

IV - 69 - 4. "Japanese Demands French Submission To Passage of Troops"
South China Morning Post, September 26, 1940.

JAPANESE DEMANDS

FRENCH SUBMISSION TO PASSAGE OF TROOPS

TOKYO ULTIMATUM TO EXPIRE TO-MORROW NIGHT

EVACUATION OF HANOI

The Japanese are known to have presented new demands to the French Indo-China Government for military bases which are alleged to be outside the scope of the Vichy agreement and regarded as unnecessary solely for Japan's campaign against China. The demands are in the form of an ultimatum which is believed to expire on Sunday at midnight.

The Japanese evacuation of Hanoi began yesterday morning. Four hundred Japanese civilians have been ordered to evacuate Hanoi for Haiphong.

The Japanese Mission in Hanoi announced that they were leaving and Major-General Nishihara, Chief of the Japanese Inspectorate, called on Admiral Decoux, French Governor-General, to say farewell.

Other reports say that the French are ready to call the Japanese bluff, adding that the Japanese Mission members are quibbling among themselves, allegedly because Tokyo is not yet supporting any show of force.

A Reuter message says that the French Foreign Minister at Vichy declared that France is accepting the Japanese demands for the passage of troops through Indo-China.

The French Foreign Minister, Domet reports, has rejected Thailand's demands for the recovery of territory in Indo-China. Chinese allege that the Japanese are instigating Thailand to invade French Indo-China.

A momentous meeting of Japan's highest Cabinet Ministers and chiefs of the forces held at the Imperial Palace in the presence of the Emperor on Thursday has attracted attention.

Shanghai, Sept. 20.

It has been authoritatively stated that the new Japanese demands on Indo-China are in the form of an ultimatum which is believed to expire on Sunday at midnight. The general impression is that the demands deal mainly with the granting of permanent naval and air bases. Some authoritative quarters believe the Japanese demand for the passage of troops is a subterfuge covering the primary desire to obtain bases.

Havas reports from Hanoi said the Japanese evacuation began this morning. The report said Admiral Decoux is making available every facility to aid the evacuees "although there is no reason for evacuation."—*United Press*.

Delicate Situation

Haiphong, Sept. 20.

The French authorities officially state that the Indo-China negotiations have reached a "delicate" stage.

It is understood that the Japanese have now presented demands for bases which are alleged to be outside the scope of the Vichy agreement and regarded as unnecessary solely for Japan's campaign against China.

almost immediately strike at the East Indies before the American embargoes can be decisively effective. It is understood that Washington's inactivity concerning Indo-China has convinced the Japanese that they have nothing except embargoes to fear in the event of an invasion of the East Indies.—*United Press*.

Tokyo Will Decide

Hanoi, Sept. 20.

General Nishihara, leader of the Japanese mission, in a Press interview this afternoon declared that the Japanese evacuation did not mean that the real crisis had now been reached as the situation might grow worse. Asked what would be Japan's attitude if the French rejected the demands he said that only Tokyo could decide.

General Nishihara plans to leave for Haiphong to-day and for Tokyo if negotiations take a turn for the worse.

"The French Colony and Government has been taking a delaying attitude since the Tokyo agreement was signed three weeks ago," he declared. He denied that the new demands were outside the scope of the Tokyo agreement. The mission

Japanese nationals throughout Indo-China are ostentatiously gathered, ready to evacuate.

A special train is leaving Hanoi for Haiphong to-day carrying only Japanese civilians, but a general order for evacuation has not been given.

A Japanese Army spokesman says: "We are still optimistic of a successful conclusion to the negotiations which are continuing."—*Reuter*.

Farewell With Decoux

Hanoi, Sept. 20.

The situation is considered critical after the Japanese Mission announced they were leaving and Major General Nishihara called on Admiral Decoux to say farewell.

Four hundred Japanese civilians have been ordered to evacuate to-day by a special train to Haiphong where three Japanese ships are waiting. About four and half tons of Japanese baggage left here for Haiphong to-night.

Informed quarters here, however, believe the French are calling the Japanese bluff.

It is also understood that the Japanese Mission members are quibbling among themselves, allegedly because Tokyo is not yet supporting any show of force, for which reason the Mission is puzzled what to do next.—*United Press*.

Nishihara's Statement

Hanoi, Sept. 20.

Japanese civilians began evacuating Hanoi this morning when hundreds went to Haiphong by special train in order to board a Japanese ship there. The Japanese consular staff and members of the inspectorate are expected to follow.

General Nishihara told pressmen that when he was convinced there was no hope for an amicable conclusion of the negotiations he would leave French territory.

"Then you may say the crisis has been reached," he declared. He said that if he left Indo-China only the Japanese Government could say what would happen.—*Reuter*.

Shanghai Impressions

Shanghai, Sept. 20.

Authoritative reports from Tokyo say Japan is prepared for a major crisis in Japanese-American relations as a result of the Indo-China developments, but they are confident that Indo-China will at the last minute accept the ultimatum. In view of Mr. Hull's statement, however, they anticipate that the American retaliation will probably be stiff embargoes. It is believed that the Imperial conference at Tokyo irrevocably decided on an immediate push southward, including the East Indies in an attempt to force America to lift the embargoes in return for East Indies tin and rubber.

Authoritative circles take the view that in view of M. Baudoin's revelation of Washington's failure to promise definite support to Indo-China, the French will probably announce on Sunday the acceptance of the Japanese demands. It is believed that the Japanese objective is naval bases from which they will

had adhered strictly to the Tokyo-Vichy terms.

Questioned regarding Mr. Hull's latest statement General Nishihara said the negotiations did not threaten Indo-China's status quo or integrity and described the Franco-Japanese relationship as similar to American co-operation with Britain. He emphasised that Japanese feelings for the French were exceptionally friendly.

Japanese left for Haiphong by a special train to-day, singing the National Anthem and shouting "Banzai!" while Annamites and French looked on. The confident attitude of the Japanese was exemplified by the members of the mission tipping the hotel servants with yen, saying they would be able to use them.—*United Press*.

RAILWAY DISRUPTION

Self-Defensive Measures By Chungking Government

Chungking, Sept. 19.

A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the Kunming-Hokow section of the Yunnan French Indo-China Railway is now under control of the Chinese Yunnan Railway Garrison Headquarters, but the railway staff is still carrying on.

The spokesman reiterated that the dynamiting of the International Bridge at Laokay by the Chinese is purely a self-defensive measure, as China must take military precautions in view of Japan's demand for the use of French Indo-China as a military base and the passage of troops through the French Colony for an attack on Yunnan.—*Central News*.

DENIAL OF RUMOURS

Mr. Chu Cheng Has Not Left Chungking

A TOKYO ALLEGATION

Chungking, Sept. 19.

A Tokyo broadcast on September 16 stating that Mr. Chu Cheng, President of the Judicial Yuan, left Chungking for Hongkong secretly on September 14 was categorically denied by Mr. Yeh Chu-tsang, Secretary-General of the Central Kuomintang Headquarters.

Mr. Yeh said that Mr. Chu addressed the staff of the Judicial Yuan on September 15 and attended the Sun Yat-sen weekly memorial service on September 16. A Central News reporter called on and saw Mr. Chu to-day.—*Central News*.