

Protest Against Japan-China Joint History Research Committee Report

KASE Hideaki, Chairman

Committee for the Examination of the Facts about Nanking

On January 31, 2010, the Japan-China Joint History Research Committee issued a report describing the results of their research work. In the first place, it is foolish to even contemplate engaging in joint historical research with representatives of a totalitarian state controlled by the Communist Party, where scholarly research is subordinate and subservient to the politics of that state. And to no one's surprise, the PRC reiterates a claim that it has already made *ad nauseam* with respect to events that took place in Nanking in December 1937, i.e., that the Japanese perpetrated a massacre that claimed 300,000 victims. Such drivel does not deserve to be called "research."

Even more problematic is the fact that the Japanese scholars on the Committee did not submit the results of recent research on Nanking, which has advanced at a rapid pace, for consideration by the panel. Instead, they released a report that echoes the decrepit, superannuated Nanking "massacre" argument, which can be traced to the accusation aired at the Tokyo Trials, i.e., the "massacre" of 200,000 Chinese. The Committee's "research" was not an inquiry; its members simply *presumed* that there was a massacre, and then cannibalized the literature for material that supported that presumption. Such a method far exceeds bounds of propriety as defined by scholarly standards.

The most recent resources — and they are of unequivocal importance — are documents discovered by Asia University Professor Higashinakano Shudo at the Museum of Chinese Nationalist Party History in Taipei. Stamped "top secret," the documents were compiled under the title "Outline of International Propaganda Operations: 1938 - April 1941." They state that over a period of 11 months (during which the Battle of Nanking was fought), 300 press conferences for foreign journalists were held in Hankou. However, at none of those conferences (the objective of which was the denunciation of Japan) was any mention made of Japanese military personnel massacring civilians in Nanking or executing prisoners of war. We would expect at least one allusion to a massacre that allegedly claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. The Japan-China Joint History Research Committee report makes no reference to this crucial discovery.

The aforementioned recent research gives us a very clear picture of what happened in Nanking in late 1937. In May 2005, the Committee for the Examination of the Facts about Nanking submitted five open questions to PRC President Hu Jintao (see attached). Those questions concern basic, important facts that illuminate the events of December 1937 in Nanking. However, we have yet to receive a response from President Hu. His silence leads us to assume that he cannot respond to our questions. Now we would like to ask Professor Kitaoka Shin'ichi, the Japanese chairman of the Japan-China Joint History Research Committee, as well as the other Japanese members, for their opinions regarding the five open questions submitted to President Hu.

February 8, 2010

<Attachment>

**OPEN QUESTIONS FOR HIS EXCELLENCY HU JINTAO,
PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

May 5, 2008

As enthusiastic supporters of friendly relations between Japan and the PRC, we would like to extend the warmest of welcomes to President Hu Jintao on the occasion of Your Excellency's visit to Japan.

For some years, our organization has been engaged in an investigation into the events that transpired in Nanking in connection with the Battle of Nanking, which took place in December 1937. We are profoundly concerned about the PRC's position on and approach to these events. Additionally, we are exceedingly uncomfortable with the duplicity of the PRC in its pursuit of friendship with Japan on the one hand, and actions that are most unfriendly in nature — the expansion and renovation of the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall in 2007 — on the other. Recent research has proven that there is absolutely no basis for the claim that there was a massacre in that city. We respectfully request Your Excellency's responses to five important questions, which follow.

Chinese Communist Party Chairman Mao Zedong never referred to a massacre in Nanking. He made exactly one mention of the Battle of Nanking during a lecture delivered at Yan'an six months after the conflict, reproduced in *On Protracted War*. Chairman Mao criticized the Japanese for failing to annihilate Chinese troops after having surrounded them. If there had been slaughter in Nanking of a magnitude so great (300,000 civilian victims) as to prompt the description "holocaust of the century," there is not the slightest chance that he would have been silent on the matter. What are Your Excellency's thoughts on the facts presented here?

In November 1937, during the Second United Front and prior to the Battle of Nanking, the Nationalist Party established a new section at the Central Propaganda Bureau — the International Propaganda Section. We would like to direct Your Excellency's attention to a top-secret document entitled "Outline of International Propaganda Operations," which states that the International Propaganda Section held 300 press conferences in Hankou between December 1, 1937 and October 24, 1938 (a period that includes the Battle of Nanking); they were attended by 35 foreign journalists and diplomats, on the average. How does Your Excellency explain the fact that not once during any of these 300 conferences was a statement or announcement made to the effect that a massacre had been perpetrated, or that prisoners of war had been unlawfully killed in Nanking? Does Your Excellency, too, find these circumstances extraordinary?

The International Committee administered to the civilians remaining in Nanking, who

were gathered in the Safety Zone. Records of the International Committee's activities were published in 1939 as *Documents of the Nanking Safety Zone* by a British company in Shanghai, under the auspices of the Nationalist Government's Council of International Affairs. According to those records, the population of Nanking prior to its occupation by the Japanese was 200,000. That figure remained unchanged, at 200,000, throughout the remainder of 1937. By the end of January, it had increased to 250,000. These statistics completely and utterly destroy the credibility of any accusation of a massacre that claimed 300,000 victims. What are Your Excellency's views on this matter?

Among the records in the aforementioned *Documents of the Nanking Safety Zone* are detailed complaints about misconduct attributed to Japanese military personnel. They include a total of 26 murders, only one of which was witnessed (to that account is appended a note describing the "murder" as a lawful execution). Can Your Excellency reconcile these records with the PRC's claim of a massacre with 300,000 victims?

Photographs purported to be evidence of a massacre in Nanking are on display at the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall, at other exhibitions, and in printed publications. However, *Analyzing Photographic "Evidence" of the Nanking Massacre* by Higashinakano Shudo (Soshisha, 2005) and other recent scientific research reveal that there are no photographs attesting to a massacre in Nanking. If Your Excellency is aware of photographic evidence of a massacre, please have it forwarded to us so that we may examine it.

On the basis of the factual information contained in these five questions, we are completely and totally convinced that there was no massacre in Nanking. We would greatly appreciate Your Excellency's responses to our questions. Please note that we have selected the open-question format precisely because the matter at hand is clearly one of the prime concerns of many citizens of Japan and the PRC. Our hopes for friendly relations between our two nations, for all generations to come, rest in Your Excellency's hands.

COMMITTEE FOR THE EXAMINATION OF THE FACTS ABOUT NANKING

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