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Defense Document No 1846



Date of dispatch: (P.M.) 12th January 1936

To : Plenipotentiary, Disarmament Conference
 From : Foreign Minister Hirota
 Subject : Instructions in response to request made by the Plenipotentiary at the Disarmament Conference.

(Code) Disarmament. No. 13

(Secret:)

On response to your telegram No. 54 thanking every member of the delegation for your efforts.

1. You are to explain exhaustively our previous assertions at the next committee meeting and at other occasions that the basic policy of the Imperial Government is to establish a common maximum limitation as well as reducing offensive military strength both in quantity and quality thereby establishing a principle of non-intimidation and non-aggression, and also our assertions on a complete disarmament plan, that is, the complete abolition or extreme (drastic) reduction of aircraft carriers, capital ships and A-class cruisers which may be classed as offensive strength, which is in an inseparable connection with the common maximum limitation plan. Clearly explain that the Imperial Government cherishes no other intentions and earnestly hopes for the conclusion of an impartial and fair disarmament agreement based on the above basic policy. Endeavour to express our sincerity towards the disarmament project. And still if our basic assertions are not recognized the Imperial Government does not hold any intention of remaining in conference to discuss over a shipbuilding notification plan or the plan on restricting quality. Consequently, secession from the Conference would be inevitable.

2. In conformity with the above, endeavor to persuade other plenipotentiaries (delegates) to reconsider our proposal, but without pressing for its adoption. While on the other hand make it clear that there are no objections in settling restrictions on submarines, etc., thereby concluding between the five nations concerned any possible agreements such as the restriction on using submarines at an early possible date. Moreover, lead the conference so it would be closed by announcing a joint statement to the effect that there would be no competitive armamenting among the participant nations. As for the other problems, in case it should be the request of the other powers, it is considered advisable if it took the form of transferring it to another new conference when the Imperial Government will not participate.

3. The British side cherishes the opinion of retaining Clause 22, Chapter 4 of the London Treaty, concerning the restriction on employing submarines, as an independent agreement. The Imperial Government also does not have any objection towards the same provision becoming an independent agreement. If needs be, we have no objections in continuing the various clauses in the Washington Treaty, such as Clause 14 (restriction on arming merchant ships), Clause 17 (prohibition of using a warship under construction for another power, during war), Clause 18 (agreement on disposition of warships). There are no objections in proceeding with negotiations, with the representatives of nations concerned, in adjusting such clauses and forming a new agreement.

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4. In the case a conference should be held with our Government excluded, there is no objection in sending an observer to the conference. However, as to the selection of the observer you will wait for instructions.

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CERTIFICATE OF SOURCE AND AUTHENTICITY

I, M. Yoshii, who occupy the post of Chief of the Archive Section of the 2nd Demobilization Bureau, hereby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese, consisting of 3 pages and entitled "Instructions to the Plenipotentiary at the Disarmament Conference" is an exact and authorized excerpt from an official document in the custody of Japanese Government (2nd Demobilization Bureau).

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 28 day of May, 1947.

/S/ Michinori Yoshii
(seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

At the same place,
on this same date.

Witness: Toshi Saito (seal)

發電昭和十一年一月十二日 後

軍 縮 全 權

廣田外務大臣

軍縮會議全權ニ對スル回訓

(暗) 増第一三號(極秘館長符號扱)

貴電第五四號ニ關シ

貴全權等ノ御努力ヲ深謝ス

一、次回ノ委員會其ノ他ニ於テ貴全權ハ帝國政府ノ根本方針ハ共通最大
限度ヲ設定スルト共ニ攻撃的兵力ハ盡量兩方面ニ亘リ之ヲ縮減シ以
テ不脅威不侵略ノ原則ヲ確立スルニ在ルコト並ニ共通最大限度案ト
不離ノ關係ニ在ル我徹底的縮少案即チ航空母艦、主力艦及甲級巡洋
艦等攻撃的艦船ノ全廢若クハ極度ノ縮減ニ關スル豫テノ主張ヲ懇切
ニ説明シ帝國政府ハ右根本方針ニ基ク公正妥當ナル軍縮條約ノ締結
ヲ熱望スル以外他意ナキコトヲ闡明シテ我方ノ軍縮事業ニ對スル誠
意ヲ披瀝スルノ方法ヲ盡グレ度シ而モ猶我カ根本主張貫徹セザル場
合ニハ帝國政府ハ會議ニ殘留シテ建艦通報案、質的制限案ヲ討議ス

ベキ意思ナク窮極ノトコロ會議脫退ハ已ムヲ得ザル所ナリ

ニ右ニ依リ帝國提案ニ對シ篤ト各國全權ノ再考ヲ促スト共ニ之ガ採決
ヲ強フルコトナク他方後類三、潛水艦使用制限等ノ取極ニハ異存ナ
キコトヲ明ニシ以テ成ル可ク早目ニ關係五國間ニ潛水艦使用制限等
協定可能ナルモノヲ取決メ尙關係國間ニ軍備競争ヲ爲サズト言フガ
如キ共同宣言ヲ爲シテ本會議ヲ終了セシムル様誘導シ爾餘ノ問題ニ
付キ各國ノ希望スル場合ニハ帝國ノ参加セザル新ナル會議ニ譲ルガ
如キ形式ヲ採ラシムルニ於テハ局面收拾上得策ナリト思考セラル

三、英國側ニ於テハ倫敦條約第四編第二十二條ノ潛水艦使用制限ニ關ス
ル條項ヲ獨立ノ協定トシテ存置セシメタキ意圖ヲ有スル處同條ノ規
定ハ我方ニ於テモ之ヲ獨立ノ協定トナスニ異議ナク又要スレバ羣府
條約中第十四條（商船ノ武裝ニ關スル制限）、第十七條（戰爭中他
國ノ爲ニ建造中ノ軍艦使用禁止）、第十八條（軍艦ノ處分方法ニ關ス
ル約定）ノ諸條項ハ其ノ趣旨ヲ存續スルコトニ我方トシテ異議ナキ所
ナルヲ以テ之等諸條項ヲ整理シ新ナル協定トナスコトニ付キ關係國代

夢ト垢衝ヲ納クルコト差支ナシ
四 吾國ヲ除ク會議ヲ開催スルニ於テハ之ニ對シ吾國ヨリ「オブザーバー」
ヲ出スコトニハ同意セラレ差支ナシ但シ人選ニ關シテハ追テ指示スベ
シ

文書ノ出所竝ニ成立ニ關スル證明書

(三號)

自分吉井道敷ハ復員廳第二復員局文書課長ノ職ニ居ル者ナル處、茲ニ添
附セラレタル日本語ニ依ツテ書カレ三頁ヨリ成ル軍縮會議全權ニ對スル
回訓ト題スル書類ハ日本政府(復員廳第二復員局)ノ保管ニ係ル公文書
ノ拔萃ノ正確ニシテ眞實ナル寫シナルコトヲ證明ス

昭和二十二年五月二十八日 於東京

吉 井 道 敷

右署名捺印ハ自分ノ面前ニ於テ爲サレタリ

同 日 於 同 所

立會人 齋 藤 壽