclination in any quarter to set up new machinery for dealing with the naval disarmament question; on the contrary it is hoped that by this means a text

can be elaborated which will facilitate the task of the League of Nations Preparatory Commission and of the subsequent General Disarmament Conference.

〔右譯文(俄)〕

余ハ海軍軍縮問題ニ關シ過去三個月間總理大臣並合衆國大使ノ間ニ進行シツツアリシ非公式會談カ今ヤ協定ノ成立ヲ阻礙スルカ如キ何等重大ナル未決點ヲ殘ササルノ域ニ達シタルコトヲ閣下ニ通報スルノ光榮ヲ有ス總理大臣ハ隨時右會談ノ進展ニ關シ閣下ニ通告セラレタル處茲ニ改メテ左記ノ原則ニ關シ暫定的且非公式ノ協定成立セルコトヲ閣下ニ通報スルハ余ノ光榮トスル所ナリ

一、右會談ハ一九二八年巴里ニ於テ署名セラレタル戰爭拋棄ニ關スル條約カ各國相互ノ關係ニ於テ戰爭ヲ國家政策ノ手段トシテ使用スヘカラサルコトヲ規定シタルカ爲安全保障ノ問題ニ關スル兩國ノ態度ニ變化ヲ齎ラシタルニ基クモノニシテ從テ吾人ハ右條約ヲ以テ協定ノ出發點ト看做セリ

二、吾人ハ各艦種ニ互リ勢力均等ノ原則ヲ採用シ而シテ右勢力均等ハ千九百三十六年十二月三十一日迄ニ達成セラルヘキコトニ付合意ヲ見タリ右ニ關シ英本國政府及自治領諸政府間ニ協議ヲ遂ケタルカ勢力均等ノ考案ハ英國側ニ於テハ帝國全部ノ海軍力ヲ包含セシムルノ趣旨ナリ

三、主力艦勢力問題モ亦會談中論及セラレタルカ他ノ署名國ノ同意アルニ於テハ一九二二年ノ華盛頓條約ノ想定スル代換建造量ヲ縮少スルノ目的ヲ以テ同條約ニ規定スル主力艦代換計畫ヲ再考スルヲ可トスヘシトノコトニ意見一致セリ

四、合衆國政府及英本國政府ハ共ニ潛水艦ノ全廢ヲ望マシトスルコトニ關シテ從來兩國政府カ公然執リ來リタル態度ヲ固守スルヲ以テ本件ハ今次ノ會談ニ於テハ殆ント討議ヲ見サリシト雖兩國政府ハ他ノ海軍國ト合議ヲ遂クルニ非スンハ本問題ノ最終的解決ハ不可能ナルコトヲ認ムルモノナリ

本件會談ノ範圍ニ鑑ミ兩國政府ハ華盛頓條約ニ規定セラレサル艦種ヲ考究スル爲並同條約第二十一條第二項ニ規定セラレタル問題ノ準備並處理ノ爲會議ヲ招請スルコト最モ望マシト思考ス吾人ハ日本國政府カ斯ル會議開催ニ同意セラレムコトヲ切望ス英本國政府及合衆國政府ハ斯ル會議カ倫敦ニ於テ千九百三十年一月第三週初頭ニ於テ開催セラルヘキコトニ一致シ日本國政府カ同會議ニ列席スル代表者ヲ任命セラレムコトヲ希望ス

英本國政府ハ佛蘭西國、伊太利國及合衆國政府ニ對シ同様招請狀ヲ發送シ尙自治領政府ニ對シテモ會議ニ參列スヘキ代表者ヲ任命センコトヲ要請セリ予ハ閣下カ右招請狀ヲ日本國政府ニ送達セラレンコトヲ懇請ス

英米兩國政府ハ今次ノ討議ニ關シ非公式ニ閣下ニ通報ヲ怠ラサリシカ英國政府ハ今後モ同様來ルヘキ會議開催前闡明ヲ必要トスル事項モアラハ閣下ト非公式會談ヲ繼續スルノ用意ヲ有ス一切ノ海軍問題ヲ近キ時期ニ於テ檢討スルコト一般軍備縮小ノ爲頗ル重大ナルニ鑑ミ日本國政府ニ於テ本招請ヲ受諾セラルヘキヲ信シ所定ノ會議期日ニツキテモ異存ナキコトト思考ス英本國政府ハ會議ニ於テ討議スルヲ適當ナリト思考スル諸問題ニ關シ追テ何分ノ見解ヲ閣下ニ通報スル意向ニシテ日本國政府ニ於テモ同様意見ヲ開示セラルルヲ得ハ幸ナリ

右會議ノ結果主要海軍國間ニ協定ヲ成立ヲ見ムコトハ英國政府ノ切ニ希望スル所ニシテ予ハ英國政府ハ如何ナル方面ニ於テモ海軍軍縮問題ヲ處理スル爲別ニ新機關ヲ設クヘシトノ意見ニ接シタルコトナキノミナラス却テ今回ノ如キ會議ニ依リテ國際聯盟準備委員會及次テ開カルヘキ一般的軍備縮少會議ノ事業ヲ促進スヘキ規準ノ作り出サレムコトハ一般ノ希望スル所ナルコトヲ特ニ指摘セムト欲ス

(4) 昭和四年十月十六日附倫敦海軍會議ニ關スル帝國政府ノ對英回答狀

在英帝國大使ハ一九二九年十月十六日附ヲ以テ英國外務大臣ニ宛テ左ノ書翰ヲ送リタリ
(昭和四年公表第十號 十月十八日公表)

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Note dated October 7, informing me of a provisional and informal agreement reached between the Prime Minister and the American Ambassador at London on the subject of naval disarmament, and inviting the Japanese Government to participate in a Conference which it is proposed to summon in London, to consider the categories of ships not covered by the Washington Treaty, and to arrange for and deal with the questions covered by the second paragraph of Article 21 of that Treaty.

2. Having laid before my Government the contents of your Note under acknowledgement, I am desirous to state in reply that the Japanese Government are happy to signify their entire concurrence in the desirability of the proposed Conference, and are ready to appoint representatives to take part in that Conference. The date suggested for the opening of the Conference, namely, the beginning of the third week of January, 1930, is also agreeable to my Government.

3. The Japanese Government are further gratified to know of the willingness of the British Government to continue informal conversations with me, as hitherto, on any points which may require elucidation. They note that similar discussions conducted in London by the Prime Minister with the American Ambassador during the last three months had cleared the ground for an agreement on essential points between the British and American Governments, prior to the invitation extended to other naval Powers to meet in a Conference. My Government attach the highest importance to the same procedure being followed by the Japanese and British Governments, in order to ensure agreement between them on various questions that are to be laid before the Conference. The success of the forthcoming Conference no doubt depends in a large measure upon the satisfactory issue of such preliminary discussions, and my Government confidently trust that the informal conversations between the British Government and myself on questions of special moment will be carried on and completed before these questions are presented to the Conference for final adjustment.

4. In your Note under review, it is intimated that the British Government propose to communicate to me in

due course their views as to the subjects for discussion at the Conference. The Japanese Government are looking forward to such a communication with keen interest, and, on their part, they will be glad to furnish the British Government with a corresponding communication as desired.

5. With regard to the four points of principle mentioned in your Note as the subject of provisional agreement between the British and American Governments, the Japanese Government hope to be able to submit their observations in the course of the informal conversations which I shall shortly permit myself to hold with the British Government. They would, however, make use of this occasion to assure you of their cordial support to the principle that the Treaty for the Renunciation of War, signed at Paris in 1928, should be taken as the starting point for all discussions on disarmament. They feel confident that the sense of national security inspired by the provisions of that Treaty in the mutual relations of the contracting Powers will pave the way for the final settlement of the outstanding questions relative to naval disarmament.

6. In conclusion, I am instructed to express the sincere and earnest hope of the Japanese Government that the Conference will succeed in the adoption of plans calculated to promote international peace and good will, and to relieve humanity of the heavy burden of armament whether existing or contemplated. It is not merely the limitation, but also the reduction of armament that all nations should seek to attain.

〔右邦文〕

一、十月七日附貴輪ヲ以テ海軍軍備縮少問題ニ關シ貴國首相及在倫敦米國大使間ニ成立ヲ見タル暫定且非公式ノ協定ヲ通報セラルルト共ニ華盛頓條約ニ規定セラレタル艦種ニ付キ考究ヲ加ヘ且該條約第二十一條第二項ニ規定セラレタル問題ヲ協定處理スル爲倫敦ニ招集セラレントスル會議ニ帝國政府ノ參加ヲ招請セラレタリ本使ハ右貴輪ヲ領承ス

二、本使ハ右貴輪ノ内容ヲ本國政府ニ傳達シタル處帝國政府ハ右會議開催ヲ望マシキコトスルニ全然同感ナルヲ欣幸トシ該會議ニ參列スヘキ代表者ヲ任命スルノ用意アル旨回答スルヤウ訓令ニ接シタリ尙所定ノ會議開會期日トシテ一九三〇年一月第三週初頭ヲ提議セラレタル處本國政府ハ亦之ニ同意ヲ表スルモノナリ

三、次ニ帝國政府ハ闡明ヲ要スヘキ一切ノ事項ニ付キ英國政府カ從前ノ通本使ト非公式會議ヲ繼續スルノ用意アルヲ知り欣幸トスルモノナリ帝國政府ハ過去三個月ニ亘リ倫敦ニ於テ貴國首相カ米國大使ト此種ノ會談ヲ行ヒ之ニ依リ他ノ海軍國ニ會議參加ノ招請ヲ發スルニ先チ英米兩國政府間ニ重要事項ニ關スル協定ノ素地ヲ作ラレタルコトヲ了知シタリ本國政府ハ會議ニ附議セラルヘキ諸般ノ問題ニ關シ日英兩國政府間ニ協定ノ成立ヲ確保スル爲兩國政府カ右ト同様ノ手續ヲ執ラムコトヲ最重大視スルモノナリ來ルヘキ會議ノ成功ハ斯ノ如キ豫備的會談カ満足ナル結果ヲ得ルヤ否ヤニ懸ルコト多大ナルハ明瞭ニシテ本國政府ハ特ニ重要ナル問題ニ關シテハ其ノ最終的決定ノ爲會議ニ提出セララルニ先チ英國政府及本使間ニ非公式會議ヲ續行完了セムコトヲ切望ス

四、前顯貴輪中ニ於テ英國政府ハ會議ノ討議事項ニ關シ追テ其見解ヲ本使ニ通報セラルヘキ意向ナル旨陳述セラレタルカ日本國政府ハ深甚ナル興味ヲ以テ斯ノ如キ通報ヲ期待シ且日本國政府ニ於テモ御來示ニ從ヒ英國政府ニ對シ同様ノ通報ヲ爲スヲ欣幸トスヘシ

五、英米兩國政府間ニ暫定的ニ協定セラレタルモノトシテ貴輪中ニ記述セラレタル原則四點ニ關シテハ帝國政府ハ本使カ近ク英國政府ト行フヘキ非公式會議ニ際シ其所見ヲ開示スルコトアルヘシ唯此機會ニ於テ一九二八年巴里ニ於テ署名セラレタル戰爭拋棄ニ關スル條約ヲ軍備縮少ニ關スル一切ノ討議ノ出發點トナスヘシトノ原則ヲ衷心支持スルモノナルコトヲ確言セムト欲ス同條約ノ規定ニ依リ締約國間ノ相互關係ニ贅ラシタル國家ノ安全ノ觀念ハ追テ海軍軍備縮少ニ關スル未決問題ノ最終的解決ヲ容易ナラシムルニ至ルヘキコト帝國政府ノ疑ハサル所ナリ

六、最後ニ本使ハ本國政府ノ訓令ニ基キ日本國政府ハ該會議カ國際ノ平和及親善ヲ増進シ且人類ヲシテ現存及計畫中ノ軍備ノ重キ負擔ヨリ免レシムヘキ方案ヲ採用スルニ成功セムコトヲ深く切望スル旨ヲ表明セムトス思フニ各國民ノ希求スル所ハ軍備制限ニ止マラス實ニ軍備縮少ニ在ルヘシ

(5) 倫敦海軍會議ニ關スル對英帝國回答ニ關スル幣原外務大臣ノ談話

(昭和四年十月十八日公表)

英國政府ノ軍縮會議招請狀ニ對スル帝國回答ハ、本日發表シタ通テ殆ト説明ノ必要ナク、欣然會議參加ヲ受諾シ會議ニ對スル帝國ノ態度ヲ簡明ニ示シタモノテアル

帝國政府ハ來ルヘキ會議ニ於テ採用セラルヘキ軍縮案ハ、何國ヲモ脅威スルコトナク不戰條約ニ基ク各國ノ安全感ヲ一層高ムルノ結果ヲ齎スヘキコトヲ確信スルト同時ニ、軍事費ノ削減ニ對スル一般ノ慾求ニ對シテモ十分ノ考慮ヲ拂ハントスルモノテアツテ、政府ハ之等遠大ナル目的ヲ達成センカ爲他ノ海軍國ト協力シテ全幅ノ努力ヲ盡ス覺悟テアル

帝國政府ノ回答中、英國政府ト駐英大使トノ間ニ格別重要ナル問題ニ關シ之ヲ會議ノ一般討議ニ附スルニ先チ非公式協議ヲ遂クルノ點ハ政府ノ特ニ重キヲ置ク所テアルカ、右非公式協議ノ結果何等第三國ヲ害スルカ如キ協定又ハ合意ヲ遂ケムトスルモノテナイコトハ勿論アツテ、日本カ特ニ利害ヲ感スル問題ニツキ其調整ヲ容易ナラシメ、迅速ニ會議ノ成功ヲ來スノ素地ヲ作ラントノ趣旨ニ外ナラナイ、故ニ政府ハ米國政府又ハ他ノ二國トモ同様、利害共通ノ問題ニツキ非公式協議ヲ開クコトニ聊カモ躊躇シナイ

要スルニ政府ハ來ルヘキ會議ノ結果、我國民ノ宿望タル國際ノ平和及了解カ著シク増進セラルヘキコトヲ確信シ、十分ノ希望ヲ持ツテ會議ニ赴クモノテアル

(6) 倫敦海軍會議ニ關スル若槻全權委員ノ談話

(昭和四年十一月三十日公表)

不肖今般大命ヲ拜シテ倫敦ニ使スルニ際シ、一言所懷ノ一端ヲ陳フルコトヲ得ルハ最モ光榮ト感スル所テアル。御承知ノ通軍備縮少ノ事業ハ、各國國情著シク相異セル今日ノ情勢ノ下ニ於テハ、尙幾多ノ曲折アルヲ免レス前途坦々テアルト云フコトハ出來ナイ。不肖微力菲才ナルモ、幸ニシテ政府ノ訓令指導並國民ノ支持激勵ヲ得微力ノ最善ヲ致シテ、此重任ヲ辱シメサルコトヲ庶幾スル次第テアル

世界ノ平和ヲ確立シ國民ノ負擔ヲ輕減シ軍備縮少ノ實現ヲ期スルコトハ、帝國政府ノ傳統的政策テアルコト云フ迄モナイ。帝國カ嘗テ華府會議及壽府會議ニ參加シタノモ、實ニ此大目的ニ對スル誠意ノ一表現ニ過キナイ、今次倫敦會議ノ招請ヲ欣然受諾シ不肖等ヲ全權委員トシテ特派セラルルニ至ツタコトモ、亦此ノ帝國政府ノ意ノアル所ヲ徹底セムカ爲ニ外ナラナイモノト確信スル。云フ迄モナク、軍備縮少協定ノ徹底ヲ期スル爲ニハ宜シク世界各國カ其ノ相互ノ關係ニ於テ一切ノ誤解及猜疑ヲ除去シナケレハナラナイ。之カ爲ニハ關係各國ノ國防上ノ安全感ヲ確立シ、各國ハ相互ノ國情ヲ了解シ、苟クモ疑念ヲ挾ムヘキ餘地ヲ無カラシメナケレハナラナイ。帝國政府ハ未タ曾テ何國ニ對シテモ攻撃戰爭ノ準備ヲ企畫シタコトハナク、帝國ノ要求スル所ハ要スルニ他國ノ攻撃ニ對シテ防禦スルニ足ル程度ノ軍備テアル。帝國ハ何時ニテモ此ノ意味ニ於ケル最小限度迄ノ大々的縮少ヲ實行スルノ用意カアルモノテアツテ、帝國ノ主張ハ實ニ公正ニシテ合理的ナモノテアル。若シ倫敦會議ニ於テ此帝國ノ主張カ各國ニ依ツテ受諾セラルルコトトナレハ、各國ハ内ハ國民負擔ヲ輕減シ外ハ世界平和ノ保障ヲ確立スルモノテアル

不肖ハ任ノ重且大ナルヲ自覺シ銳意最善ノ努力ヲ盡サムト堅ク決意スルモノテアルカ、國民一般ニ於テモ此ノ世界の大事業成就ノ爲充分ナル協力ト支持トヲ與ヘラレムコトヲ希望シテ已マナイモノテアル

(7) 昭和五年一月二十一日第五十七回帝國議會ニ於ケル

濱口總理大臣ノ演説

、、、、、海軍軍備制限ノ問題ニ關シマシテハ昨年ノ十月七日英國政府カラ在英帝國大使ニ對シマシテ公文ヲ以テ華府條約ニ規定セラレサル艦種ヲ考究シ茲ニ同條約第二十一條第二項ニ規定サレタル所ノ問題ノ準備並ニ處理ノ爲メ主ナル海軍國會議ヲ倫敦ニ於テ開催致シタキニ依リ日本政府モ右會議ニ代表ヲ派遣セラレムコトヲ望ム旨ノ招請カアツタノデアリマス而シテ此會議ノ開催ニ付キマシテ英國ノ總理大臣「マクドナルド」氏カ非常ナル熱誠ヲ以テ苦心努力セラレタルコトハ洵ニ敬服措ク能ハサル所デアリマシテ帝國政府ハ右ノ招請狀ニ接シマスルヤ慎重考究ノ上昨年十月十六日欣然此會議ニ參加スル旨ヲ英國政府ニ向ツテ回答シタノデアリマス尋イテ政府ハ全權委員ヲ任命派遣イタシ茲ニ倫敦海軍會議ハ愈々本日ヲ以テ開催サルコトトナツタノデアリマス倫敦海軍會議ニ對スル帝國政府ノ方針ニ關シマシテハ内ハ國防ノ安全ヲ期スルト共ニ國民負擔ノ輕減ヲ圖リ外ハ列國ノ間ニ平和親交ノ關係ヲ増進スルニ在ルコトハ論ヲ俟タナイ所デアリマス國防ノ安固トハ如何ナル場合ニ於テモ決シテ他國ノ脅威ヲ受ケヌコトデアリマス各國カ相互ニ他國ニ對シテ脅威ヲ與ヘス又他國ヨリモ脅威ヲ受ケヌト云フ情勢ヲ確立スルコトカ海軍協定ノ眼目デアラネハナラヌト信スルノデアリマス斯ノ如ク列國カ各々國防上ノ安全保障ヲ得マシテ初メテ國際間ニ眞實ノ親善關係ヲ樹立スルコトカ出來ルノデアリマス海軍軍備ノ制限又ハ縮少ト云フコトカ國家ノ財政ニ重大ナル關係ヲ有スルト云フコトハ今更多言ヲ費スマテモナイコトデアリマシテ各國カ一律ニ軍備ノ縮少ヲ行フト云フコトニナリマスレハ國防ノ安固ヲ害スルコトナク國民負擔ノ輕減ヲ期スルコトカ出來ルノデアリマシテ同時ニ世界平和ノ保障ハ一層鞏固ヲ加フル次第デアリマス帝國政府カ今回ノ倫敦海軍會議ニ際シマシテ單ニ海軍軍備ノ制限ニ止マラス進ンテ之カ縮少ノ實現ヲ主張シマスル所以ノモノハ實ニ茲ニ存スルノデアリマス

帝國政府ハ右ニ申述フルカ如キ方針ヲ以テ倫敦海軍會議ニ臨ミマシテ其成功ノ爲メ最善ノ努力ヲ爲スノ決心ヲ有スル次第デアリマス

(8) 昭和五年一月二十一日第五十七回帝國議會ニ於ケル

幣原外務大臣ノ演説

、、、、、次ニ昨今全世界ノ注目ヲ集メテ居ル倫敦海軍會議ニ付イテ概略ノ説明ヲ加ヘタイト考ヘマス、御承知ノ通、華府會議ニ於キマシテハ、主力艦ト航空母艦トニ關シテハ各國ノ保有スヘキ勢力ノ縮少並制限ヲ協定シマシテ、列國間ノ造艦競争ヲ防クノ目的ヲ達シマシタカ、補助艦ニ關スル同様ノ協定ハ遂ニ成立ニ至ラナカツタノテアリマス尤モ巡洋艦ハ口径八吋以上ノ砲ヲ備ヘテハナラス、又一隻ノ排水量一萬噸ヲ超エテハナラスト云フカ如キ、若干ノ制限ヲ加ヘマシタケレトモ、爾來軍艦並兵器ヲ製造スル技術ノ進歩ニ從ツテ華府條約ノ制限内ニ於テモ巡洋艦ノ威力ハ著シク加ハツタノテアリマス。是ニ於テ、補助艦ニ付イテモ速ニ造艦競争ヲ防クノ方法ヲ講シナケレハナラスト云フ世論ノ要求カ勢ヲ得マシテ、昭和二年日英米三國ハ華府ニ於テ會議ヲ開クコトニナリマシタカ、不幸ニシテ同會議ハ不成功ニ了リ世論ニ甚シキ失望ヲ與ヘタコトハ申ス迄モアリマセス、然ルニ昨午米國ニ於テハ「フーヴァー」大統領ノ就任カアリ、又英國ニ於テ勞働黨内閣カ組織セラレマスト再ヒ軍縮問題ノ氣運カ着々促進セラレマシテ遂ニ今回倫敦ニ五箇國會議カ開カレルコトニナツタノテアリマス。同會議ノ開催ニ關スル昨年十月七日附英國政府ノ招請狀並之ニ對スル十月十六日附帝國政府ノ回答ハ其ノ當時夫々公表セラレマシタカラ茲ニハ繰返ヘシマセス。唯倫敦會議ノ政治的意味並所謂海軍力ノ比率ナルモノノ性質ニ付イテ我々ノ所見ヲ一應申シ述ヘタイノテアリマス

第一ニ我々ノ解釋スル所テハ倫敦會議ハ參列各國何レモ内ニハ國防ノ安固ヲ確保スルト共ニ國民負擔ノ輕減ヲ圖リ外ニハ國際ノ平和親交ヲ増進スルニ足ルヘキ方法ニ於テ各自ノ海軍力ニ關スル協定ヲ設ケルコトヲ主眼トスルモノテアリマス。倫敦會議ノ政治的意味ハ茲ニ存スルモノト考ヘマス。何レノ國ト雖、自國ノ國防ヲ危クスルヤウナ協定ニ同意シ得ルモノテハアリマセス。併シナカラ一國ノ保有スヘキ海軍力ハ或重要ナル程度迄他國ノ海軍力ト相對的ノ性質ヲ有スルモノテア

リマス。從テ何レノ國ニ取ツテモ自國々防ノ安固ヲ犧牲トスルコトナクシテ各國一樣ニ或一定ノ限度迄其ノ海軍力ヲ引下ケ、以テ國民負擔ノ輕減ニ資スルコトカ行ハレ得ル筈テアリマス。但シ此ノ目的ヲ達スルニハ國際協定ニ依ルノ外アリマセス。一國カ假令如何ニ高遠ナル理想ニ基イテ己レノ海軍力ヲ縮少シテモ他國トノ間ニ協定ノ存シナイ限りハ他國ハ當然自國ノ既成艦ヲ廢棄シタリ既定ノ造艦計畫ヲ變更シタリスル結果ヲ伴フモノテハアリマセス。國際協定カ成立シテこそ各國共ニ之ニ基キ安心シテ海軍力ヲ引下ケ得ルノテアリマス。又列國相互ノ關係モ之アルカ爲ニ無用ノ危懼ヲ去ツテ相信シ相親シミ世界ノ平和ハ茲ニ著シク鞏固ヲ加ヘル所以テアリマス

第二ニ、海軍力ノ比率トハ如何ナル性質ノモノテアリマセウカ、世間テハ海軍力ノ比率ヲ以テ一國ノ國際的地位ノ高サヲ測ル標準ナルカ如ク心得、軍艦ノ隻數又ハ噸數ヲ多ク保有スル國ハ夫レタケ多ク世界ノ尊敬ヲ受クヘキモノト考ヘル人モアリマス。若シ此ノ見地ヨリ論シマスナラハ各國何レモ對等ノ國際的地位ヲ要求スルコトカ當然テアリマス故ニ其ノ海軍力モ亦對等ナケレハナラス、海軍力ニ差等ヲ設クル比率ナトハ一切協定シ得ラルヘキモノテハナイト申サナケレハナリマセス、併シ我々カ一定ノ比率ヲ保有セムトスルノハ斯ノ如キ感情的ノ考ヘ方ニ動カサレテ居ルノテハアリマセス。全ク我國防ノ安固ヲ保障シテ外患ヲ除クト云フ實際上ノ必要ニ基クモノテアリマス。日本ハ何國ニモ脅威ヲ與ヘルモノテナイ又何國ヨリノ脅威ヲモ忍ヒ得ルモノテハナイ、我々ハ之ヲ根本方針トシテ各國ノ保有スヘキ海軍力ノ量ヲ協定シタイノテアリマス

固ヨリ、倫敦會議カ満足ナル協定ノ成立ニ至ル迄ニハ幾多ノ難關カアルコトモ覺悟シナケレハナリマセス、曩ニ華府會議ニ於テ後廻シニナリ次ニ華府會議ニ於テモ頓挫シタル問題ヲ此ノ際一舉ニシテ決セムトスルノテアリマスカラ其ノ事業タルヤ決シテ容易テハアリマセス、併シナカラ世界ノ輿論ハ今ヤ眞剣ニ國民生活ノ安全幸福ト國際關係ノ平和親善トヲ熱望シテ居ルノテアリマスカラ倫敦會議カ此ノ氣運ニ乘シマスナラハ結局成功シ得ラレナイ筈ハナイト信シマス關係列國ハ斯

カル世論ノ要求ニ對シテハ又々失望ヲ興ヘルヤウナエトカナシテハナリマセヌ。華府會議ハ人類進歩ノ歴史ニ一ノ新ナル紀元ヲ開イタノデアリマス。我々ハ本日倫敦ニ於テ開會スル會議ニ付イテモ同様ノ望ヲ繫クモノデアリマス

(右譯文)

The attention of the whole world is now centered upon the Naval Conference, which is to meet to-day in London. At the Washington Conference, an agreement was arrived at for the reduction and limitation of the strength in capital ships and airplane carriers of each of the several Powers concerned. It put an end to all building competition in these categories. No such agreement came into being at Washington in regard to auxiliary craft. That Conference only succeeded in limiting to eight inches the calibre of gun to be mounted on a cruiser and in defining the maximum tonnage of a cruiser as ten thousand tons. The remarkable progress since made in the manufacture of armaments rendered it possible for a cruiser, within the limitations of the Washington Treaty, to possess enormous fighting power. It then became increasingly evident that provision should be made for the prevention of competition in cruisers. In view of popular demand for such an arrangement, Japan, Great Britain, and the United States met in conference at Geneva in 1927. The meeting ended in failure, to the great disappointment of the general public. In the course of last year, the problem of naval disarmament was again brought to the fore, with the inauguration of President Hoover in the United States and the coming into power of the Labour Party in England. The result is the calling together of the present Five-Power Conference at London. The invitation to this conference by the British Government under date of October 7th of last year and our reply thereto dated the 18th of the same month were respectively published at the time. The contents of that correspondence need not be repeated here. I only desire to make a few observations on the political significance of the present conference and on the nature of the so-called naval ratio.

In the first place, we take it that the Conference is intended to attain an agreement among the principal naval Powers to regulate their respective naval strengths in such a way as at once to secure to each Power the integrity of its national defenses and a reduction of naval expenditure, and to promote mutual relations of peace and friendship. Therein

lies the political significance of the London Conference. No nation can be expected to subscribe to an agreement that might jeopardize its own security. But it must be remembered that the amount of naval strength needed by one Power is in an important degree relative to that possessed by other Powers. It ought therefore to be possible for all the nations concerned uniformly to reduce their respective naval strengths to a certain extent and so to relieve the burden on their peoples, without involving, for any single nation, any sacrifice of the integrity of its national defenses. Such a result is, needless to say, attainable only through international agreement. In the absence of such agreement, the reduction of naval strength which any particular nation may effect of its own accord, in pursuance of the highest ideals, will not necessarily be followed by a corresponding step on the part of other nations. Given the assurance of agreement, however, all nations can safely diminish their naval armaments. In their mutual relations, too, groundless fears will give way to trust and friendship; the cause of peace among the nations will in that way be signally promoted.

Secondly, the nature of the so-called "ratio of naval strength" should be clearly understood. There are those who are disposed to look upon the naval ratio as a standard by which to gauge the international standing of a country. In their view, a Power possessing warships in larger numbers or to a heavier tonnage is entitled by that fact and to that extent to the higher esteem of the world. Such an approach to the question would render impossible any agreement upon "ratio", which, in the nature of things, presupposes gradations in naval strength. All nations being equal in international status, they would no doubt be justified in claiming equality in naval strength, if the amount of such strength were to decide the position of each Power in the hierarchy of states. Our claim to a definite amount of naval strength is in no way influenced by such sentimental considerations. It is based upon the practical necessity of making our defenses secure against foreign invasion. We offer no menace to any nation; we submit to menace from none. On that fundamental principle, it is our desire to secure a naval arrangement satisfactory to all parties concerned.

We must not shut our eyes to the manifold difficulties which will have to be surmounted before the present Conference can be brought to a successful conclusion. The magnitude of the task before the London Conference can hardly be overestimated. The problem which the Washington Conference left in its wake and which at a later date the Geneva Conference failed to solve, has now to find a solution at London once for all. But today the public opinion of the world is calling in sober earnest for the security and happiness of national life and for peace and friendship in international

relations. Should the London Conference take this tide at its flood, its labours will surely be crowned with success. The nations there represented can ill afford once more to disappoint this public demand. The Washington Conference opened a new chapter in the history of human progress. We expect the same measure of achievement to result from the international assembly now meeting at London.

(9) 昭和五年一月二十一日倫敦海軍會議開會式ニ於ケル

若槻帝國全權ノ演説

(昭和五年一月二十一日公表第一號)

英國皇帝陛下カ親ク海軍會議ヲ開キ給ヘル此ノ記念スヘキ機會ニ當リ日本委員ヲ代表シテ陛下ノ優渥ナル歡迎及親善ノ御詔ニ對シ吾人ノ深厚ナル謝意ヲ致スト共ニ陛下御健康御回復ノ御模様ヲ拜シ極リナキ歡喜ノ情ヲ述フルハ誠ニ余ノ幸トスル所ナリ吾人ハ英國政府カ本會議ノ招集ヲ發議セラレタルニ對シ眞摯ナル感謝尊敬ノ意ヲ表シ又同政府カ倫敦ニ於テ吾人ニ與ヘラルル好意優遇ニ對シテモ感佩ノ念ヲ禁スル能ハサルモノナリ

平和ヲ永遠ニ樹立シ國際協調ノ原則ヲ確保支持スルハ日本國民ノ舉ツテ翹望スル所ナリ日本國民ハ戰爭ノ慘禍及濫費ヲ除キ以テ各國民ヲシテ國際關係ニ於ケル公正ト正義トノ保障ノ下ニ各自ノ運命ヲ平和ノ間ニ開拓スルヲ得シムルノ必要喫緊ナルヲ認メ居レリ我國ニ於テ今次ノ會議ニ對シ表示セラレタル興味コソハ實ニ帝國ノ平和ニ對スル要望ヲ最有力ニ證明スルモノト言ハサルヘカラス

日本ノ平和政策ハ華盛頓會議及善府會議ニ於テ端的ニ宣明セラレ又我國カ國際聯盟各般ノ事業ニ對シ熱心ニ參與セル事實ニ徴シ明カナル所ナリ彼ノ不戰條約ノ精神及目的ニ對シ我國カ欣然贊同セル所以亦實ニ此ノ平和政策ニ則レルニ外ナラス吾人ハ今ヤ此ノ不戰條約ヲ出發點トシテ本會議ノ審議ヲ進メムトス而シテ參加各國カ相互ニ其ノ態度及政策ヲ十分ニ了解シ同情ヲ以テ相接スルモノナルコトヲ確信セムトス從テ吾人ノ直面スル問題ハ機微錯雜ナルモノアリトスルモ余ハ之カ爲ニ吾人ノ前途ニ越ユヘカラサル障礙アリト認ムル能ハス

日本ハ本會議ニ於テ參加諸國ト隔意無キ忠實ナル協力ヲ爲スヘキコトヲ誓ヒ且參加諸國ト相携ヘテ海軍軍備ヲ極度迄縮少スルノ用意アルコトヲ此ノ機ニ於テ宣明スルハ余ノ欣幸トスル所ナリ

日本ハ單ニ海軍力ノ制限ニ止マルコトナク之カ現實ノ縮少ヲ行ハムト欲スルモノナリ是レ蓋シ平和達成ノ適切緊要ナル方途タルト共ニ各國民ノ財政的重荷ヲ輕減スルノ手段タレハナリ只此ノ縮少ニ付日本ノ關心スル所ハ攻撃的策戰ニハ不十分ナルモ帝國ヲ防衛スルニハ足ル程度ノ勢力ヲ保有シ以テ國民ノ國家安全感ヲ動搖セシメサルノ點ニアリ
終ニ臨ミ余ハ本會議カ十分ナル成功ヲ收メ以テ苦キ試練ヲ經タル人類ノ熱望ヲ滿シ後昆ノ感謝ヲ贏得ムコトヲ深ク期待スルモノナリ

(右譯文)

TRANSLATION OF THE SPEECH DELIVERED BY MR. REIJIRO WAKATSUKI, CHIEF
DELEGATE OF JAPAN, AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF
THE LONDON NAVAL CONFERENCE.

On this memorable occasion when His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to open the Naval Conference it is my agreeable duty to express, on behalf of the Japanese Delegation, our gratitude for His Majesty's cordial message of welcome and good will, and our infinite pleasure at finding him completely restored to good health. To His Britannic Majesty's Government, are due our sincere appreciation and esteem for the initiative they have taken in calling the present meeting, and also our thanks for the courtesy, hospitality and facilities which they are affording us in London.

It is the unanimous desire of the Japanese nation that peace should be lastingly established and the principle of international co-operation be firmly secured and upheld. They are conscious of the compelling need of eliminating the danger of sanguinary and wasteful warfare and of enabling all nations to work out in peace their own destinies with the assurance of international fairness and justice. The intense interest manifested in Japan in the present conference is an eloquent sign of the pacific aspirations of our country.

Japan's policy of peace has been abundantly demonstrated at the Conferences at Washington and at Geneva, and in her earnest participation in the manifold activities of the League of Nations.

Again, it was in pursuance of the same policy that Japan whole-heartedly associated herself with the spirit and aim of the Pact of Paris.

We are now about to embark on the deliberations of this Conference with that universal testament of peace as our starting point. Moreover, I have complete confidence that the Powers here represented fully understand and are sympathetic with the attitudes and policies of each other. Though not unaware of the delicacy and intricacies of the problems that confront us, I see no insuperable obstacles in our path.

It is my happy privilege to declare at this moment that Japan pledges her free and loyal collaboration with the other Powers in the Conference, and that she is prepared to go, in conjunction with them, to the limit in naval disarmament. She is ready to effect not merely a limitation but an actual reduction in naval strengths, which she considers to be an appropriate and necessary programme of peace, as well as a measure for relieving the nations from numerous financial burdens. Her only concern is to see the sense of national security of the people undisturbed by retaining such force as is adequate for the defence of the Empire while not sufficient for offensive operations.

In conclusion, I desire to reiterate my confident hope that the Conference will be an unqualified success, and that it will fulfil the eager expectancy of sorely-tried humanity and earn the gratitude of generations to come.

(10) 昭和五年二月十三日倫敦海軍會議ニ於ケル帝國全權ノ
態度ニ關スル聲明書

(昭和五年二月十四日公表第二號)

日本全權ハ倫敦海軍會議ハ恒久平和ノ確立ニ對スル人類一般ノ切望ニ基キ招請セラレタルモノト信ス帝國ハ人類ノ幸福ヲ増進シ且ツ諸國民ノ財政的負擔ヲ輕減スル爲海軍軍備ノ全般的縮少ノ實現ニ對シ全幅ノ協力ヲ爲サムトスルノ決意ヲ有ス然レトモ海軍力ノ相對性ニ鑑ミ日本ハ國ノ安全ヲ確保スルニ足ル海軍力即チ極東方面海洋ノ安寧ハ日本ノ最モ重キヲ置ク所ナルニ依リ同方面ニ於ケル其ノ國防ニ必要ナル勢力ヲ保持セムコトヲ欲ス

日本全權ノ態度ハ右方針ニ基クモノニシテ概言スレハ左ノ如シ

制限方式

總噸數主義又ハ艦種別主義ノ適用ハ嚴ニ過クルトキハ關係各國間ノ協定ニ達スルニ適セサルヲ以テ日本全權ハ或ル艦種間ニ融通ヲ認メ以テ兩者ヲ調和スル方式ニ贊成ス

主力艦

日本全權ハ千九百三十六年迄主力艦ヲ起工セサルコトニ同意スルノ用意アリ

又華盛頓條約ニ規定セラレタル主力艦ノ艦型ヲ三萬五千噸ヨリ二萬五千噸ニ縮少スル爲協定ノ成立セムコトヲ希望ス
備砲ノ最大口徑ヲ十四吋ニ減シ艦齡ヲ二十年ヨリ二十六年ニ延長セムコトヲ德意ス

航空母艦

航空母艦ノ制限ニ關スル華盛頓條約ノ規定ハ一萬噸以下ノ航空母艦ニモ擴張適用スルコトトシ艦齡ハ一萬噸ヲ超ユルモノニ付キテハ二十年ヲ二十六年ニ又一萬噸以下ノモノハ二十年ニ延長スルコトトスヘシ

補助艦

日本全權ハ從來繰返シ述ヘタル通他關係國ノ保有力ニ對シ適當ナル比例ノ海軍力ヲ保有スルコト必要ナリト考フルモノナリ從テ若シ關係國ニ於テ其ノ海軍力ヲ縮少スルニ於テハ日本モ亦右ニ比例シ減縮ヲ行フノ用意アリ

(一) 巡洋艦、驅逐艦

日本ハ八吋砲巡洋艦ニ特ニ重キヲ置クヲ以テ他國ノ保有スル勢力ヲ考慮スルト共ニ其ノ國防ニ十分ナル最小限度ノ海軍力ヲ保有セムコトヲ欲ス

六吋砲巡洋艦ノ單艦最大噸數ハ七千噸又ハ七千五百噸トシ又嚮導驅逐艦及驅逐艦ノ單艦最大噸數ハ適當ニ之ヲ制限スヘシ嚮導驅逐艦ノ隻數モ亦之ヲ制限スルコトヲ要ス艦齡ハ巡洋艦ニ付キテハ二十年トシ驅逐艦ニ付キテハ十六年トスヘシ

(二) 潛水艦

潛水艦ノ防禦的ノ特性ト廣ク散在スル多數ノ島嶼ヨリ成ル日本ノ特殊ノ地理的事情ニ鑑ミ日本全權ハ此ノ種艦艇ヲ保有スルノ必要ナルコトヲ確信ス尤モ日本ハ潛水艦ノ商船ニ對スル使用ヲ嚴重ニ律セムカ爲他ノ諸國ト協力セムトスルモノナリ

其ノ噸數ニ付キテハ日本ハ現有勢力ノ維持ヲ提議ス潛水艦ノ最大型ヲ制限シ又其ノ艦齡ヲ十三年ト定ムヘシ

(右譯文)

STATEMENT SETTING FORTH THE ATTITUDE OF THE JAPANESE DELEGATION
IN THE LONDON NAVAL CONFERENCE.

It is the belief of the Japanese Delegation that the London Naval Conference has been convened in response to the universal yearning of mankind for the establishment of an enduring peace. Japan is determined to contribute her

full share in bringing about an all-round reduction in the naval weapons of war to the end that human happiness may be increased and the financial burden of the peoples may be lightened.

In view, however, of the relativity of naval strengths against one another, Japan desires to maintain such force as will ensure safety and security of the nation—a force necessary for her national defence in the Far Eastern waters, whose tranquillity constitutes her primary concern.

The attitude of the Japanese Delegation, predicated upon these considerations, may be outlined as follows:—

Method of Limitation.

Too strict an application of either of the principles of global tonnage or of division into categories would not be suitable for arriving at an agreement among the Powers concerned. The Japanese Delegation is in favour of a formula which would harmonise the two extremes, allowing transfers in certain categories.

Capital Ships.

The Japanese Delegation is ready to agree not to lay down any capital ships until 1936.

It also deems it desirable that an agreement should be reached so as to reduce the size of capital ships to 25,000 tons from 35,000 tons stipulated in the Washington Treaty. The maximum gun calibre should be reduced to 14". Japan advocates the lengthening of the age limit from 20 to 26 years.

Aircraft carriers.

The provisions for the limitation of aircraft carriers in the Washington Treaty should be extended to those of less than 10,000 tons. The age limit for aircraft carriers of more than 10,000 tons should be lengthened from 20 to 26 years and for those of lesser types shall be set at 20 years.

Auxiliary Craft.

The Japanese Delegation considers it necessary to hold, as has been repeatedly intimated, a strength in adequate proportion to that of the other Powers concerned. If, therefore, those Powers will see their way to reducing their strength, Japan is prepared to effect reduction to a proportionate degree.

(I) *Cruisers, Destroyers.*

Japan attaches special importance to 8" gun cruisers, and desires to maintain a minimum strength sufficient for national defence, taking into consideration the strengths held by other Powers.

The maximum individual tonnage for 6" gun cruisers should be 7,000 or 7,500 tons, and that for flotilla leaders and destroyers be adequately limited. It is necessary that the number of flotilla leaders be also limited. The age limit for cruisers should be set at 20 years and that for destroyers at 16 years.

(II) *Submarines.*

In view of the character of submarines, eminently adopted to defensive uses, and in view of peculiar geographical condition of Japan, consisting of many widely scattered islands, the Japanese Delegation is convinced of the necessity to retain this category of warcraft.

At the same time, Japan is willing to cooperate with the other Powers to regulate strictly the use of submarines against merchant marine.

As to the tonnage, Japan proposes to maintain her existing strength. The maximum size of submarines shall be limited and their age limit set at 13 years.

(11) 昭和五年四月二十二日倫敦海軍條約調印ノ際ニ於ケル
若槻帝國全權ノ聲明

(昭和五年四月二十二日公表第四號)

若槻帝國全權ハ昭和五年四月二十二日倫敦海軍條約署名ニ際シ左ノ聲明ヲ爲セリ

余ハ茲ニ日本全權ヲ代表シ議長カ常ニ其卓拔ナル識見ト懇誠ト忍耐トヲ以テ會議ヲ指導セラレ以テ複雑多岐ナル問題ニ關シ圓滿ナル解決ヲ齎サレタル努力ニ對シ滿腔ノ謝意ヲ表セントスルモノナリ諸外國同僚ノ忠實ナル協力ト誠實ナル友誼トハ余ノ感謝シテ措カサル所ナリ吾人ノ滯在中倫敦市民ヨリ受ケタル好遇殊ニ英國政府カ今次會議ノ召集ヲ發議セラレタル上ニ吾人ノ任務遂行ニ付多大ノ便宜ヲ與ヘラレタルハ余ノ感銘ニ堪エサル所ナリ

日本カ今回ノ會議ニ於テ戰爭ノ永久絶滅ヲ基調トセル不戰條約ノ崇高ナル精神ニ則リ海軍軍備ノ縮減ニ關スル協定ノ締結ニ依リ各國間ニ和平友好ノ關係ヲ確立スルノ最モ緊要ナルヲ思ヒ全力ヲ盡シテ今回會議ノ成功ニ努メタルコトヲ茲ニ述フルハ余ノ欣幸トスル所ナリ

然レトモ軍備制限ニ關スル協定ノ締結ニ當リテハ國防ノ安全ヲ十分ニ考量セサルヘカラサルヤ論ヲ俟タス帝國政府ノ方針ハ常ニ國土ヲ防衛シ極東ニ於ケル一般平和維持ノ責務ヲ遂行スルニ足ルヘキ最小限度ノ海軍力ヲ保持スルヲ主眼トセルモノニシテ日本海軍ハ如何ナル意味ニ於テモ他國民ニ懸念ヲ與フルカ如キモノニ非サルコトハ會議内外ニ於テ余ノ既ニ屢々述ヘタル所ナリ

斯ノ如キ帝國ノ態度ハ將來ト雖何等異ルコトナカルヘク從テ若シ今回ノ條約ニシテ將來久シキニ互ル事態ヲ律セントスルモノナルニ於テハ日本國民ハ其國防ニ關シ不安ノ念ヲ抱クコト無キヲ保シ難キモ現協定ハ一九三六年迄ノ間關係各國ヲ拘束スルニ止マリ爾後各國ノ保有スヘキ海軍力ニ至リテハ次回會議ニ於テ改メテ考慮セラルヘキ趣旨ナルニ鑑ミ日本ハ此種

條約ノ締結カ必然國民ノ安全感ヲ強固ナラシムヘシトノ確信ニ基キ且熱烈ナル平和促進ノ希望ト交讓妥協ノ精神ヨリシテ欣然本條約ニ承認ヲ與ヘタル次第ナリ今回協定セラレタル我兵力量特ニ八吋巡洋艦ノ保有量及「オブション」ノ權利行使ノ場合ニ於ケル保有總噸數ハ本條約有效期間後何等制限ヲ受クルモノニ非スシテ本條約ノ規定ハ次回會議ニ於ケル我國ノ立場ヲ何等拘束スヘキモノニアラサルコト關係各國間ニ明瞭ナル諒解アリタルハ帝國政府ノ重要視スル所ナリ

余ハ今一言加フル所アラントス今ヤ未曾有ノ大事業成就セラレ其結果人類史上初メテ一切ノ重要ナル軍艦カ制限ノ下ニ置カルルコトトナリタルナリ即チ華府ニテ播カレタルモノカ倫敦ニ於テ收穫セラルルニ至リタルモノナリ本條約カ平和ト人類進歩トノ途上ニ於ケル不滅ノ歴史的紀念塔タルヘキハ疑ヲ容レサル所ナリ

本條約ハ實ニ參加各國ニ依リ發揮セラレタル率直友好ナル協力ノ精神ヲ體現スルモノニシテ之ニ依リ有害ナル競争ト猜疑トヲ絶滅スルコトトナルヘシ余ハ本條約カ國際ノ協調親善ヲ増進シ依テ以テ今後軍備縮少ノ偉業ヲ促進スヘキ良好ナル雰圍氣ヲ各國間ニ醸成スヘキモノナルコトヲ確信スルモノナリ

(右譯文)

MR. WAKATSUKI'S STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING
OF THE LONDON NAVAL TREATY

(April 22, 1930)

On behalf of the Japanese Delegation, I wish to thank first of all the chairman most heartily for his splendid statesmanship, kindness and forbearance with which he has always steered the deliberations of the conference and which have been most essential in bringing about a successful solution of so many complicated questions. I thank our foreign colleagues for their earnest and loyal co-operation and for their true friendship. Our thanks are further due to people of London of whose hospitality we have been the fortunate recipients during our stay and last, but not least, to His

Britannic Majesty's Government, once again for its initiative in calling this conference and for its many courtesies which have so greatly facilitated our labours.

At this juncture I am happy to say that, eager to carry out the noble spirit embodied in the pact of Paris which has established, for all time, the principle of doing away with war, and realizing the surpassing importance of consolidating peaceful and friendly relationships among nations by concluding an agreement on the limitation and reduction of naval armament, Japan has done, and has been only too glad to do, all within her power at the conference about to be adjourned.

Needless to say, it is important that in an agreement of disarmament national safety should be fully taken into consideration. As I had several opportunities to state in and out of the conference, it has always been the policy of the Japanese Government to maintain a minimum naval strength sufficient for defensive purposes and for fulfilling her obligation in the maintenance of general peace in the Far East,—a strength that would in no sense arouse apprehensions in the mind of other nations.

Such has been, and will always be our national attitude. If, therefore, the present Treaty were to regulate the situation for too many years to come, the Japanese people might entertain feelings of insecurity as to their national defence. But, in view of the fact that the present agreement is binding upon the Powers concerned for a limited duration until 1936 and the naval strengths to be held by the Powers thereafter are to be reconsidered at the next Conference, Japan, from her ardent desire to see the cause of peace promoted and in a spirit of accommodation and harmony, has gladly agreed to the present Treaty.

In doing so, the Japanese Government is gratified to note that, since the naval strength of Japan as now agreed upon, especially in cruisers carrying 8-inch guns and in the total tonnage in case option is exercised, is not limited beyond the life of the present Treaty, it has been explicitly understood among the signatory Powers that they are not to be bound by its stipulations as to their attitude at the Conference to follow.

I wish to add just one more word. A great and unprecedented thing has been accomplished. For the first time in human history, all important fighting vessels have been placed under restriction. What was sown in Washington has been reaped in London. There is no doubt but that the present Treaty will prove to be a historic and lasting monument

on the path of peace and human progress. Embodiment, as it does, the spirit of frank and friendly co-operation so admirably demonstrated by the participating Powers, it will put an end to damaging competition and suspicions, and by reinforcing international accord and comradeship, will, I am convinced, create a favourable atmosphere in which hereafter all Powers will meet to promote the great task of disarmament.

(12) 「倫敦條約成立ニ際シテ」 昭和五年四月二十二日 濱口內閣總理大臣談

本日倫敦海軍會議ニ於テ調印セラレタル條約ハ同會議參加各國全權カ數ヶ月ニ互リ商議ヲ重ネ交讓協調ノ誠意ヲ披瀝シテ協定ノ成立ニ努メタル成果デアリマス本條約ハ主力艦ノ建造休止其他ニ關シテ曩ニ華府會議ニ於テ達成セラレタル海軍軍備制限ノ效果ヲ更ニ一層大ナラシムルモノデアアルノミナラス華府會議ニ於テモ壽府會議ニ於テモ成就シ得ナカッタ補助艦保有量ノ協定ヲ包含スルモノデアリマス即チ本條約ニ依テ世界ノ三大海軍國タル日英米三國ハ一切ノ艦種ニ互ツテ全ク製艦競争ヲ防止スルコトヲ得ルノデアリマス華府會議ノ着手セル事業ハ茲ニ完成セラレレカ爲國際關係ノ平和並親善ニ貢獻スル精神ノ效果ノ極メテ莫大ナルモノアルコトハ疑ヲ容レマセヌ

余ハ倫敦會議參加各國カ崇高ナル共通ノ目的達成ノ爲メニ和衷協同セルヲ認メテ茲ニ滿腔ノ敬意ヲ表スルト共ニ過去半歲ニ互リテ日夜本會議ノ事業ニ苦心努力セラレタル我全權並ニ終始熱誠ヲ以テ我全權ニ後援ヲ與ヘラレタル國民一般ニ對シテハ深甚ナル感謝ヲ表スルモノデアリマス

(13) 「倫敦條約調印ニ際シテ」 昭和五年四月二十二日 幣原外務大臣談

昭和五年四月二十二日 公表第五號

平和ヲ欲スルモノハ軍備ヲ整ヘヨト云フ古イ言葉カ屢々善意ノ平和論者ニ依ツテ説カレタコトカアル、軍備ノミニ依ツテ國家ノ安全ヲ圖ラムトスル考ハ永イ間世界各國民ノ頭腦ヲ支配シテ來タノデアアル然シ乍ラ或ル國カ大ナル軍備ヲ整フレハ他ノ國カ之ニ猜疑、恐怖、敵愾ノ念ヲ抱クニ至リ、自ラモ軍備ヲ擴張スルコトナルノハ當然デアツテ斯クシテ諸國民ハ過重ナル軍事實費ノ負擔ニ苦シミツツモ軍備競争ヲ行ヒ而カモ其勢ノ激スル所國際關係ヲ惡化シ往々ニシテ戰爭ヲ誘發シ、大ナル軍備ハ却テ國家ノ安全ヲ危殆ナラシメ國民ニ凡ユル不幸ヲ齎スノデアツテ世界大戰ノ史實カ人類ニ與ヘタ最大ノ教訓ハ之デアル

然ルニ軍備ハ各國間相對的ノモノデアアルカラ若シ國際協定ニ依ツテ各國共同時ニ其軍備ヲ縮少スルコトスルカラハ何レノ國モ安シテ之ヲ爲シ得ルノデアツテ其結果ハ嘗ニ各國民ノ軍事實費負擔ヲ輕減シ得ルノミナラス國際關係ヲ改善シ戰爭發生ノ危險ヲ除クコトヲ得テ著シク國家ノ安全ヲ増スコトニナルノデアアル歐洲大戰ニ苦キ經驗ヲ嘗メタル各國ノ輿論カ戰後眞剣ニ平和ノ確立ヲ希求シ國際協力ニ依ツテ其希望ヲ達成セムト努メツツアルノハ此點ニ目覺メタルカ故デアアル

尤モ人類鬭爭ノ永キ歴史ハ一朝一夕ニシテ各國民ノ腦裏ヨリ消エ去ルモノテハナイ、今ヤ文明諸國ハ正義ニ基ク平和ヲ確保セムカ爲國際聯盟其他ノ國際紛爭解決機關ヲ設ケ他方不戰條約ニ依ツテ戰爭ノ絶滅ヲ期シ此不戰ノ決意ヲ基礎トシテ軍縮ヲ促進セシムルニ最善ヲ盡シツツアルト共ニ國際政局ニ於ケル現實ノ狀態ヲ無視シテ一足飛ヒニ武備全廢ノ理想ニ到達スルノ事實不可能デアルコトモ認メテ居ル、此際ハ國際關係改善ノ程度ニ伴ヒ漸ヲ趁ウテ進ムノ外ナイノデアアル幸ニシテ世界ノ大勢ハ滿足スヘキ方向ニ向ヒツツアル即チ今世紀ノ初頭海牙平和會議ニ於テ達成シ得サリシコトモ巴里平和會議及華府會議ニ依ツテ成就セラレ數年前華府會議及壽府會議ニテ成ラサリシコトモ今日倫敦會議ニ於テ實現シ得ルニ至ツタノ

テアル

本日倫敦ニ於テ開印セラルル條約カ少クトモ其有効期間内日英米三國間ニハ一切ノ艦種ニ付テ建造競争ヲ全ク抑止シ而モ各自ノ安全感ヲ著シク昂メ國民ノ負擔ヲ輕減スルニ成功シタコトハ世界各國民共通ノ崇高ナル目的ニ向ツテ大ナル一步ヲ進メ得タモノテアル殊ニ若シ會議決裂ノ場合必然生スヘキ國際關係ノ惡化各國民負擔ノ加重國際平和協力ノ精神ニ加ヘラルル重大ナル打撃等諸般ノ好マシカラサル結果ニ想到セハ特ニ此感ヲ深クスルノテアル

倫敦條約ハ參加各國全權カ苦心慘憺タル努力ノ結晶ヲアツテ此等全權カ世界各國民ヨリ深キ感謝ヲ贏チ得ヘキハ當然デアルト共ニ他方吾人ハ此會議ヲシテ玆ニ至ラシメタルハ此等各國民間ニ存スル平和及協力ノ精神ノ勝利ヲアルコトヲ認メサルヲ得ナイノテアル

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(右譯文)

“The best safeguard for peace is adequate armament” is an old saying perhaps occasionally believed in even by pacifists. Such an idea has long swayed the thoughts of the peoples of the world. But the existence of powerful armaments in one country gives rise to suspicion, fear and animosity in other countries which will naturally increase their armaments in turn. There will then ensue a rivalry among the nations which will exacerbate their relations and more often than not lead to war. Thus swollen armaments, instead of bringing peace to the nations, will weaken their security and will prove the source of all manner of misfortune to them. That is the one great lesson which the World War gave to humanity.

On the other hand, armament is a relative thing, so that nations can with perfect safety reduce their armaments by agreement. The result would prove not only an alleviation of their burdens, but an increased security for them all; for the reduction of their armaments will be followed by an improvement in their mutual relations. The bitter experience of the World War has aroused the peoples of the world to a consciousness of this plain truth. The long history of human struggle, however, dies very hard. The civilized nations of the world are doing their utmost to establish peace

on the basis of justice, by organizing the League of Nations and other organs for the peaceful settlement of international conflicts; by outlawing war by the Pact of Paris; and by promoting the work of general disarmament. But it is generally admitted that it is impossible to disregard the present international situation and to attempt, at one bound, to effect the total abolition of armaments. We must rest satisfied with such gradual progress as improved relations between the nations of the globe may render possible. The world is happily moving in the right direction. What was found impossible of achievement at the Hague Peace Conference was accomplished at Paris and Washington. What Washington and Geneva left undone has now been realized in London.

The Treaty which is being signed today in London will put an end to all competition in naval construction. It will greatly increase the sense of security among the nations concerned, while it will lessen in a marked degree their respective burdens. The success of the Conference marks a long and assured step towards the lofty ideal common to all the nations of the world. The results achieved in London are the more welcome when we picture to ourselves what would have been the consequences of a failure,—the aggravation of international relations, the increase of national burdens, and the great blow that would have been dealt to the spirit of peaceful co-operation among the nations.

The Treaty of London is a monument to the great labour and pains which the Delegates of the several Powers expend on the task before them. They have earned that deep gratitude which is being shown to them by the whole world. Moreover, the Treaty represents a signal victory for that spirit of peace and co-operation which subsists among the peoples of the globe.

(14) 昭和五年四月二十五日第五十八回帝國議會ニ於ケル
濱口總理大臣ノ演說

、、、、、外交問題ニ關シテハ先ツ倫敦海軍會議ニ付テ御報告ヲ致シタイト思ヒマス本年一月二十一日以來倫敦ニ於テ開催中デアリマシタ日英米佛伊五國間ノ海軍會議ハ三箇月ニ互ル關係各國全權委員ノ熱心ナル努力ニ依リマシテ本月二十三日條約ノ調印ヲ了シタノデアリマス元來帝國政府ハ他國ヲ脅威セス又他國ヨリ脅威ヲ受ケサル國防上必要ノ兵力量ヲ保有スル方針ヲ以テ終始協議ヲ進メ來リマシタ次第デアリマス幸ニ意見ノ一致ヲ見マシテ茲ニ協定カ成立スルコトト相成リ内ハ國民ノ負擔ヲ輕減スルト共ニ外ハ關係各國間ノ親交ヲ増進シ世界平和ノ確保ニ貢獻スルコトヲ得ルニ至リマシタコトハ洵ニ慶賀ニ堪ヘサル所デアリマス

(15) 昭和五年四月二十五日第五十八回帝國議會ニ於ケル
幣原外務大臣ノ演說

倫敦海軍會議ノ經過ニ付キマシテハ未タ詳細ニ説明シ得ヘキ時機ニ達シマセヌケレトモ、同會議カ去ル一月二十一日開會以來絶大ナル努力ヲ續ケ、遂ニ關係列國相互ノ讓歩ト友好的協調トニ依ツテ本月二十二日條約ノ調印ヲ了スルコトニナリマシタノハ、苟モ國際間ノ平和親善ヲ念トスル者ノ衷心ヨリ歡迎セサルヲ得ナイ所デアルト信シマス、殊ニ補助艦ノ造艦競争ヲ阻止スヘキ協定ニ至ツテハ、日英米三大海軍國カ華盛頓會議以來八年有餘ニ互ツテ失敗ニ失敗ヲ重ネタル末、今回漸ク萬難ヲ排シテ協定ヲ遂クルコトヲ得マシタル事實ハ、其條文ノ書キ顯ハス法律上ノ效果ヨリモ遙ニ重要ナル意義ヲ有スルモノデアリマス、凡ソ國際關係ニ於テ造艦競争程有害無益ナルモノハアリマセヌ、孰レノ當事者ニ取ツテモ之カ爲自國ノ國防上ニ於キマシテ、毫モ安全感ヲ増ササルノミナラス、却テ徒ラニ危惧ノ念ヲ深クスルハカリデアリマス、世界大戰前ノ歴史ハ明瞭ニ此傾向ヲ示シテ居ル、倫敦條約ハ少クトモ其有效期間内ニハ一切ノ造艦競争ヲ阻止スルモノデアリマシテ、其好結果ハ當ニ國民負擔ノ輕減ト云フカ如キ物質的方面ニ止マラス、國際關係ニ及ホス精神的影响ニ於テ更ニ大ナルモノカアルコトハ疑ヒヲ容レマセヌ

倫敦條約ハ千九百三十六年末迄ノ事態ヲ律セムトスルモノデアリマシテ、其以後ノ各國ノ兵力量ハ別ニ千九百三十五年ニ開カルヘキ會議ニ於キマシテ協議決定セラルルコトニナツタノデアリマス、今回ノ協定ニ依リマスレハ、主力艦ニ付キマシテハ各國共ニ千九百三十六年ノ末迄一切華盛頓條約ノ規定スル代換建造ニ着手スルノ權利ヲ行使セサルノミナラス、英國ハ五隻、亞米利加ハ三隻、日本ハ一隻ヲ夫々處分スルコトニ決シタノデアリマス、又補助艦ニ付テハ我國ノ保有量ハ全體ニ於テ現有量ヨリモ差引五萬餘噸ヲ減スルコトニナリ、而モ千九百三十五年ノ會議ノ際、我國ノ現實ニ保有スヘキ兵力量ハ八吋砲巡洋艦ニ於テモ、又補助艦ノ總括的噸數ニ於テモ、我本來ノ要求ト殆ト差異カアリマセヌ、唯潛水艦ノ保有

量ハ我主張セル噸數ヨリ著クシ縮少サレマシタケレトモ、之トテモ英米兩國トノ均勢ハ完全ニ保タレ、又英米共ニ其當初ヨリ主張スル潛水艦全廢論ヲ拋棄シタノテアリマス

斯カル協定ノ結果、我國ニ取リマシテ軍事費ノ節約ハ實現サレ得ラルコトニナリ、而モ少クトモ其協定期間内ニ於キマシテハ國防ノ安固ハ十分ニ保障セラレテ居ルモノト信シマス、若シ千九百三十六年末迄ノ間ニ於テ我國ノ保有スヘキ兵力量ヲ以テシテハ到底國防ノ安固ヲ期シ得ラレナイト云フカ如キ批評カアリマスルナラハ、餘リニ極端ナル悲觀說テアルト申サナクレハナリマセヌ、政府ハ軍事専門家ノ意見ヲモ十分ニ斟酌シ、確固タル信念ヲ以テ此條約ニ加入スルノ決心ヲ探ツタノテアリマス、或ハ千九百三十七年一月以降我國ノ保有スヘキ兵力量モ結局次回ノ會議ニ於テ今回ノ協定同様ノ制限ヲ受ケルテアラウ、其場合ニハ我國防上重大ナル缺陷ヲ生セサルヲ得ナイト云フ議論モアリマセウ、然シナカラ世界ノ形勢ハ絶エス變遷シツツアリマシテ、軍事上ノ施設ニ於テモ、我々ノ今年特ニ重キヲ置クモノハ必スシモ明年モ同様ノ價值ヲ持ツテ居ルモノトハ限リマセヌ、又目下餘リ必要ノ認メラレナイモノテモ、他日必要缺クヘカラサルモノナルコトカアリ得ルノテアリマス、從テ千九百三十五年ノ會議ニ當ツテハ我國ハ其當時ノ形勢ニ應ジテ、如何ナル要求ヲモ主張シ得ル自由ノ立場ヲ留保シナケレハナリマセヌ、而シテ之ヲ主張スル自由ハ條約ノ明文ヲ以テ承認サレテ居リマス、此際我々トシテ倫敦條約カ恰モ未來永遠ニ我國家ノ行動ヲ束縛スルモノノ如キ虞ヲ抱キ、此推測ノ下ニ餘リニ神經過敏ナル態度ヲ示ス様ナコトカアリマシテハ、如何ニモ自信アル國民ノ態度ニ相應ハシカラヌコトテアルト申サナケレハナリマセヌ

ノ便法ヲ協定致シタノテアリマス

以上ノ經過ニ徴シマスルナラハ、今回ノ倫敦條約ノ規定中ニハ我々カ交渉ノ決裂ヲ賭シテモ爭ハナケレハナラヌ程ノモノカナイノテアリマシテ、我々トシテハ及フ限リ列國ト協力シテ會議ノ成功ヲ圖ルヘキ立場ニ在ツタコトハ必ス公平ナル觀察ノ一致スル所テアルト考ヘマス、世間テハ我國カ他國ノ壓迫ニ依テ協定ヲ強ヒラレタモノテアルト云フカ如キ、全ク事實ノ真相ニ無理解ナル臆說モアルヤウニ傳ヘラレテ居リマス、私ハ茲ニ之ニ對シテ辯駁ヲ加ヘル程ノ價值ヲ認メマセヌ、我々ハ外交上ノ見地カラモ、又國防ノ基礎タルヘキ兵力、財政經濟ノ能力、其他ノ國力ニ關スル見地カラモ、有ラユル利害得失ヲ比較攻究シタル結果、此度ノ協定ニ參加スルコトカ帝國ノ爲斷然得策ナリト確信致シタノテアリマス、終リニ我全權委員竝ニ其隨員諸氏カ過去數ヶ月間、會議ノ劇務ト難局トニ當ツテ苦心慘憺、以テ最善ノ努力ヲ盡サレタコトハ顯著ナル事實デアリマシテ、我々ノ毫ニ感謝ニ堪ヘサル所デアリマス

(右譯文)

Turning to the subject of naval disarmament, I do not feel myself at liberty for the present to relate at any great length the proceedings of the London Conference. I am, however, happy to announce that the Conference has at last come to a successful conclusion, after constant and most exacting labours ever since its opening on the 21st of January, and through mutual concessions and friendly co-operation on the part of all the participating Powers. A treaty of historic importance was signed on the 22nd of this month. It should be hailed with satisfaction by all those who have at heart the advancement of peace and friendship among the nations. Particular attention is invited to the agreement arrived at for the prevention of building competition in auxiliary craft Japan, England and America, after repeated failures for more than eight years since the Washington Conference, have finally succeeded in composing all the differences which had so far stood in the way of such an agreement. This fact, in itself, has a significance far beyond the legal effects indicated in the provisions of the Treaty. In the mutual relations of nations, nothing can be more harmful or more uncalled for than a competition in naval construction. It is calculated to aggravate fear and uneasiness, instead of strengthening the confidence of any party in the race in its national security. The history of the days preceding the World War bears striking testimony to this tendency. The London Treaty puts an end to all competition in naval construction for the duration of its validity. The value of the Treaty lies, not only in such material advantages as the

lessening of national burdens, but more especially in the moral influence it is bound to exercise upon international relations.

The Treaty is intended to regulate the conditions to prevail until the end of 1936. It is made clear that the amount of naval strength to be allowed to each Power after that period shall be discussed and determined at a conference to be held in 1935. In respect of capital ships, the Treaty stipulates that until the end of 1936, the signatories shall not exercise their right to lay down the keels of replacement tonnage provided for by the Washington Treaty; and, further, that the British Commonwealth of Nations shall dispose of five capital ships, the United States of three, and Japan of one. Regarding auxiliary craft, the total amount of tonnage to be possessed by Japan will be less by approximately fifty thousand tons than her existing strength. And yet the strength which we shall actually retain at the date of the Conference of 1935 does not materially differ from that which we originally proposed, alike in the eight-inch gun cruiser class and in the total tonnage of auxiliary craft. It is true that the tonnage of submarines has been reduced considerably below the figure we proposed for ourselves, but our strength in this category will maintain strict parity with that of the British Commonwealth and the United States, both of which have abandoned their original demand for the total abolition of submarines.

These arrangements have now made it possible for us to economize in our naval expenditure, while the safety of our national defense is adequately assured for the duration of the Treaty. None but extreme pessimists could possibly contend that the amount of strength to be allotted to Japan during the period ending in 1936 will prove fatally short of the needs of our national security. Taking fully into consideration the views of naval experts, we have finally adopted with firm conviction the decision to join in the present Treaty.

It may be apprehended that, in regard to the amount of naval strength to be possessed by Japan after January 1937, the next conference might place upon us restrictions similar to those imposed by the present Treaty, involving a serious danger to our national security. It will, however, be conceded that the conditions of the world are constantly changing. What we attach the greatest importance to for the moment in our military equipment may not necessarily retain the same measure of value tomorrow. It is equally possible that what now seems to us of little use may some day become indispensable. It is incumbent upon us, therefore, to reserve to ourselves perfect liberty to present at the

next conference whatever claims may then appear suitable in the given circumstances. That liberty is explicitly provided for in the present Treaty. There is no occasion for the apprehension that the Treaty of London is to bind us hand and foot for all time to come. To show oneself unduly disturbed, under the influence of so mistaken an impression, would be an attitude little worthy of a self-respecting nation.

Furthermore, lest the diminution of auxiliary tonnage might render it difficult for us to maintain our standard of technical skill and ability in the matter of naval construction, we were careful to guard against any such eventualities by securing, after full discussion upon that phase of the matter with the other Powers, a working arrangement authorizing us within certain limits to effect the replacement of ship before the prescribed age limit is reached.

In these circumstances, every fair observer will agree that the provisions of the London Naval Treaty contain nothing to which we ought, even at the risk of a rupture of the negotiations, to have taken exception and that on the contrary, the same and proper course for us to take was to extend our whole-hearted co-operation in order to secure the success of the Conference. It seems that in certain quarters rumours so utterly wide of the truth are circulated as that the agreement was forced upon us by other Powers. I need hardly point out the absurdity of such reports. Having carefully weighed all considerations, not only of foreign policy, but also of naval, financial, economic and all the other factors of national strength, upon which the security of a nation must, in the final analysis, depend, we were brought to the conclusion that, in accepting the terms of the agreement arrived at, we would decidedly be serving the real interest of this Empire.

Before concluding my remarks, I may be permitted to express our profound appreciation of the loyalty and devotion with which the representatives of this country and all the members of the Delegation have for several months past successfully faced the most difficult situations and the tremendous pressure of work involved in the London Conference.

(16) 昭和五年五月二十日地方長官會議ニ於ケル濱口總理大臣ノ訓示

(東京朝日新聞ニ據ル)

重要政策ホボ實現

濱口首相ノ訓示

二十日ノ地方長官會議ニオケル濱口首相ノ訓示ハ左ノ通りテアル
軍縮ト關稅協定

御承知ノ如クロンドン條約ノ有効期限ハ千九百三十六年十二月末日テアリマシテ其ノ以後ノ事態ハ千九百三十五年中ニ開催サル可キ會議ニオイテ協議決定セラル可キモノテアリマスソノ際帝國ハ全ク自由ノ立場ニオイテ自己ノ主張ヲナシ得ルモノナルコトハ條約ノ明記スル所テアリカツ關係各國ノ確認スル所テアリマス、要スルニ今回ノ條約ハ内ニハ國家ノ安全ヲ保障スルト共ニ國費ヲ節約シ外ニハ有害無益ナル造船競争ヲ防止シテ國際間ノ和親増進ニ多大ノ貢獻ヲナスモノテアリマシテ關係各國間ノ交讓協調ニヨリ調印ノ運ヒニ立至リマシタコトハ誠ニ慶賀ニ堪ヘサル次第テアリマス、次ニ關稅協定ノ成立ニヨリ日支兩國ハ相互ニソノ重要商品ニ付一定期間ニワタル稅率ノ協定ヲナスコトヲ得タノテアリマスカラ兩國間ノ通商上急激ナル變化ヲ與フルノ恐レヲ防止スルコトカ出來タルノミナラス將來兩國間經濟關係ノ増進ニ寄與スルトコロ僅少ナラサルモノアルコトヲ信スルモノテアリマス

國民負擔ノ輕減

ロンドン海軍條約カ批准ヲ終リイヨイヨ效力ヲ發生スルニ至リタル場合ニオイテ中央財政ニ相當餘裕ノ生スヘキコトハ政府ノ期待スル所テアリマス、ソノ金額ハ今日ノ所イマタ判明致シマセヌケレトモ軍縮ノ主要ナル目的カ國民負擔ノ輕減ニアルコトニ鑑ミ政府ハソノ餘裕ヲ主トシテ減稅ニ充當スル方針テアリマス、特ニ我財界ノ現狀ニ照シ國民負擔ヲ輕減スルコトカソノモットモ急務ナルヲ感スル次第テアリマス、各位ニオイテモ地方稅ニ關スル限リコノ點ニ深ク留意セラレ政府ノ方針ニ則リテ將來地方財政ヲ案排セラレル様切望スル次第テアリマス

(17) 昭和五年五月二十日地方長官會議ニ於ケル財部海軍大臣ノ訓示

(東京朝日新聞ニ據ル)

御承知ノ通り今回「ロンドン」條約モ調印サレマシタノテ海軍ノ内容充實特ニ人的要素充足ニ依リ國防ノ重責ヲ果スノ用イヨイヨ切實ヲ加フルヲ痛感シタイマスシカモ此ノ目的達成ノ爲必要ナ手段ハ國民全般ノ國防觀念ノ普及理解テアリ換言スレハ帝國國情ニ立脚シ平戰兩時ニ於ケル海軍ノ重大ナル任務ニ對スル了解テアリ、此ノ事ニ關シテハ海軍當局トシテハ不斷特ニ海軍記念日其ノ他ノ好機會ニ於テ極力努メテハ居リマスカ希ハクハ一般在郷軍人及短期現役ヲ了シタル小學校教員等ヲ適當ニ指導セラレアラユル手段ヲ以テ海國日本ノ立場ヲ青少年ノ腦裏ニ印シ國防ノ一日モユルカセニスルヲ許ササルヲ理解セシメラレンコトヲ望ミマス

(18) 昭和五年十月二日倫敦海軍條約御批准ニ際シテノ
濱口總理大臣ノ聲明

國際間ノ親善ヲ圖リ世界ノ平和ヲ確立スルコトハ帝國外交ノ渝ハラサル方針ヲアツテ又國民舉ツテ翹望スル所テアルト信スル此崇高ナル事業ニ多大ノ貢獻ヲ爲スヘキ「ロンドン」海軍條約カ本日ヲ以テ御批准アラセラレタルコトハ國家ノ爲誠ニ祝喜ニ堪ヘサル所テアル本條約カ其目的タル競争の軍備ニ伴フ危險ヲ防止シ且國民負擔ノ輕減ヲ圖ルモノタルコトハ言ヲ俟タサル所ナルモ吾人カ特ニ祝意ヲ表スル所以ノモノハ其ノ道德的效果ノ重大ナルコトニアルノテアル即チ本條約ノ成立ハ列強間ノ猜疑不安ノ念ヲ一掃シ其ノ相互信頼ヲ増進セシメ得ルノミナラス更ニ進シテハ一層效果アル平和の事業ノ完成ヲ企圖シ得ヘシト信スルカ爲テアル本條約ハ要スルニ關係各國カ交讓妥協ノ精神ヲ發揮シテ之レカ協定ニ成功シタルモノテアル然ル上ハ我々ハ誠心誠意其ノ目的遂行ニ努メ國防ノ安固ヲ期スルト共ニ更ニ其ノ精神ヲ擴充シ外ハ世界平和ノ確立ニ貢獻シ内ハ國民負擔ノ輕減ヲ實行セムコトヲ期スヘキテアル

回顧スレハ昨秋英國政府ヨリ海軍々縮會議開催ノ招請ヲ受ケテヨリ茲ニ約一年其ノ間幾多ノ難關ニ遭遇シタルモ克ク之ヲ突破シテ終ニ今日御批准ヲ仰クヲ得ルニ至リタルハ畢竟國民一致ノ後援支持ニ依ルモノテアツテ自分ハ此機會ニ於テ深ク感謝ノ誠意ヲ表スル次第テアル唯回訓前後ノ事情ニ關聯シテ世上ノ物議ヲ醸スニ至リタルハ其ノ原因ノ如何ヲ問ハス當時海軍ノ事務ヲ管理シタル自分トシテ顧ミテ遺憾ニ思フ何レニスルモ關係諸官ノ終始一方ナラサル苦心努力ハ全ク國ヲ思フノ至誠ニ出テタルモノトシテ自分ノ深ク多トスル所テアル

本條約ハ日米已ニ批准ヲ了シ英國亦日ナラスシテ其ノ手續ヲ完了スヘク隨テ條約ノ效力ヲ發生スル亦遠キニアラサルヘシ此ノ如クシテ世界ノ平和ト人類ノ進歩ニ一新紀元ヲ劃スルコトヲ得ルハ天下萬衆ト共ニ慶賀シテ已マサル所テアル

(19) 「倫敦海軍條約御批准ニ際シテ」 昭和五年十月二日 幣原外務大臣談

今般愈々倫敦海軍條約ニ御批准ヲ得マシタコトハ帝國ノ爲寔ニ慶賀ニ堪ヘマセヌ

本條約ノ主眼トスル所ハ締約各國何レモ其保有スル海軍力ヲ縮少制限シ内ハ國防ノ安固ヲ害フコトナク國民負擔ノ輕減ヲ圖リ外ハ各國相互間製艦競争ヲ廢シテ無用ノ危惧ヲ除キ相信シ相親ムノ勢ヲ醸成シテ世界ノ平和ヲ鞏固ニセムトスルニ在ルノテアリマス而シテ此高遠ナル目的ノ達成ハ我國民ノ誠實ニ熱望スル所テアリマシテ此國民の熱望實現ノ爲我國ハ曩ニ華府條約ノ成立ニ貢獻シ今般亦倫敦海軍會議ノ成功ニ努力シタノテアリマス殊ニ倫敦海軍條約ハ日英米三國ノ關スル限リ華府條約ノ制限シ得サリシ補助艦制限ヲモ含ミ一切ノ艦種ニ互ツテ建造競争ヲ抑止スルコトニ成功シタモノテアツテ人類進歩ノ歴史ニ一新紀元ヲ劃シタモノテアリマス

本條約直接ノ利益ハ多言ヲ要セサルモ特ニ重要ナル點ハ本條約カ國際的ニ友誼親善ノ念ヲ著シク増進シ平和ノ雰圍氣ヲ濃厚ナラシメタル精神的效果ヲアツテ之ニ依リ不戰條約ノ精神モ現實ニ強メラレタノテアリマス此精神的效果カ土臺トナツテ將來國際關係カ更ニ良好ニ向フナラハ本條約ノ眞價カ愈々發揮サレルコトニナリマセウ故ニ當局モ國民モ充分ノ了解ト自覺トヲ以テ益々列國トノ友誼ヲ進メルコトニ努力シ本條約ノ成立ヲ眞ニ有意義ナラシムルコトハ其重大ナル責務ト考ヘルノテアリマス

(右譯文)

INTERVIEW GIVEN TO THE PRESS BY BARON SHIDEHARA, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE LONDON NAVAL TREATY.

October 2nd, 1930.

It is a matter for gratification in the interest of the Empire that the Imperial ratification has been accorded to

the London Naval Treaty.

The principal purpose of the Treaty is that the Powers that are parties thereto shall reduce and limit the naval armaments in their possession with the two-fold result of internally lightening the burdens on the various peoples without jeopardizing the security of their national defence, and externally fostering the growth of trust and intimacy between them by putting a stop to international naval competition, thereby consolidating the foundations of world peace.

The attainment of this lofty object has been ardently desired by the Japanese people. Japan contributed to the conclusion of the Washington Treaty and has done her utmost for the success of the London Naval Conference wholly for the realization of this national desire. The London Naval Treaty, in particular, involves, as regards Japan, the United States and Great Britain, the reductions in auxiliary craft which the Washington Treaty failed to achieve and embodies the stoppage of competition in the further construction of ships of all categories, thus making a new epoch in the history of human progress.

It is hardly necessary to expatiate upon the benefits of the Treaty, but what may be specially stressed is its moral effect, in that it has enhanced the sentiments of general friendship and concord and has made more profound the atmosphere of international peace, and this has contributed greatly to strengthen the spirit of the Treaty for the Renunciation of War. If international relations should be still further improved as a consequence of this moral result, the real value of the Treaty will be increasingly evident. For this reason, I consider it incumbent upon the Government and people to exert themselves more than ever to cultivate friendship with the Powers, with full understanding and cognizance of the effect of the compact, and to invest with the highest significance the conclusion of this Treaty.

(20) 濱口總理大臣ノ倫敦海軍條約祝賀放送演説

(昭和五年十月二十七日夜)

茲ニ倫敦海軍條約ノ御批准書寄託ニ方ツテ聊カ所感ヲ申シ述ヘ度イト思フノテアリマス

大正十年カラ同十一年ニ亙ツテ開催セラレタル華盛頓會議ノ結果ハ戰爭ノ爲ニ疲弊シテ居ル所ノ世界ノ各國ニ對シテ充分ノ休養ヲ與フルニ足ラナカツタノミナラス會議ノ當時ニ於テハ豫想セラレナカツタ所ノ大巡洋艦ノ建造競争カ其ノ後間モナク開始セララルルニ至ツタノテアリマス。備砲ニ於テモ、速力ニ於テモ、裝甲ニ於テモ非常ナル威力ヲ有スル大巡洋艦ハ各國ノ海軍力ヲ比較スル上ニ於テ極メテ重要ナル要素トナリマシタルカ故ニ此ノ種艦船ノ建造競争ハ漸ク世人ノ注意ヲ惹キマシテ之ニ伴フ所ノ危険ト困難トハ時ヲ經ルト共ニ益々明瞭ニ意識セララルルニ至ツタノテアリマス。此ノ難問題ヲ解決センカ爲メ各國ハ努力ヲ怠ラナカツタノテアリマスルカ其ノ努力ハ何ノ效果モナク主要海軍國ハ策ノ施ス所ヲ知ラスシテ結局華盛頓條約ニ依テ一時抑制セラレタル無益ナル建艦競争ト之ニ伴フ所ノ過重ナル國民負擔トヲ再ヒ繰リ返スノ外ナキ状態ニ陥ラントシツツアツタノテアリマス。然ルニ幸ニシテ此ノ危険ハ今回ノ倫敦會議ニ於テ全ク一掃セラレタノテアリマス。顧ミレハ昭和二年ノ壽府會議ハ假令成功ハシナカツタトハ言ヘ必シモ無益テハナカツタノテアリマシテ此會議ニ於ケル各國ノ努力カ素地トナリマシテ今回ノ會議ニ於テ日英米三國ノ間ニ一切ノ補助艦ノ建造競争ヲ廢スルノ協定カ成立シタノテアリマス。尙倫敦會議ノ重要ナル收穫トシテハ獨リ補助艦ニ關スル三國間ノ協定ニ止マリマセヌ。即チ軍備縮少ノ高遠ナル目的ノ達成ヲ念トスル日英米佛伊ノ五ヶ國ノ間ニハ華盛頓條約ニ於テ定メラレタル海軍軍備ノ縮少ヲ更ニ徹底セシメ且ツ人道的精神ニ基イテ潛水艦ノ活動ヲ制限スヘキ規定ヲ含ム條約カ作成セラレタノテアリマス

私ハ日本帝國ノ首相トシテ此ノ満足ナル結果ニ對シ聊カタリトモ貢獻スルコトヲ得マシタコトヲ大ナル光榮ト感スルモノテアリマス而シテ此ノ新條約カ世界ノ人心ニ及ス所ノ精神的效果ハ蓋シ偉大ナルモノカアルト考ヘルノテアリマス。本條約ハ各國民間相互ノ信頼ト友誼トヲ明確ニ表示スルモノテアリマシテ私ハ今回ノ如キ歴史の大事業カ完成サレマシタコト

ニ對シ關係各國ノ政府並ニ國民ト共ニ衷心ヨリ祝意ヲ表スル次第デアリマス。固ヨリ日本國民トシテハ自國ノ安全ト國際ノ平和トヲ冀フノ外ニ何等他意アルモノテハアリマセヌ

我々ハ更ニ進ンテ今回ノ條約ニ示サレタル軍備縮少ノ精神ヲ一層擴充徹底セシムヘキ最好ノ機運ニ際會セルモノト考ヘルノデアリマス。『ブリアン』『ケロッグ』兩氏ノ提唱ニ係ル不戰條約ハ戰爭ヲ絶對ニ否認シタルモノデアリマスルカ故ニ苟モ此ノ嚴肅ナル約束ニ違反スルモノカアリマスルナラハ其國ハ勿論全世界ヲ敵トスルコトニナルノデアリマス。即チ其場合世界ノ各國ハ侵略セラレタル國ヲ積極的ニ援助スルカ又ハ援助ヲ與ヘナイトシテモ少クトモ不戰條約ニ違反シタル國カ戰爭遂行ノ爲メ他國ノ貿易ヲ妨ケ若ハ交戰國トシテノ權利ヲ行使スルコトヲ傍觀スルモノトハ思ハレナイノデアリマス。斯クノ如キ戰時ニ於ケル各國共助ノ問題ヲ離レマシテモ今日ノ國際關係ニ於テハ善隣ノ精神ト云フモノカ昔日ノ嫉妬猜疑ノ念ニ代ハリツツアルコトヲ十分ニ認ムルコトカ出來ルノデアリマス。近ク開催ノ豫定トナツテ居リマスル國際聯盟軍縮準備委員會モ亦倫敦會議ヲ成功ニ導キタル此ノ精神ノ下ニ行ハレナケレハナラヌト思ヒマス。私ハ將來ニ對スル此等ノ期待カ必スヤ裏切ラレナイト云フコトヲ確信シテ疑ハサルモノデアリマス

倫敦海軍條約ハ人類ノ文明ニ一新紀元ヲ劃シタルモノデアリマス。現在ノ世界ハ列強互ニ相敵視シテ動モスレハ力ニ訴ヘテ迄モ自國ノ利益ヲ開拓セントシタル所謂「冒險時代」ヲ既ニ經過致シマシテ今ヤ各國互ニ相信賴シテ共存共榮ヲ圖ル所ノ「安定時代」ニ到達シテ居ルノデアリマス。今回ノ倫敦海軍條約ハ實ニ此時代ノ大勢ニ順應シテ國際ノ平和親善ノ確立ニ向テ大ナル一步ヲ進メタルモノデアリマスルカ我々ハ今後益々此崇高ナル事業ノ進展ヲ切望シテ已マサルモノデアリマス

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(右譯文)

TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER HAMAGUCHI'S ADDRESS TO BE BROADCAST ON THE
OCCASION OF THE DEPOSIT OF THE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION TO
THE LONDON NAVAL TREATY ON OCTOBER 27, 1930.

The memorable Conference which was held in 1921 and 1922 at Washington failed to give a complete measure of relief to a war-weary world. A totally unexpected competition set in among naval architects in the production of numerous and very formidable cruisers. These vessels were so heavily armed, so swift and so well-protected as to constitute a factor of extreme importance in any comparison of fleets. It was some time before the existence of the problem, and its dangers and difficulties, became apparent. Various efforts were made towards its solution, but they seemed to lead to no result, and the leading naval Powers were rapidly drifting towards an *impasse*, with the prospect before them of a renewal of the wasteful competition and crushing expenditure which had been temporarily arrested at Washington.

This dangerous possibility was averted at London. The assiduous labours exerted in 1927 at Geneva were not without fruit, but paved the way for a welcome measure of disarmament. An understanding was reached between Japan, the British Commonwealth of Nations and the United States to put an end to competitive building in all categories of auxiliary combatant vessels. Nor is that tripartite agreement relating to auxiliary craft the only outstanding feature of the work of the London Conference. A treaty embodying further provisions, designed to reinforce the limitation of naval armaments laid down in the Washington Treaty, and to regulate the activity of submarines in conformity with the dictates of humanity, was elaborated and signed by the five principal Naval powers committed to one and the same noble end.

I feel it a great privilege to have contributed, so far as in me lay, to this happy result. The new Treaty is bound to exercise an immense moral influence on the growing consciousness of mankind. It is a striking demonstration of mutual confidence and goodwill among the nations, and I congratulate the people of all the participating countries on such a signal achievement. I know that nothing is nearer the heart of every thinking Japanese than to enjoy security and to live in peace with the rest of the world.

One cannot but feel that the moment is favourable for a wide extension of the policy of disarmament embodied in this Treaty. Now that the Pact of Paris initiated by Mr. Briand and Mr. Kellogg has definitely outlawed war, it is clear that any breach of that solemn engagement must rally the whole world against the aggressor. Whether other powers came forward to offer active help or not, it is hardly conceivable that they would allow the pledgebreaker to interfere with their trade and to enjoy the other privileges of a lawful belligerent. But, apart from calculations of mutual aid in time of war, may we not believe that a more generous and neighbourly spirit is fast replacing the jealousies and suspicions of the past? Shall we not confidently hope that the deliberations of the Preparatory Committee on Disarmament of the League of Nations, which is to meet this coming month, will be conducted in the same general atmosphere that alone made the success of the London Conference possible? I trust that these expectations for the future will not be betrayed.

The Treaty of London has opened a new chapter in the history of human civilization. We have once for all escaped from what I may call the "pioneer" stage, in which every nation's hand is actually or potentially against every other. We have entered on the sane and friendly "settlement" stage, in which everyone is united to suppress intrusions by anyone on another's sphere. A momentous step forward on the road of international peace and friendship has now been taken. Let it prove a prelude to still greater triumphs for that lofty cause!

(21) 昭和六年一月二十二日第五十九回帝國議會ニ於ケル

幣原總理大臣代理ノ演説

過去一年間ヲ通シテ國際政局上最モ重要ナル出來事ハ倫敦海軍條約ノ締結デアリマス同條約ハ昨年四月二十二日、日英米佛伊ノ五國全權委員ノ間ニ調印ヲ終リ日英米三國ノ關スル限リ批准書全部ノ寄託ヲ了シ舊臘三十一日ヨリ完全ニ其效力ヲ發生スルコトトナツタノデアリマシテ世界三大海軍國ノ協力ニ依リ茲ニ國際平和ニ新ナル保障カ加ハルニ至リマシタコトハ洵ニ慶賀ニ堪ヘヌ所デアリマス

御承知ノ如ク倫敦條約ハ大正十一年ノ華府條約ト相待ツテ外ハ製艦競争ニ伴フ危險ヲ防止シ以テ主要海軍國間ノ友好關係ニ新生面ヲ開クト共ニ内ハ國費ヲ輕減シ以テ民力ノ休養ニ資スル所尠カラサルモノアルコトハ今更申ス迄モアリマセヌ此條約ノ物質的竝ニ精神的效果ヲ永ク維持シ更ニ進ンテ之カ擴充ヲ圖ルコトハ關係列國ノ重要ナル責務デアリマシテ將來ニ對スル全世界ノ希望モ亦繫ツテ此點ニ存スルモノト信シマス

猶ホ政府ハ民力ノ涵養ヲ圖ルノ急務ナルヲ認メマシテ海軍條約ノ成立ニ伴ヒ豫ネテ軍艦建造ノ爲ニ留保セラレタル財源ノ内ヨリ昭和六年度以降昭和十一年度ニ至ル迄初年度九百餘萬圓、平年度約二千五百萬圓ノ減稅ヲ行フコトニ定メタノデアリマス

(22) 昭和六年一月二十二日第五十九回帝國議會ニ於ケル
幣原外務大臣ノ演説

過去一年間ニ於テ我對外關係ニ最重要ナル影響ヲ及ホシタル出來事ハ「ロンドン」海軍條約ノ締結デアリマス。同條約ハ昨年十月二十七日「アイルランド」自由國ヲ除クノ外全英聯盟ノ各邦並ニ日米兩國ノ批准書寄託ヲ了シ、十二月三十一日ニハ「アイルランド」自由國ノ批准書モ寄託サレシタカラ、日英米ノ關スル限リハ愈々効力ヲ發生スルコトトナツタノデアリマス。其全文ハ既ニ公布セラレ、又各條項ノ内容ニ付テハ前議會ニ於テ仔細ニ論議サレシタカラ、茲ニハ繰返ヘシマセヌ。唯同條約ノ齎ラシタル精神的效果ニ至ツテハ一言附加ヘタイコトカアリマス。「ロンドン」條約ハ補助艦ニ關シテ近年漸ク主要海軍國間ニ萌シツツアリタル造艦競争ノ勢ヲ絶チ、「ワシントン」會議以來各國ノ政治家ヲ悩マシタル懸案ヲ一舉ニシテ解決シタノデアリマスカラ、其成立カ國際政局ノ安定ノ爲メ如何ニ重大ナル意義ヲ有スルカハ申迄モアリマセヌ。又現ニ之カ爲メ關係列國ノ間ニ各般ノ方面ニ互ツテ著シク相互ノ信頼同情ヲ深ウスルニ至ツタコトモ、内外ノ輿論ト不斷ノ接觸ヲ有ツ者ノ一樣ニ感スル事實デアルト信シマス。此結果ハ昭和十年ヲ以テ更ニ開カルヘキ海軍會議ノ事業ニ良好ナル影響ヲ與ヘルモノデアリマシテ、世界ノ平和進歩ハ結局斯カル人心ノ道德的自覺ニ依ルノ外ナイノデアリマス

(右譯文)

The event which has exercised the most decisive influence upon our foreign relations during the last twelve months was the conclusion of the London Naval Treaty. The ratifications of that Treaty were duly deposited on October 27 last by Japan, the United States and all the Members of the British Commonwealth of Nations with the excep-

tion of the Irish Free State. On December 31, the Irish Free State having also effected the same procedure, the Treaty came into force as between Japan, the United States and the British Empire. Its full text was then officially published, and the merits of its various features were discussed at great length during the last session of the Diet, so that no repetition of those discussions will now be needed. I desire, however, to say a few words on the moral effect produced by the new agreement. It is indeed impossible to over-estimate the significance of the part which the London Treaty has played in stabilizing the international situation. It put an end to the possibility of a competition among these three great naval Powers in auxiliary craft, of which ominous signs had been looming on the horizon for some years past. It settled once for all a tangled problem which had taxed the highest statecraft since the days of the Washington Conference. It inspired in a marked degree a sense of mutual trust and helpfulness between the participating Powers in all phases of their intercourse,—a fact which will without a doubt be readily appreciated by all those who keep in touch with the trend of public opinion at home and abroad. This fortunate result cannot fail to facilitate the work of the next Naval Conference which is to meet in 1935. Upon a general diffusion of this sort of moral consciousness among mankind must depend, in the final analysis, the peace and progress of the world.