CHINA WILL FIGHT, SAYS VICE PREMIER
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Kung, on Economic Mission in United States, Asserts Nanking Will Defend Territory

Dr. H. H. Kung, Vice President of the Executive Yuan [Vice Premier] and Finance Minister of China said yesterday in a statement to the press here that his country was ready to fight Japan to prevent further losses of territory. He has been in this country three weeks on an economic mission.

"China desires amicable relations with Japan," he said. "But she will no longer lie down and take it if the Japanese military in North China continue to employ aggressive tactics to occupy forcibly another piece of Chinese territory. We are determined to defend ourselves if defensive measures provide us with the only course to safeguard our territorial integrity and national independence.

"For some seven months, the Chinese people have been led to believe that more reasonable leaders in Japan are exerting their influence on the military with the possible result that certain aggressive elements might be restrained. It is these elements that perennially create troubles between Japan and China.

No Right in Fighting Area

"Unfortunately, now as on previous occasion, certain aggressive elements of the Japanese military are disrupting Sino-Japanese tranquility with incidents of their own making. I say 'of their own making' because it must be remembered that the Marco Polo Bridge region is on the Peiping-Hankow Railway where the Japanese Army has no right, legal or moral, to send troops to manoeuvre.

"When they sent these troops to that region during the night for the alleged purpose of manoeuvres, they were obviously following a premeditated plan to achieve a definite objective. Even a casual study of the map will show that the control of the Fengtai and Marco Polo Bridge regions means the control of the only two rail communications between Peiping and the North on the one hand and Central and South China on the other.

"The objective of the Japanese military is thus quite clear. Nobody, therefore, I hope, will take seriously the lengthy statements of explanation or justification the Japanese propaganda machines are grinding out daily for the world.

"The Chinese Government has been forced to take defensive measures. Those Japanese military elements who caused the conflict must be held responsible for the consequences.

Danger to World Peace

"Far-sighted observers will agree with me when I say that the anomalous situation created by the Japanese Army is not only a vexatious problem for the governments but a danger to world peace. It not only affects adversely the relations of China and Japan but also the interests of all nations concerned.

"A fire unchecked will spread from house to house. Aggression, like fire, if unchecked, will spread from country to country. There must be a return to sanity."

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