

*translated and forwarded
by Ferguson & Co.
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Secret Japanese Press Laws in North China
Issued by the Special Military Mission

- September, 1937 -

A. IMPORTANT STANDARDS FOR PRESS CENSORSHIP

1. That the press may or may not print has been strictly stated in the second part of the standards.
2. The Board of Press Censorship must send out notifications, whenever news may not be published.
3. Whenever a newspaper enterprise is not sure whether news may or may not be published, it must inquire from the Board and act strictly in accordance with the Board's reply.
4. News transpiring from broadcasting stations, telegrams of news agencies and foreign newspapers, taking a stand for Hanking may not be published.
5. The headlines on the second and on the third page have to be made up most carefully. If there should be objectionable words, they must be altered according to the regulation standards.
6. The Hanking soldiers have to be quoted as "King" soldiers (name for Hanking) or as "Tang" soldiers (Kuomin-tang - party)
7. Manchukuo and Chitang (冀東) may not be quoted as "puppet" state (偽國) or be put into brackets; e.g., Japanese "Manchukuo" soldiers, etc.
8. Japanese may not be mentioned only by their surnames but in connection with their rank, either with their full name or only the surname.
9. The permission of the Board of Censors is required for the printing and selling of extras.
10. This first section and the second part must be kept secret; i.e., they may not be published in the press. The managers of the newspapers and news agencies will be held responsible for its being carried out.

B. RESTRICTIONS OF PRESS PUBLICATIONS AND OF ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Restriction of items pertinent to the war:
 - a. That the Japanese soldiers are going to fight as well as revealing their present and future plans.
 - b. Details pertinent to the mobilization of Japanese units and military transports.

- c. Detailed Japanese plan of organization and the number of soldiers. The name of the headquarters and the number of the unit must not be published in print; the particular division, regiment, company, etc. must not be mentioned. Only the name of the leader of the particular unit may be quoted.
- d. Under no circumstances the quality and the names of Japanese military airplanes may be mentioned, such as scouting planes, pursuit (fighting) planes and bombers. Only that they are Japanese may be mentioned in the press.
- e. Japanese troop movements may not be mentioned.
- f. Adversities of Japanese soldiers may not be published in editorials and news.
- g. It may not be published that Japanese soldiers occupying a place are unable to preserve the peace.
- h. It may not be published that Chinese soldiers are victorious.
- i. It may not be published if Chinese airplanes bomb a place.
- j. Sufferings and defeats of Japanese soldiers or things connected with them may not be published.
- k. Finally, it may not be published if and when Japanese soldiers are going to fight.

2. Other items pertinent to the War:

- a. Emperors, their families, national heroes, heads of governments and their ministers of befriended nations may not be unjustly profaned and nothing disrespectful may be written about them.
- b. Opposition to Japan, rebellion against her and insults to her or other kinds of slandering may not be published in the press or in novels (particular care has to be taken with brief criticisms, advertisements, etc.)
- c. Foreign news telegrams may not be published, if not credit has been given to the Japanese.
- d. It may not be published that peace does not reign, according to wild rumours.
- e. Financial disturbances may not be mentioned in the press.
- f. It may not be published if attempts should be made to destroy the economic life by putting business men out of work and if workmen and students should go on strike.
- g. It may not be published if Japanese soldiers living in certain places pay less rent than was paid before, or if workmen receive lower wages, or if persons are dismissed, or if salaries are being reduced, or finally if it is feared that there will be scarcity of food.
- h. It may not be published, if the Peace Preservation Association should not be successful.
- i. Nothing may be published concerning the teaching of licentiousness, the reviling in depraved language, the acquiring of bad manners or the corruption of good ones.

- j. Nothing may be published concerning important persons from Chi-tang (East Hopei) and princes of the Mongolian banners, whatever they may do in Peking and Tientsin.
- k. Nothing unfavorable may be published concerning Mohammedanism and Mohammedans.

c. ENCOURAGEMENT TO PUBLISH NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AND ILLUSTRATIONS ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS (Efforts should be made to act along the lines of the following rules.)

1. That the Japanese soldiers fight for a very high ideal, by punishing and destroying Chinese opponents and the Communists. The Japanese want to create peace in the Far East, but decidedly they do not want to be hostile to the good Chinese people. All these points have to be understood clearly by the Chinese.
2. That the Japanese have come with a patriotic idea, because they are good friends of the Chinese people; that they have left Japan for the heat and cold of China without their wives and children; that they have to undergo fatigue and all kinds of hardships; that they have to march through the rain of bullets; that they throw their lives away without hesitation. That they do all this in order to make the Chinese people and future generations happier. That the Japanese exert themselves for the sake of liberty and that under no circumstances have the Japanese any other intentions. That, therefore, the Chinese people must co-operate with the Japanese army. If this sacred duty is fulfilled by our joint efforts, then we will set up the Far East for a hundred years to come.

If the above suggestions should not be obeyed and if anybody should refuse to act accordingly, then he will be punished most severely. Under no circumstances will he be released or his punishment be postponed.

3. For the clear understanding of all people it should be explained that Japan, Manchukuo and China, representing the yellow race, are becoming friendly, and that the conditions are improving day by day. Hence, let us lay a good foundation for the Far East.
4. That the Nanking Government has to understand that it has failed completely in the past and that it must admit this openly. In case it should not do so, then the Japanese would have to fight it.

If the Chinese people should become afraid that the war might spread too far, then the press should not emphasize (publish too much) that the Japanese want to go to war.

5. If the Nanking soldiers are committing atrocities, then the press should describe them in detail, so that everybody may learn about them.
6. It should be explained in detail in the press that Chiang Kai-shek's family and the Kuomintang have abused their power for their personal benefit, that they have not administered their offices for the welfare of the 400 million people; and

that Chiang wants to fight now because he has previously not done his duty.

7. It should be published that the Kuomintang and the Nanking Government have squeezed too much and that they have ruined the country and the people.
8. It should be made public in the press that the leading personalities of the Nanking Government have diverted much money and that they have used crooked methods.
9. It should be made public in the press that the Nanking army will soon be annihilated.
10. It should be published in the press that the coastal blockade impoverishes China.

It should also be published:

11. That there is dissension among the troops of the Nanking Government and that enmity has broken out among hired soldiers, not Chiang's soldiers and the Nanking troops.
12. That the Nanking Government co-operates with the Communists and has made friends with Soviet Russia; that the Communists make trouble all over the world and that everybody despises them, but that Chiang has made good friends with them in order to turn the whole country Communist. All these misdeeds of Chiang should be made public in the press;
13. That the fighting strength of the Chinese becomes smaller every day and that all the Chinese airplanes have been destroyed.

It has to be elaborately explained:

14. That the Nanking soldiers have been repulsed wherever they fought, because formerly Chiang spread false news;
15. That the Nanking Government has sold too many bonds and that it has taken up too many loans from abroad.
16. It has to be published in the press that the Japanese soldiers are good people and that they have pleasant manners, and that they like the Chinese.
17. It has to be explained in the press that the Nanking soldiers have no manners, that they are bad and disorderly. Everywhere the Chinese people dislike them, because the Nanking soldiers make much trouble and disturb the peace.
18. It should be published that the armament and the money of the Nanking armies are insufficient.
19. It should be published that the Nanking soldiers have had heavy losses.
20. It should be explained in detail that the conditions in Manchukuo are improving and that the people there are very happy.