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constitute an indispensable postulate for the stability of East Asia. It is most desirous that she should continue to enhance her international prestige and promote her friendly relations with her neighbours. In other words, best efforts must be put forth for the readjustment of the relationships between Japan, Manchoukuo and China on the one hand and to the proper adjustment of the relations between Japan, Manchoukuo and the Soviet Union on the other.

As for the relations between Japan, Manchoukuo and China, though some improvements have been effected, an urgent necessity is felt to regulate further the tripartite relations and put them upon a normal footing so as to strengthen the foundations of the peace of East Asia. The Japanese Government have, therefore, formulated after careful deliberations a definite programme for their policy towards China. This programme consists mainly of the following three points.

The first point is concerned with the basic readjustment of the Sino-Japanese relations, by which we aim to bring about the cessation by China of all unfriendly acts and measures, such as have been hitherto adopted. In fact, what we want is not only such a negative attitude on the part of China but her active and effective collaboration with Japan. Antagonism between Japan and China, which obviously works to the disadvantage of both, is a thing intolerable from the larger viewpoint of East Asia. It would be most regrettable should China resort to unfriendly actions or to her habitual policy of playing off a third Power against this country, thus undermining the stability of East Asia. On the other hand, if she should come to a full realization of this point we would, of course, be ready to extend to her our moral and material support for her advancement. Taking a long view of the situation we have remained patient and

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forebearing, inviting China's self-reflection and her realization of her own responsibilities in East Asia and waiting for a change in her policy towards our country. It is within the past year or so that China has shown her willingness to improve the Sino-Japanese relations. At the last session of the Diet we declared our policy of non-aggression and non-menace towards the neighbouring countries, and set out to regularize the relations between Japan and China and to readjust the mutual interests of the two countries. Nevertheless, I am sorry that our endeavours in this direction have not brought forth fully satisfactory results so far.

The rehabilitation of the Sino-Japanese relations must necessarily be attended by the regularization of the relations between Manchoukuo and China, because in North China particularly the interests of these two countries and of Japan are directly and closely bound up. Owing to the fact that the Chinese Government has not recognized Manchoukuo which is contiguous with North China, and also to the singular local circumstances that have prevailed in North China itself for long years, a situation arose in that region last year, which appeared disquieting for some time. More recently, however, the tension has been considerably relaxed through the establishment of the