

"Entry from Marquis KIDO's Diary, 14 July 1940"

14 July Sunday Cloudy

Went to the Imperial Villa at 2 PM in response to the Emperor's request and was received in audience at 2:15. Was asked by the Emperor whether an order (which had been secretly reported by the Prince, the Chief of the General Staff, for heavy artillery mobilization for the purposes of the South China campaign) had been fully cleared with the Government. I replied that I would ask the Chief Aide-de-Camp to inquire of the War Minister regarding the liason on this matter, and if the liason had not been sufficient, I myself would ask the Premier.

Left the Emperor then and at once got in touch with the Chief Aide-de-Camp on that matter.

Learned from the Aide-de-Camp that he had heard as follows from the War Minister: At the Four Ministers' Conference on the 12th (which the Finance Minister was specially invited to attend) the results of a careful study were that since in any case any preparations at all would require a month and a half, they had agreed to push preparations. It was decided at a cabinet meeting that a further cabinet decision would be required if actual operations were undertaken. After inquiring by phone as to Foreign Minister ARITA's opinion and receiving the same sort of answer as that from the War Minister, I reported in person to the Emperor to the above effect at four o'clock, and the Emperor was pleased to hear my reply.

At that time the Emperor said one thing and another about the change in the government. He said that he still today had faith in the Yonai Cabinet, and that though a change of Cabinet was inevitable in view of domestic and foreign conditions, he wished to have his feelings conveyed to YONAI. I said that I would arrange to have the Emperor's feelings conveyed to YONAI at the proper time.

Left the Imperial Villa at 4:20, and came home with Chief Secretary MATSUDAIRA, who had come down from Tokyo. Mr. HARADA of 0:50 called on me, and we three talked quietly for a while. Received a call from and was interviewed by Mr. WATANABE, a reporter from the KOKUMIN. After 6 Emiko arrived here. After 7 Tsuruko and the others left for Tokyo.