

Def. Doc. # 2028

EXHIBIT # 3276

FROM: FOREIGN MINISTER HIROTA  
TO: AMBASSADOR KAWAGOE (CHINA)  
DISPATCHED: August 7, 1937

SUBJECT: Commencement of Truce Negotiations between Japan  
and China

No. CODE (MACHINE)  
(STRICTLY SECRET. URGENT. EXCLUSIVE CODE FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION.  
DEPARTMENTAL SECRET.)

1. As a result of active consultations among the War, Navy and Foreign Ministries on the means of settling the present situation, it is now hoped that an agreement will be reached along the lines set forth in a separate message which is expected to be adopted officially as a government policy in the course of a day or two.

2. Meanwhile, from various consideration, as it is highly desirable that the form should be kept that the initiative of the truce negotiations came from the Chinese, arrangements have been made to dispatch FUNAZU at once, as per my telegram by exclusive code for chiefs of mission to Shanghai dated the 4th, (reinforcements of three divisions to be dispatched from Japan are expected to finish their concentration by Aug. 20th, and we think it very important that an agreement of some sort should be reached before that date) who is to see Kao Tsung-wu in greatest secrecy and inspire into Kao his personal view that there is a prospect of peaceful settlement and persuade him to approach you with a proposal of truce. It would be most unwelcome that Kao, or the like,

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should respond by an indefinite proposal as a mere feeler, as it is imperative that, if the Chinese make a peace proposal at all, it should be founded upon a certain amount of determination on their part. It seems to me that Kao's proposal to you must be made with the full understanding of Chiang Kai-shok to a certain extent. (Funazu is informed of this last point.)

3. In case Kao makes a proposal for truce negotiations in response to the above arrangement, providing it is made with the understanding of Chiang, (a) if our government had already decided on the policy stated in Paragraph 1 and telegraphed instructions to you accordingly, you may proceed with preliminary conferences with Kao along the lines of the above policy; (b) or, if you had not received by that time a telegram to the effect that the government had decided on its policy along the lines above stated, you will ask for instructions immediately, reporting at the same time the details of Kao's proposal.

4. Pending the decision by the government on its policy, it is necessary from various considerations that the foregoing should be kept in strictest secrecy (even from military or naval attaches) and that utmost care should be taken not to bring about opposition from outsiders. Therefore, it is my view that personal contact between you and Funazu had better be avoided for the time being.

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5. Further, the government is willing, parallel with the above truce negotiations, or pursuant thereto, to open parleys for the adjustment of diplomatic relations from a standpoint quite free from past circumstances, and active consultations among quarters concerned are progressing. This, too, is expected to be decided upon in two or three days.

Only a very limited number of persons even at the top of the army and navy are informed of this matter, and we are trying to arrive at a decision first and then to force it through. In the meantime, the foregoing is strictly for your personal information.

TRANSMITTED TO: Shanghai, together with separate telegram.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section,  
Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document  
hereto attached in Japanese consisting of 3 pages and entitled  
" Telegram from Hirota, Foreign Minister, to Kawagoe,  
Ambassador to China, despatched on August 7, 1937." is an  
exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese  
Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,  
on this 5th day of February, 1947.

/s/ K. HAYASHI  
Signature of Official

Witness: /s/ K. URABE

FILE COPY  
RETURN TO ROOM 361

D.D. 2028

8A 3276

發電昭和十二年八月七日

在支 川 越 大 使

廣田外務大臣

日支停戰交渉開始方ノ件

暗 (機械) 第 號 (極秘至急信長符號部外秘)

- 一 現下時局ノ收拾方ニ付豫テ陸海外三省間ニ折角  
話合中ナリシ處今幾大體別電ノ趣旨ニテ纏メ得  
ル見込立テタルニ付今明中ニハ政府ノ方針トシ  
テ決定ノ遲ヒニ至ルモノト思ハル。
- 二 然ルニ石停戰交渉ノ切掛ハ諸款ノ關係上是非共  
支那側ヨリ申出テタル形トスルコト望マシキ次  
第ナルヲ以テ四日上海宛信長符號往電ノ通り船  
津ヲ急派 (内地ヨリ増派ノ三師團) ハ大體八月  
二十日頃迄ニハ集結ヲ了スル豫定ナル處石以前  
ニ何トカ話合ヲ着ケルコト甚々緊要ト考ヘ居ル  
次第ナリ一シテ高宗武ト通秘會見セシメ船津側  
人ノ意見トシテ和平解決望アル旨ヲ説キ高ヲシ  
テ貴方ニ停戰方一アブローテーセシムル様工作  
セシムルコトトセル次第ナルカ石ニ應ジ高邊リ  
ヨリ採リノ續リニテ漫然タル申出ヲナスカ如キ  
コトニテハ甚々面白カラス荷モ停戰ノ申出ヲ爲  
ス以上支那側モ相當駐ヲ決メテノ上トスルコト  
必要ナルニ付高ノ我方ニ封スル開談ハ或程度蔣



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存セラル（此ノ點船津モ承知）

石我方工作ニ應シ高ヨリ幕ト話合ノ上ナルコト  
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訓電ハサル時ハ石方針ヲ含ミ高トノ間ニ適宜豫  
備的話合ヲ開始セラレ差支ナク（ロ）其ノ邊ニ石方  
針決定セル旨ノ電報到達シ居ラサル場合ニハ石  
高申出ノ次第ヲ具シ即時請訓アリタシ

以上ハ前記政府ノ方針確定ヲ見ル迄ハ請譯ノ關  
係上絶對極秘トシ（陸海軍武官ニモ極秘トス）

外部ヨリノ反對ヲ誘致セサル様待ニ慎重ヲ期ス

如キモ當分之ヲ避ケラル、コト適當ト思フ

見ノ如キモ當分之ヲ避ケラル、コト適當ト思フ  
シ居レリ

尙政府ニ於テハ石停戦ニ關スル交渉ト同時若ク

ハ石三引續ギ從來ノ經緯ニ提ハレサル見地ニ立ツテ

國交調整ノ話ヲ進メタキ心組ニテ目下折角關係

方面ト話合居リ此レ又二三日中ニハ決定ノ見込

ナリ

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上ハ貴官限リノ極秘御合トシ巨カレ度シ

別電ト共ニ上海ニ轉電セリ