

E. 601

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Page 1

Copy

Westphalia, 21 Nov. 1941

Bureau RAM 230

Diplogerma

Tokyo

No. 2136

Telegram in Ciphers (Secret Cipher Process)

(Secret State-Matter)

In regard to telegram No. 2472 of 18 Nov.

I ask you to inform verbally the leader of the division of Foreign Armies yourself, or, if you consider it to be more correct, through the military attache, of the following in regard to his remarks,

You had made a report on this statement to Berlin and you were told that the idea there of concluding peace or armistice only jointly in case Japan or Germany becomes involved in war against the United States, no matter for what reason, is looked upon as natural and that one would be entirely willing to put down a corresponding /statement/ in an agreement to be made for this case.

Telegraphic report on execution.

RIBBENTROP

/60879/

AFFIDAVIT

I, W. P. Cumming, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and say:

1. That I am an Attache of the United States Department of State on the Staff of the United States Political Adviser on German Affairs, and as such I am a representative of the Office of Military Government for Germany (U.S.). That in my capacity as above set forth, I have in my possession, custody, and control at the Berlin Documents Center, Berlin, Germany, the original captured German Foreign Office files and archives.

2. That said original Foreign Office files and archives were captured and obtained by military forces under the command of the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Forces, and upon their seizure and capture were first assembled by said military forces at a Military Document Center at Marburg, Germany, and were later moved by authorized personnel of said Allied forces to said central documents center, above referred to, and known as the Berlin Documents Center.

3. That I was assigned to said document center at Marburg, Germany, on August 15, 1945; and said captured German Foreign Office files and archives first came into my possession and control while I was stationed at Marburg, Germany, and that thereafter the same have continued in my possession and custody and under my control.

4. That the document to which this affidavit is attached is a true and correct photostatic copy of an original German Foreign Office document which was captured from said German Foreign Office files and archives, and which came into my possession and custody and under my control in the manner above set forth.

5. That said original document, of which the attached is a photostatic copy, is being held and retained by me in order that it may be examined and inspected by various interested agencies, and a photostatic copy of said original is hereby furnished and certified to because of the unavailability of said original for the reasons above set forth.

s/ W. P. Cumming

W. P. CUMMING

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23rd day of April 1946.

s/ G. H. Garde

G. H. GARDE
Lt. Colonel, AGD
Acting Adjutant General

OFFICE OF MILITARY
GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)

Ev. # 602

DOC 4070

Page 1

To be kept in locked file

Telegram (Secret Cipher Process)

Tokyo	23 Nov 1941	10.00 s
Arrived	24 Nov 1941	3.00 hours

No. 2526 of 23 Nov 1941

Most Urgent

For the Reich Foreign Minister.

x) RAM 230 In answer to telegram No. 2136 x) of 21st.

I first informed General OKAMOTO orally through the military attache of the above telegraphic instructions, adding that I was myself prepared for discussions any time.

General OKAMOTO then asked to be received by me and in a subsequent conversation made the following statement.

The Japanese Minister of War expressed his deepest gratitude for the statements made through the Military Attache. He, OKAMOTO, was very pleased to find the fact once more confirmed that Germany would not leave Japan in the lurch in case of a conflict with the United States. He asks for information whether, in my opinion, Germany would likewise consider herself to be at war with the U. S. in the event of a Japanese commencement of war against her. I referred to the formulation of the above mentioned telegraphic instructions and to our readiness to conclude a reciprocal agreement on this matter.

OKAMOTO declared the army /Wehrmacht/ assumed that a decision would soon be made on an advance in the South. To be sure, the result of the KURUSU-talks would have to be awaited first. Even if no final time limit had been set for these discussions, the army surely insists on speeding up since the season favorable for an operation in the South was imminent.

With regard to operational intentions, I got the following impression from the conversation. A surprise occupation of Thailand about as far as the Kra Isthmus seems to be planned. At the same time seizure of the oil wells of North and East Borneo should take place. It seems not yet to have been decided how the Philippines should be dealt with. I explained, in connection with earlier instructions that, with the presupposition of the preparation of sufficient forces, in view of American weakness, a hesitant attitude would be initially possible and suitable, in order to drive the U.S. to a decision, difficult from the domestic political standpoint, on entry into the war. I further pointed to the necessity of stopping American supplies to Vladivostok, which appeared to be obvious to OKAMOTO.

OKAMOTO expressed his thanks for my statements, and declared he hoped to be able to inform me soon of the result of further deliberations of the army. He requested me to treat the conversation confidentially and in the first place to confine /it/ to army/Wehrmacht/ channels.

I got the impression from the conversation that discussions within the army /Wehrmacht/ had become much more concrete, but that a decision on the question of an advance in the South had not yet been reached.

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