

A special Canadian force landed at Hong Kong on November 15th. Of this contribution by Canada to the strengthening of the garrison there, I will only repeat that defence against aggression, actual or threatened, in any part of the world is today a part of the defence of every country which still enjoys freedom. It was in accordance with this view that the Government have deemed it advisable to associate Canadian troops with those of the forces from other parts of the British Commonwealth now stationed in the Orient.

On November 16th, General Tojo (speaking in his capacity as Minister of War), told the Japanese Diet that Japan's military objectives were to "crush the Chungking regime", to "accelerate construction" of Greater East Asia; and to "complete all necessary preparations to meet any eventualities." The next day, speaking as Premier, General Tojo said that Japan was making the utmost effort to prevent the spread of European war in East Asia. But he demanded that third powers should "refrain from obstructing" a Japanese victory in China; and that they must "nullify" the economic blockade of Japan and "refrain from presenting a direct military threat to the Empire."

These statements were possibly intended as strokes in a "war of nerves," staged with the dual object of coinciding with Kurusu's arrival in the United States and of continuing to play for time. The significance of the statements may perhaps also be judged from the fact that the Japanese emissary did not bring