

TELEGRAM (Code Clerk)

PARIS, German Armistice Commission for Economic Affairs.

1 Oct 1941 - 2100 hours

Arrival: 1 October 1941 - 2300 hours

Economic Delegation No. 467 of 1 October 1941

Re. Telegram No. 152 of 22 September 1941, Ha Pol 6075 glll

Re. Interim Report on Indo-Chinese rubber; Japan/U.S.A.

Negotiations have been conducted with the French delegation, presided over by DE BOISANGER, in line with orders as in the above telegram. At the outset DE BOISANGER expressly confirmed the order, reported by me in telegram No. 454 of 22 September 1941, to the Governor-General of Indo-China to release the 5,000 tons which the Japanese had requested for September. He then stated the request of his government for German support of the French efforts to obtain Japanese approval for delivery of 5,000 tons to the U.S.A.

Indo-China urgently needed the proceeds from such sales for buying vital goods obtainable nowhere else, and declared in answer to a question from the German side, that in payment of the said goods the U.S.A. would neither unfreeze French blocked accounts nor accept Martinique gold.

French request was turned down as not in accord with instructions. Concerning our demand which was presented in the session, DE BOISANGER replied to me yesterday on behalf of his government that it appreciated the German attitude and would take the German point of view into consideration during the pending negotiations with Japan. He was not authorized to give a more extended declaration. I pointed out to him again that the German request was urgent and again brought forth that not only the Japanese, but also the German Government would not countenance further export of raw rubber from Indo-China to the U.S.A.

The German Commissioner, JEHLE, has by now left for Berlin. He suggested that at the French delegation, an additional release of 5,000 tons, as requested by Japan, first of all for October, be secured. We are continuing to urgently attend to the matter and may further report on it.

HEMEN

TELEGRAM (Open)

PARIS - 6 October 1941 - 2045  
Arrival, 6 October 1941 - 2330

No. 3031 of 6 October 1941

State Secretary, BENOIST-MECHIN, today revealed during a conversation, that considerable difficulties with Japan are occurring daily in Indo-China, while Japan, apart from a few exceptions, observes the Treaty's military provisions, she is violating France's economic and political sovereignty more and more.

At the time, Darlan had, in the Vichy Cabinet, personally and very strongly supported the solution sought by Japan with Indo-China since he feared that a different policy would furnish the Anglo-Saxon fighting forces with a pretext for interference and besides he desired to establish good relations with a state that had signed the Tri-partite Pact.

Owing to the aggressive behavior of the Japanese against France's sovereignty in Indo-China, doubts have been expressed within the French Government as to whether Darlan's conception was right; furthermore a stiffening on the part of the adversaries of his policy among French military and administrative circles in Indo-China is to be feared.

I was receptive in regard to Benoist-Mechin's information, the aim of which evidently was German intervention in Tokyo.

ABETZ

Secret State matter - to be kept in locked file.

TELEGRAM

(Secret Cipher Process)

TOKYO, 15 October 1941 - 0600 hours  
Arrival, " " " 1520 "

No. 2095 of 14 October

Re. Telegraphic orders dated 8 October, No. 1775 - Pol II

Observations here confirm the description of conditions as reported to Berlin from Saigon by Councillor of Legation, Neumann during the last few days. As was to be expected, the occupation of Indo-China did not proceed without friction.

I heard from the Foreign Ministry that there are numerous points in dispute concerning the interpretation of the defense agreement. The controversy concerns the treatment of the Chungking-appointed Chinese consul, the handing over of certain airplanes, the seizure of quarters and goods, anti-French propaganda disseminated by the Japanese army among the native population, and so on.

The French ambassador has lodged a number of protests, and has pressed hard the removal of matters of complaint. The Japanese government intends to increase the occupation forces, at present being 25,000, according to a report from Saigon, to 40,000. I was assured by the Foreign Ministry that the French-Japanese agreement does not provide for a maximum limit for Japanese occupation troops.

The Japanese Government seems to intend to wrest a number of concessions from the French Colonial administration through local military authorities. Only after the creation of a fait accompli will former Foreign Minister YOSHIZAWA, apparently slated for handling questions relating to Indo-China, leave for Saigon. I understand that this will not materialize before the beginning of November.

I am under the impression that both parties will not let it come to an open conflict. The Japanese government is endeavoring to keep up the outward appearance of a defense alliance and, furthermore, is afraid of diminishing the economic utilization of the country in case of an open clash, through passive resistance of the colonial administration and the native population. The Deputy Foreign Minister told me that the rice quota, amounting to 700,000 tons and urgently needed this year, was secured on the strength of the agreement concluded by MATSUOKA. It is, however, hoped that even greater quantities will be obtained

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owing to better prospects for the harvest.

The Foreign Ministry denied that there had been a Japanese-Siamese argument in the Border Commission concerning the supervision of the demilitarized zone. The Border Commission was only just starting out on its tasks. Identical telegram to Saigon.

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CERTIFICATE

I, ULRICH STRAUS, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the German and English languages, and as a result of the comparison between the German and the English texts, I have established that this is a true and correct translation of International Prosecution Document No. 4065B.

/s/ ULRICH STRAUS