

Doc. No. 1383-C

Page 1

538

Telegram No. 273, addressed to Ambassador KATO  
in France, sent July 12, 1941.

1. In order to meet the serious international circumstances of the recent days and to make headway to establish the East Asia Co-prosperity sphere, the Japanese Government has decided in the Cabinet Council to take possession of military bases and to dispatch Japanese forces to South French Indo-China. And now we are going to make a proposal to that effect to the French Government. This decision was made by the Japanese Government with firm determination to realize it in spite of any hinderances by Britain and America and even if the French Government or the authority of French Indo-China oppose it, we are to force carrying it out.

539

2. Though the relations between Japan and French Indo-China have been improved gradually since last year, they are not yet satisfactory. And when Britain and America are going to enforce their boycott against Japan, unless we secure solid ground in South French Indo-China on this very occasion, it will be impossible, after all, to have her act entirely in concert with us. We feel that our requirement at this time to press her again to do the difficult thing in spite of her repeated conciliation, and we truly do not want this, and taking into consideration the recent attitude of France in approaching the axis powers, there might occur delicate relations. For all these facts, Japan is compelled to take this measure for her self-existence and self-defense and for pursuing her Southern policy.

540

3. I wish you, (Ambassador KATO), to open negotiation at once with the French. Once, in a general explanation covering the joint-defense to the advance of the Japanese forces, you will make the proposal of telegram No. 274 and receive her answer, yes or no, during the 20th, Japanese time. In various relations, it is most preferable for us that France give her consent to our requirement enabling us to dispatch military forces in the form of peaceful occupation. However, if we do not make haste, it will give her a chance to prolong the negotiation and in the meanwhile Britain and America will make a fuss about it, which we must avoid to the utmost. We wish you to negotiate with her as fast as possible to force her to give a yes or no by the above-mentioned date at the latest. When she agrees to it you will exchange immediately with her the document shown in separate telegram No. 276. (Now, the military authority is gradually preparing to start on about the 20th, which date, in relation to strategy, is absolutely impossible

to be changed. If France agrees to it by that time, it will become a peaceful advance, and if not, a military occupation. I inform you just for your understanding only.)

541 4. This requirement of ours is done with an extraordinary firm resolution. You shall have France recognize thoroughly that if she refuses it and Japan has her troops advance from her own standpoint, it is possible that a grave change might occur to the situation of French Indo-China. It is needless to mention, if she gives consent to it, we are ready to secure solemnly the territorial integrity of French Indo-China and sovereignty of France over it. Even this proposal in itself, from another angle, is made from our inmost feeling to fulfil this responsibility. You may utilize fully this point in persuading her. When she consents to it, of course, we shall kindly afford facilities to supply goods and arms to French Indo-China as well as to axis powers.

542 5. From the conclusion of MATSUOKA - "Henri" Arrangement last year until the recent conclusion of the Franco-Japan Protocol and Economical Agreement, France has sincerely been endeavoring to approach Japan. But now, again, with such a military requirement being proposed, France will probably feel it as beyond her expectation. It is, however, the necessary measures due to the said serious circumstances of the recent days and you will have it understood fully by France that it is not because we intend to infringe boldly upon her sovereignty.

6. "Henri", the Ambassador to Tokyo, is suspected to belong to the "deGaulle" faction and it is a fact that contents of negotiation between the Japanese Government and him are secretly being informed immediately to the American and to the British Ambassadors to Japan. Therefore, this time, the negotiation is to be made at your place. As the matter is of great importance, I wish, you will negotiate directly with Marshal Petain. Of course, according to the conditions in the French Government, it cannot be helped that you may have to negotiate with Darlan. Further, if this proposal leaks out to British-American side, only involved difficulties are feared to take place uselessly, I wish you will give strict notice to the French Government to take full caution. Please telegram message to Germany, too.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I.P.S. No. 1383

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, NAKASHI Maoru hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Government in the following capacity: Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of 12 pages dated 12 July 1941 and described as follows: Telegram No. 273. No. 274 dated 12 July 1941 from Foreign Minister MATSUOKA to Ambassador KATO in France. I further certify that the attached record and document is an official document of the Japanese Government, and that it is part of the official archives and files of the following named ministry or department (specifying also the file number or citation, if any, or any other official designation of the regular location of the document in the archives or files):

Foreign Ministry  
Signed at Tokyo on this  
27th Day of Sept. 1946

/S/ NAKASHI. M.

Witness: Nagaharu OOO

Signature of Official. SEAL

Chief of the Archives

Official Capacity SECTION

Statement of Official Procurement

I, John A. Curtis, hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above certification was obtained by me from the above signed official of the Japanese Government in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this  
27th Day of Sept. 1946  
Witness: T/4 I. TOGUCHI

/S/ J.A. CURTIS 2nd Lt.

NAME

INVESTIGATOR

Official Capacity.



No. 274 'separate telegram/ '

To Ambassador KATO in France

July, 12th

1. The seriousness of the situation caused by sudden changes of recent international state of affairs, together with the military and political aggression of a Third Power in the South Seas, which is a part of the Great East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere, is obliging Japan to resort to all necessary and effective means of self-existence and self-defense. Furthermore the situation in French Indo-China, especially in the southern part, is such that a clique P-544 who doesn't want to cooperate with Japan together with Frenchmen of the "DE GAULLE" party is collaborating with England and America much to the anxiety of Japan. If as a result of this, French Indo-China joins the Anglo-American anti-Japanese encirclement policy and estrange herself from the mother country, France, as in the case of "SYRIA", it is not only a great loss to France, but also a matter of great concern to Japan. The prevention P-544 of such a situation, thus assuring security to French Indo-China against aggressions of a third Power, and P-545 perfecting the cooperation between Japan and French Indo-China, is not only the duty of France, but also the duty of Japan who is anxious to stabilize Great East Asia. Moreover, the situation is now so urgent that we cannot afford to allow it to take its own course even for a day. (If they deny the existence of such a situation, I want you to answer to the effect that even if the situation may not be so at present, in view of England's intention, it is clear that such a situation will inevitably arise sooner or later.) P-545

In order to attain the aforementioned objective, the political understanding which came into existence in the past is insufficient, therefore Japan actively desires military cooperation with France for the purpose of the joint defense of French Indo-China. P-545

2. In view of the recent situation which makes it very difficult for the French Motherland alone to effectively defend her colonies all over the world, and when the situation of French Indo-China is so urgent as mentioned P-546 above, it is impossible for Japan who is attaching importance to French Indo-China as an essential part of the Great East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere to remain an indifferent spectator. Therefore, if France truly plans the security of Indo-China, it is considered necessary to come to a complete concert and cooperation with Japan, not only in the economic field but also in the military sphere.

We believe that the only way for the French Government to really save French Indo-China from disorders is for her to have a clear picture of the state of affairs of the world, and take up this proposal candidly, placing her utmost confidence in Japan.

3. Therefore, the Japanese government requests the French government to consent to the following items for the concerted defense of French Indo-China and immediately take necessary measures. P-546

The following:

(a) Dispatch of necessary military strength, several ships, and necessary air force to the southern sector of French Indo-China. P-547

(b) As air bases, the following eight places, "SIEM-REAP" /phonetic/, "PNOM-PENH" /phonetic/, "TOURANE" /phonetic/, "NHA-TRANG" /phonetic/, "BIEN-HOA" /phonetic/, "SAIGON", "SCOROTAN" /phonetic/, and "COLPOG-TRACH" /phonetic/ are to be used, and as sea transport bases the following two places "SAIGON" and "CAMRANG" Bay, are to be used and we are to set up the accompanying facilities.

(c) To recognize the freedom of manoeuver, residence, and movement of the stationed troops and to confer special conveniences to it. (including abolition of items concerning the restriction of residence and movement of the stationed troops mentioned in the NISHIHARA-MARTIN Pact) P-547

(d) To take suitable steps such as the temporary withdrawal of French Indo-China garrison forces and air forces from the vicinity of landing areas which will be indicated by another telegram, so that the French Indo-China army will not clash with the Japanese army.

(e) To recognize the fundamental principles concerning the actions of dispatched troops (landing points and landing troops are the same as those of the above-mentioned item d.) P-548

(However, since these matters belong to important military secrets, they must not be submitted until acceptance and recognition on all the aforementioned points are made. These matters will be clearly revealed to them together with the disposition of military strength after the troops are dispatched and after a telegram to that effect reaches you.)

(f) Regarding the details of the movement of dispatched troops, a conference is to be held between the General Headquarters of the place (the SUMIDA organ) and French Indo-China after the French consent. However, if the agreements of the details are not completed when the troops reach the landing point, it will be held after the landing. P-548 P-548

(g) To offer the currency used by the dispatched troops. (details are in separate telegram No. 275)

Desire the transmission of wire to Germany.