

CHAPITRE VI/CHAPTER VI
CRISE EN EXTRÊME-ORIENT
THE CRISIS IN THE FAR EAST

PARTIE 1/PART 1

MISSIONNAIRES CANADIENS EN CHINE ET AU JAPON
CANADIAN MISSIONARIES IN CHINA AND JAPAN

1939

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*Mémorandum du premier secrétaire¹ au sous-secrétaire d'État
aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from First Secretary¹ to Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs*

[Ottawa,] September 14, 1939

THE SHANGHAI SITUATION

1. Press reports during the past fortnight have foreshadowed serious developments in the International Settlement and the French Concession at Shanghai. About the 5th of September the Japanese Government officially suggested that the time had now come, particularly in view of the outbreak of war in Europe, for all occidental military and naval organizations to be withdrawn from China. Latest press reports indicate that on Saturday next a large anti-foreign demonstration, promoted by the Japanese, is to be expected in the International Settlement. Meanwhile Japanese police organizations are encroaching on the territory heretofore policed by the Settlement authorities.

2. This situation, in my opinion, may well prove to be serious. It is not at all beyond the realm of possibility that the Japanese may foment a riot on an unprecedented scale within the Settlement and then use this as an excuse to take over complete and exclusive control. If this is attempted clashes with British, French, or American troops may easily result, although this will not be inevitable as the foreign troops may be ordered not to resist. (In this connection it is worthy of attention that the latest Dominions Office report states that if the British troops are withdrawn from the Settlement, the United States intends to *reinforce* its military establishment there.)

¹ H. L. Keenleyside.