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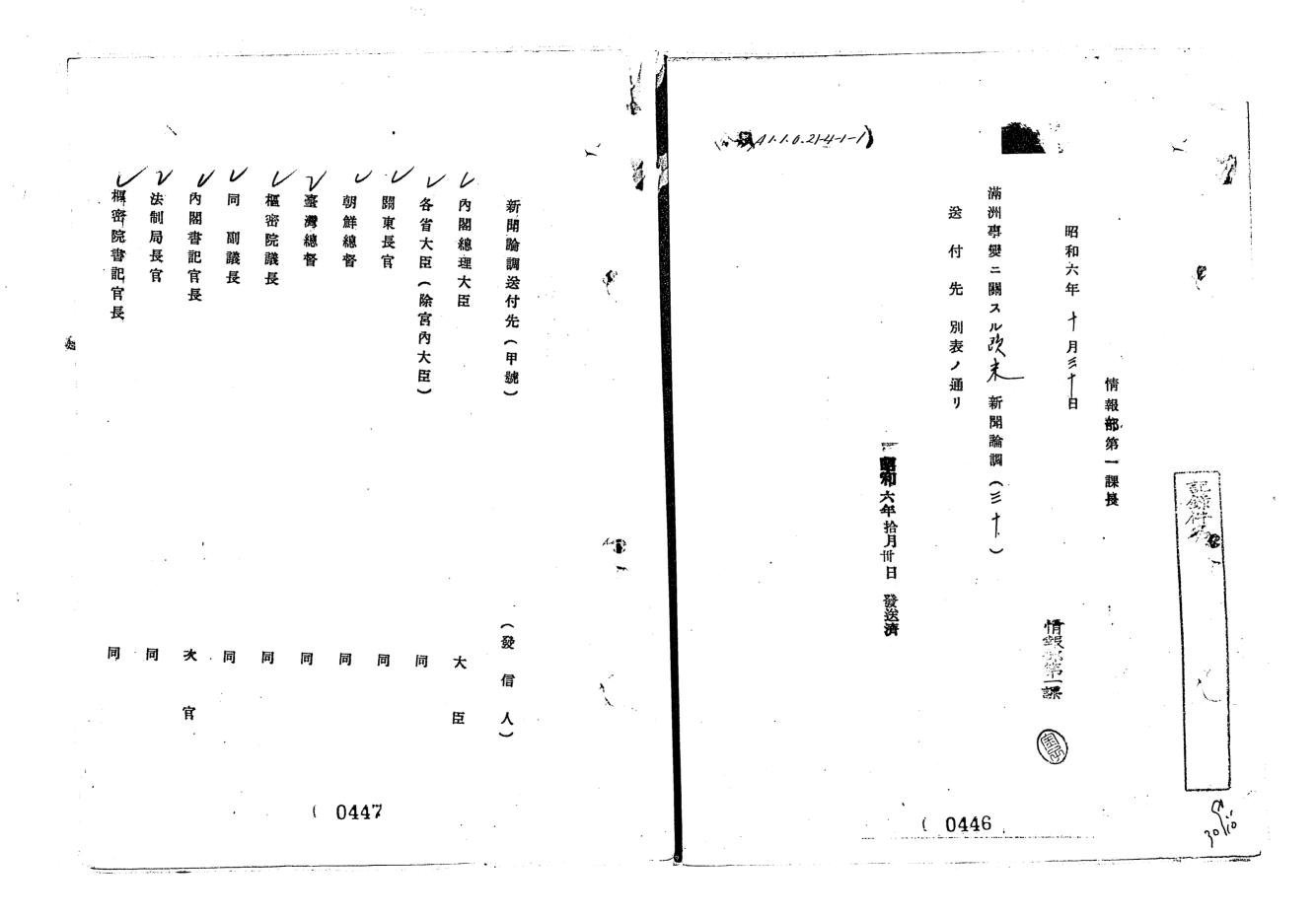
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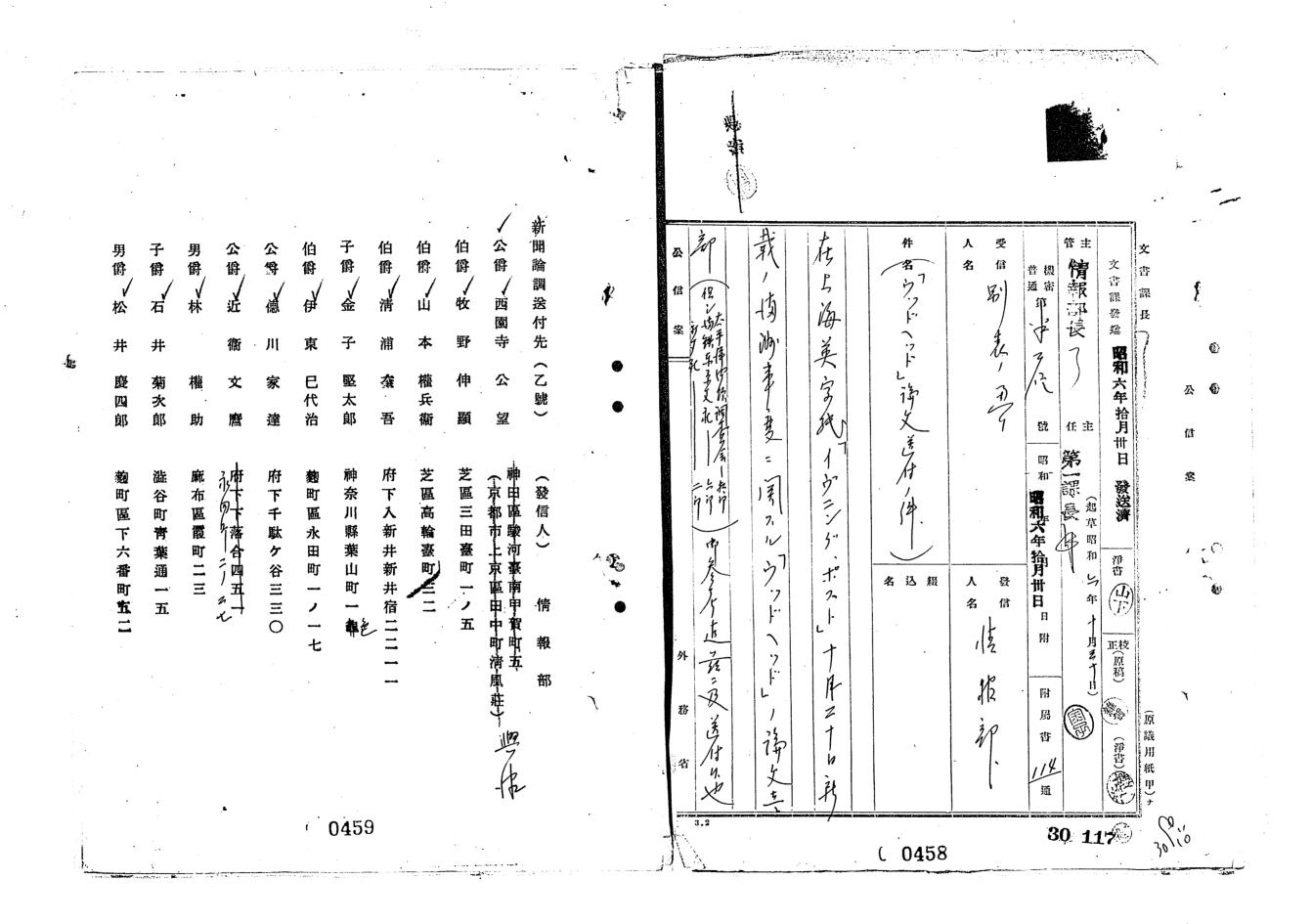
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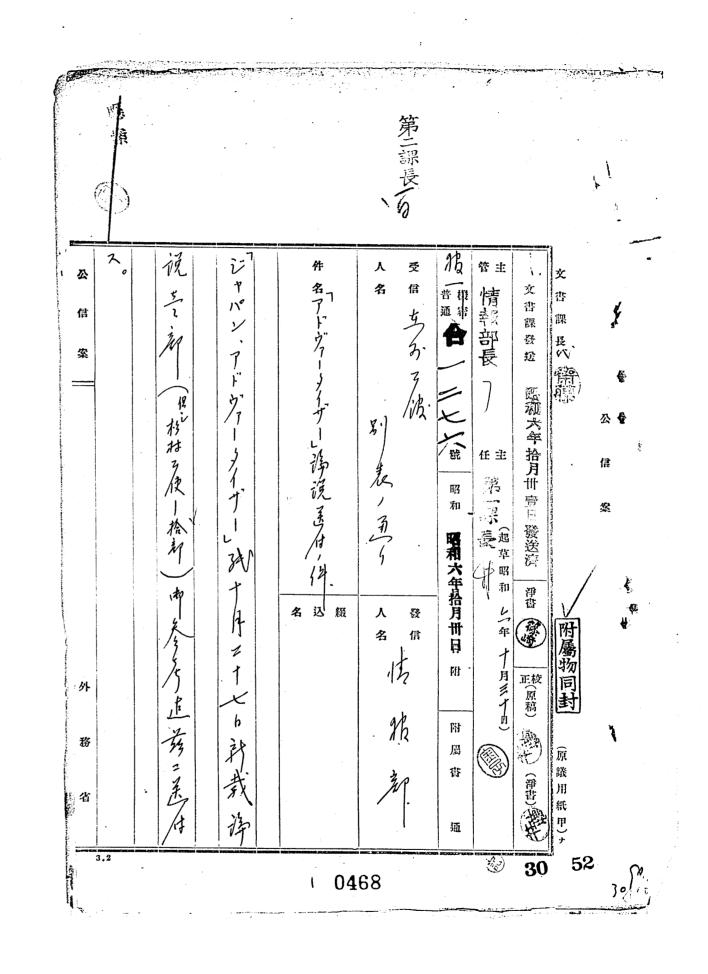
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in that hope, for men in the opposition are quite different when they assume the responsibilities of office, and the important factor of inflamed public opinion in China may make it impossible for even those who see this problem in its proper aspects to be reasonable. The other hope is that the issues involved may become more clearly to the forefront before the Council of the League reconvenes, and this is not only possible but probable, provided always that no more "incidents" will be permitted to occur in the meantime so as to distract public attention from the real issues involved.

Japan at this late date is now making a statement which Mr. Yoshizawa should have made before the last days of the Council's session, which brings out Baron Shidehara's five points which have been referred to so frequently.

It would be most unfortunate if the League's decision should strengthen the hands of the military faction in Japan, and yet this is not impossible, but only for the time being. And it would be equally unfortunate if the same cause should weaken

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the confidence of the people of Japan in the justice of the leading Western nations, especially at this time when the world is sincerely striving for a reduction in armaments to ease their financial burdens during a period of worldwide economic depression.

We are confident that Japan has no territorial aspirations in Manchuria, but we do know, and the world should know, that Japan will stand firm in her determination not to yield her vested interests in Manchuria, which involve not only the investment of large sums of money and represent the enterprise of the people of Japan, but which have been acquired at the cost of two wars and the sacrifice of lives.

And it has been so since the beginning of history.

It is true that the world is striving at this time
to prevent war but world disarmament is not yet
an accomplished fact. It is hardly conceivable that
Lord Cecil was quoted correctly when he said

"Japan's treaty rights had no connection with the
security of Japanese nationals in Manchuria."

It is also difficult to conceive that even such an authority as Mr. Briand would make a statement, as reported in all press despatches, in which he said "that although agreement seemed very near it was apparent that evacuation and protection of Japanese nationals could be regulated in a very few days."

While much of the fault can be placed on Mr.
Yoshizawa yet much of it has been due to the protracted delays which occurred in Tokyo. That was not the fault of the Cabinet, and certainly not of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, but in times of emergency or a national crisis it is apparent that the Japanese government cannot act quickly, for at such times a dual, or even a multiple, form of government exists

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exists and it is difficult to draft statements which require the approval of the head of different departments and with probably conflicting viewpoints.

If members of the Council of the League of
Nations were not conversant with the Manchurian
situation, and they certainly showed that they were
not, how much less informed is the man on the street.
It is unfortunate that the vote of 13 to 1 against
Japan may probably be taken, unreasoningly and subconsciously, by the public the world over as an
indictment of Japan's position because of the very
complexities of the Manchurian problem which the average
man abroad does not understand.

Japan by not bringing the sanctities of treaty rights to the attention of the Council in its early stages unfortunately permitted the Chinese contention of evacuation of troops prior to negotiations to become the principal consideration before the Council.

Notwithstanding that a good cause has been distorted and misrepresented, there exists the basis of two hopes, one that the coming government at Nanking may take a more reasonable position. We do not know at this moment how much confidence can be reposed

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quote from press reports, Mr. Yoshizawa disclaimed knowledge of these press reports which were substantially correct. When questioned on this subject Mr. Yoshizawa is reported to have replied that regarding the question of sanctity of treaties, there must be some misunderstanding, as he did not telegraph to his Government in this sense, and that he regretted the Reuter message and would telegraph to the Japanese Government in this connection.

And in the reports from Geneva we read Lord Cecil as saying:

"If it were a question of treaties, Japan could always submit them to the League Court, of which a Japanese, Mr. Mineichiro Adachi, is president. Hence, Japan was assured of justice. But it could not demand that this be a subject for direct Sino-Japanese negotiations before evacuation. The League could always express an opinion that all valid treaties should be respected, but the question of Japan's treaty rights had no connection with the security of Japanese nationals in Manchuria."

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Such an argument, if it is correctly reported, should have been promptly demolished, and it should not have required either a trained diplomat or an authority on international law to do so. Japan does not dispute the validity of the treaty of 1915 any more than France disputes the validity of the treaty of Versailles, nor had Japan asked for any interpretation of the treaty. That kind of an argument might appropriately have been addressed to the Chinese delegate, whose government has refused to recognize the treaty of 1915, but not to the Japanese.

The Sino-Japanese treaty of 1915 is certainly as valid as the treaty of Versailles. It could reasonably be asked if a treaty which was obtained as a threat of war is a more formidable manner of suress than a treaty which was extracted after a protracted war from a vanquished foe. Practically every treaty of importance in the world has been obtained under duress. The very foundations and the boundary lines of some of the member states of the League vere created through the treaty of Versailles. The very foundation of the United States of America was based on a treaty obtained through the war of independence. And the very existence of the American colonies was based on treaties

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the League Covenant is brief and we quote it in full, as follows:

The High Contracting Parties, In order to promote international co-operation and to achieve internation, peace and security

by the acceptance of obligations not to resort to war,

by the prescription of open, just and honorable relations between nations,

by the firm establishment of understandings of international law as the actual rule of conduct among governments, and by the maintenance of justice and a scrupulous respect for all treaty obligations in the dealings of organized peoples with one another,

Agree to this Covenant of the League of Nations.

What happened? China got the leap when the story was attracting the widest attention throughout the world and many days passed before the Japanese government could agree on a statement and issue it. And in that statement not a word was said about the sanctity of treaty rights. In the meantime China had appealed

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in characteristically platitudinous generalities to the League and world opinion for support as the aggrieved party.

Japan should have had no fear to bring this fundamental issue to the forefront at the opening of the Council's sessions. As it transpired, however, no references were made to treaty rights until the last days of the meeting, the reports of which make pitiable reading. Mr. Yoshizawa even at that late date, when acked to explain what was meant by "fundamental principles" is reported to have said, that the Japanese Government had certain established ideas on what it meant by fundamental principles which he could not communicate to the Council without authorization from Tokyo. This despite the fact that it is now known that he had explicit instructions from his government to make Baron Shidehara's five points known and to stand on them. Instead of making the issue on the sanctity of treaty rights, Mr. Yoshizawa beclouded the main issue involved, surrounded it with mystery, which in turn created suspicion of Japan's

Japan, as a matter of fact, had nothing to hide and yet the delegates were forced to resort to and

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request of Yuan Shih-kai, then president of the Republic of China. But that is now past history. It does not enter into any consideration of the validity of the treaty.

Japan should have stated her case clearly at the very outset, and stated it in the broadest, simplest and briefest terms possible, so that the world at large could have readily grasped and understood the issues involved. On these points Japan could have with justice maintained her stand and would have been supported. At that particular time the terms could have been framed in three points, sketched briefly to the following effect: That the actions taken were defensive; that Japan had no territorial aspirations and would maintain the integrity of China; and that Japan insists upon the maintenance of the sanctity of treaty rights and other commitments. This would have covered not only all treaty rights but all agreements made between Japan and China, not only as regards the railroad in Manchuria but other agreements concluded between China and Japan which have been consistently ignored. Any good lawyer would advise his client to state his case in the broadest terms. A good patent lawyer would always advise one to obtain,

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if possible, a basic patent rather than one which is specific. By attempting to be specific or too definite in detail one often limits his own case. It would have strengthened Japan's position, for in demanding that China recognize the sanctity of treaties and other commitments Japan would have been asking only that which any other nation would have demanded under similar circumstances and would have been only asking what is the least which is expected of any sovereign State, and, furthermore, it would have brought the real issue clearly to the forefront.

China undoubtedly would have countered by demanding the evacuation of the Japanese troops prior to negotiations. Even had Japan compromised on this point China would still have refused, for the very foundation of China's foreign policy, not only as far as Japan is concerned but in her relations with other countries, is based on her denial to recognize her treaty commitments. The shoe would have pinched on the other foot. Had the issue been brought out in the open at the outset Japan would have had the support of the Council of the League, for the League itself is based on the sanctity of treaties. The preamble to

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Editorial of The Japan Advertiser, October 27, 1931.

Japan's Treaty Rights

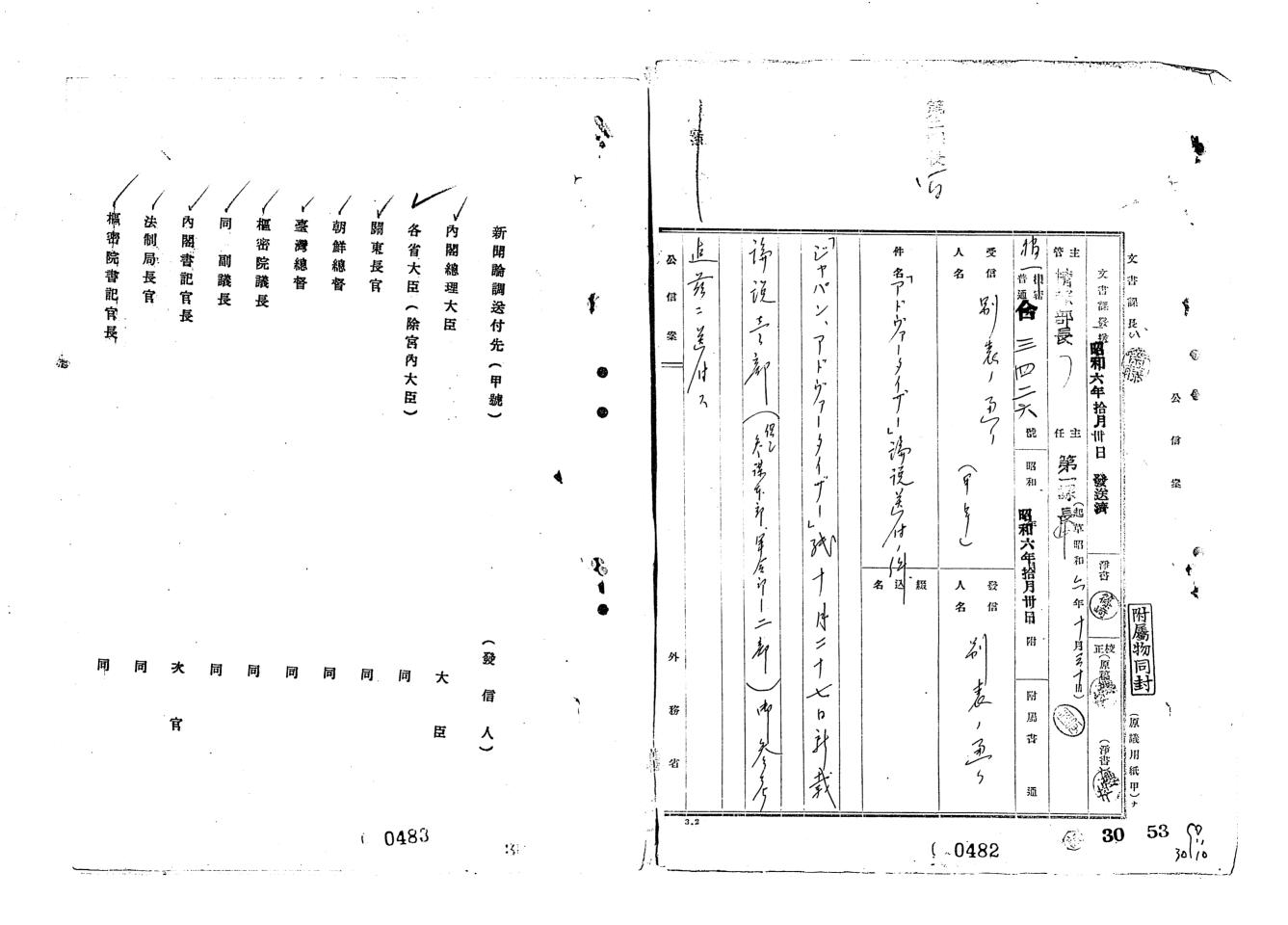
The action of the Council of the League of Nations would be inexplicable in retrospect except the explanation is that Japan presented a good case badly, and that is putting it mildly. In the last session of the council Mr. Yoshizawa's studied avoidance of any insistence upon the respect for the sanctity of treaty rights is incomprehensible. Instead he surrounded the term "fundamental principles" and "security" with a sense of mystery which was absolutely unjustifiable under any circumstances.

To those who have followed Sino-Japanese relations during the past decades it was evident from the outset that the crux of the entire situation was the validity of the treaty of 1915 which China has consistently refused to recognize, on the plea that it was obtained under duress - an ultimatum. As a matter of fact, the ultimatum presented to China at that time was at the

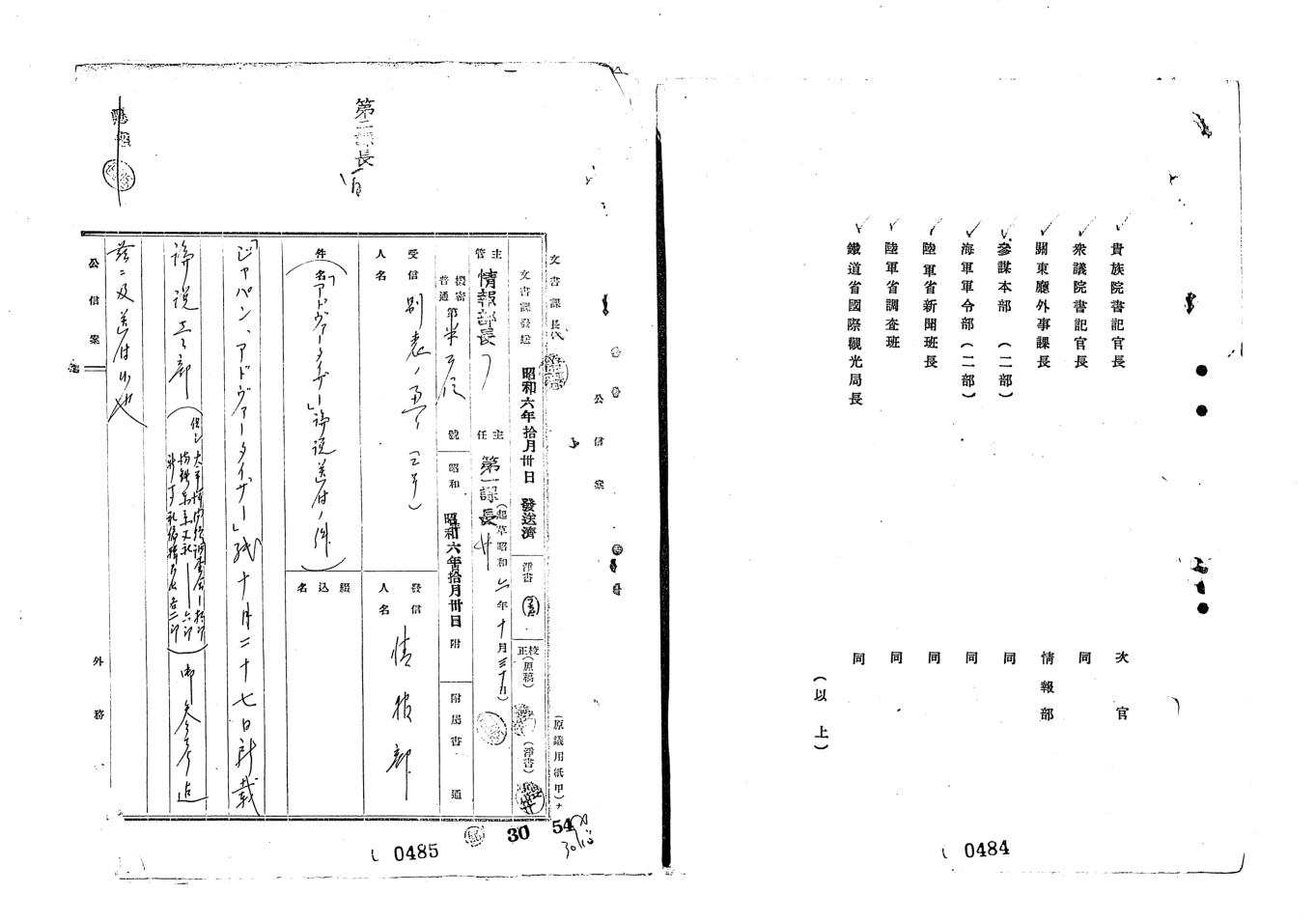
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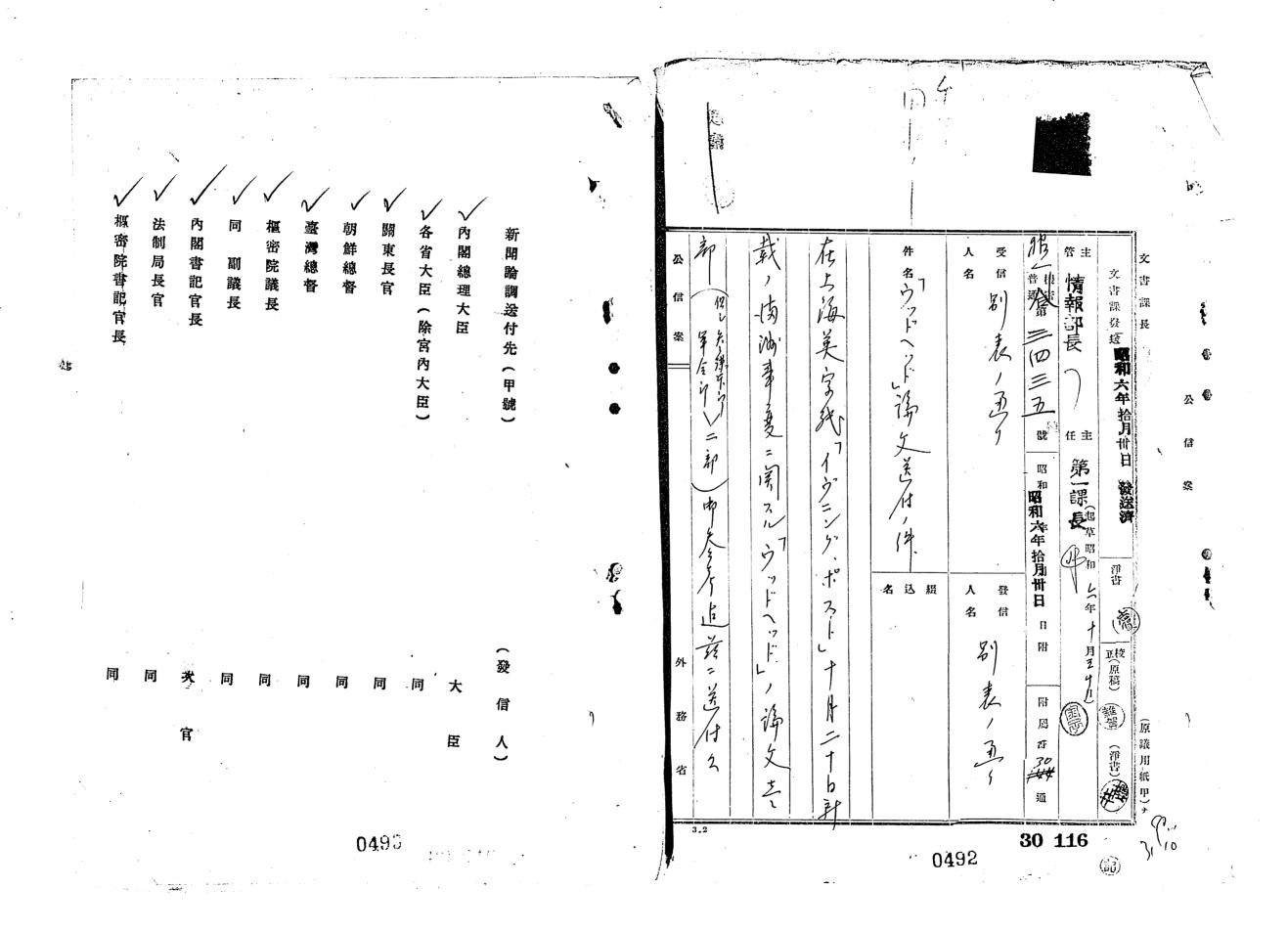
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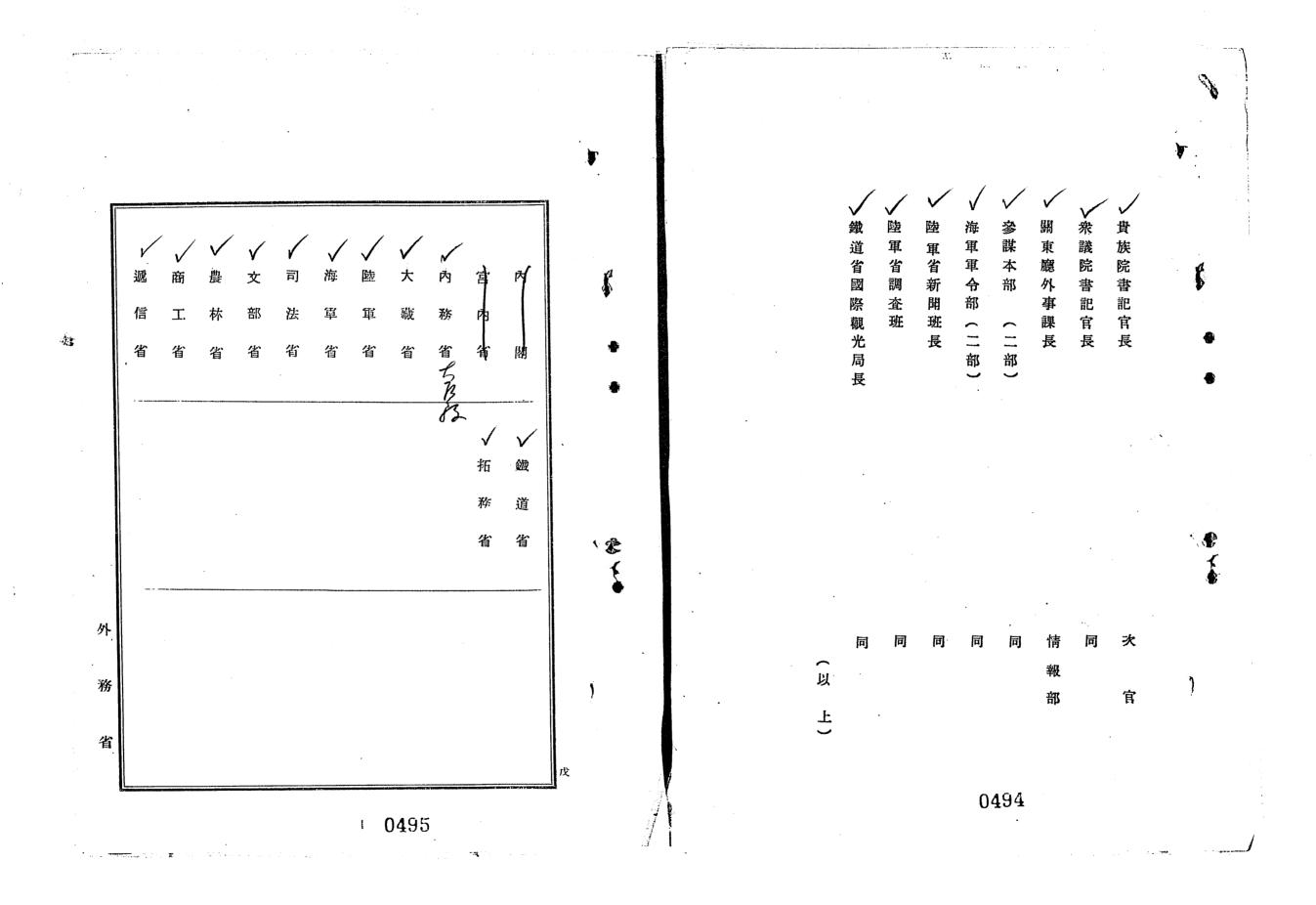
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impression in China that Japan's Treaty rights were a matter to which it was indifferent.

A diplomatic defeat of Japan, such as this would be, would be equivalent to condoning treaty violations, and encouraging the Chinese in the belief that no matter how vital the interests attacked, no Power was entitled to resist. The position of all foreign interests in this country would thenceforth become intolerable.

Japan's Suspicions

It is not surprising that Japan views outside interference with grave suspicion. Was she not jockeyed out of the possession of the Liaotung Peninsula in 1895 by the intervention of Russia, France and Germany, the firstnamed of which took possession thereof three years later.

At Versailles, and again at Washington her position in Manchuria was vigorously assailed, and Baron Shidehara found it necessary to state that "if it should once be recognized that rights solemnly granted by treaty may be revoked at any time on the ground that they were conceded against the spontaneous will of the grantor, an exceedingly dangerous precedent will be established, with far-reaching consequences upon the stability of the existing international relations in Asia, in Europe, and elsewhere."

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Her mistake has been her failure to notify the League of the precise causes and objects of her recent action. And it is to this omission that the League should now address itself, if it really seeks to end the present deadlock.

members "to subject it (i.e. Japan) to the severance of all trade or financial relations, and the prohibition of all intercourse between their nationals and the nationals of the covenant breaking State," or "to recommend to the several Governments concerned what effective military, naval or air force the Members of the League shall severally contribute to the armed forces to be used to protect the covenants of the League."

When Pacts Fail

The plain truth of the matter is that both the League Covenant and the Kellogg Pact must break down unless the spirit as well as the letter of these instruments be scrupulously observed by all Parties. Neither document was ever intended to allow a country such as China to play ducks and drakes with her Treaty obligations, and to add provocation to Powers with substantial interests in this country.

If the League is to fulfil its functions as an organization for preventing war, or recourse to force, it must exact from its members a recognition of the sanctity of Treaty obligations previous to a state of affairs arising that leaves no alternative solution.

The Japanese up to the present, have shown singular ineptitude in the presentation of their case for action

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in Manchuria. But every student of affairs in the Far East is aware that Japan, more than any other country, has suffered from Treaty violations and other forms of provocation at the hands of the Chinese.

There were indications weeks before she took action that her patience was becoming exhausted. And now that she has definitely committed herself to the maintenance of her rights by force - which she asserts is not equivalent to war - a solution can only be found by insisting that China, as well as Japan, shall fulfil her Treaty obligations.

The Japanese will not withdraw their troops until they are satisfied that their nationals will be adequately protected. China cannot, at the moment, give any assurance worth the paper it is written upon, to that effect. The Japanese are determined that their Treaty rights shall be respected.

. No hint has as yet been given that China will fulfil this requirement.

A Disservice To Foreigners

The League would be doing a singular disservice to foreign interests in China were it - assuming that it has the means to do so - to insist only upon the withdrawal of the Japanese forces, and to create the impression

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to confiscate the Chinese Eastern Railway, Russia brushed aside all protests based upon this instrument, invaded Northern Manchuria, and dictated her own terms by direct negotiations with the Manchurian authorities.

In spite of the Kellogg Pact, and its obligations, foreign opinion was not, on the whole, unfavorable to Russia!

"The arbitrary procedure in connection with the Chinese Eastern indicates that in their desire to oust foreigners the Chinese are little disposed to live up to formal obligations entered into in good faith and with open eyes by previous Governments in China," wrote the New York Times.

"The Chinese by their high-handed action on the Chinese Eastern Railway, have given a warning to all the other Powers that the present Chinese rulers will recognize no agreement that is not supported by force," said the Manchester Guardian. "They have provided an excellent argument for the postponement, even by the friendliest foreign Power, of any change in the existing system of extraterritoriality."

A Puzzle For Japan

It must, then, be somewhat puzzling to Japanese statesmen to find that when their Government takes action, as a result of cumulative provocation, for the protection

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of railway and economic rights in Manchuria, which are even more vital to Japan than the Chinese Eastern Railway was to Soviet Russia, not only is the Kellogg Pact invoked, not only is a non-Member of the League of Nations invited to participate in the deliberations of the Council, but that the European Press even discusses the possibility of applying Article XVI of the League Covenant, an Article which provides that if any Member of the League has resort to war in disregard of its covenants, "it shall ipso facto be deemed to have committed an act of war against all other Members of the League . . ."

No-one for a moment imagines that America or the Great European Powers will dream of applying this article in the present dispute. They have all had too much experience of the provocativeness and procrastination of the Chinese Government to feel that military or naval intervention in support of China, against Japan, is worth the bones of a single American or European grenadier!

While they will continue to exert what peaceful pressure may be possible to bring about a pacific settlement of Sino-Japanese issues, the League Council will certainly not be guilty of the folly of instructing its

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