

(Outgoing Letter)

LETTERS EXCHANGED BETWEEN AMBASSADOR KATO AND
FOREIGN MINISTER LARLAN

By order of my Government I have the honour to present for Your Excellency's consideration the following proposals:

1. France and Japan engage to cooperate for the joint defence of French Indo-China.
2. To this end the French Government shall grant to Japan the right to take the following measures:
 - (a) The dispatch to Southern Indo-China of the number of troops, naval, units, and air formations judged necessary.
 - (b) The use as air bases of the following localities: Siemreap, Phnom-penh, Tourane, Lhatrang, Bienhoa, Saigon, Soctrang and Moonpongtrach; as naval bases, Saigon and Camrand Bay. The necessary installations shall be set up in those places by the Japanese forces.
 - (c) These forces shall be granted facilities for billeting, carrying out manoeuvres and training. Their liberty of movement shall be recognized.

They shall also be accorded the special facilities necessary for the accomplishment of their task: this entails the suppression of restrictions provided in the Mishihara-Martin agreement.

- (d) The French Government shall provide the necessary currency to the Japanese forces up to an amount of twenty-three million Indo-China piastres for the current year, or four million five hundred thousand Indo-China piastres monthly; this sum does not include the currency which have to be provided to the Japanese forces in Tonking in accordance with previous agreements. The Japanese Government is prepared to pay for the above mentioned currency at the choice of the French Government either in convertible yen, in U. S. dollars, or in gold.
3. The French Government shall agree to the general terms of the entry of these forces and take all pertinent steps to avoid the possibility of a chance clash with Indo-China Forces, such as the temporary withdrawal of these latter from the neighbourhood of the points of disembarkation of the Japanese forces.
4. The details concerning the movements of the Japanese forces shall be drawn up by agreement with the Japanese military authorities on the spot. I take the liberty of vigorously stressing to Your

Excellency that the French Government has an earnest desire to record its adherence to the above-mentioned proposals with the least possible delay, as the understanding arrived at ought, in the opinion of my Government, to be made the object of a formal agreement as soon as possible.

In presenting the above I beg once more to express my highest respect to Your Excellency.

Excerpts translated from Incoming Letter

The first part of Foreign Minister Darlan's reply acknowledges receipt of the letter from the afore-mentioned Ambassador Kato. The latter part of the letter appears the following reply on the part of the French. At the same time by another communication the aforesaid Foreign Minister expresses certain wishes under the headings A, B, C which appear below:

1. The French Government takes note of the new step taken on 20 July by the Japanese Ambassador which demands a formal reply before 6 o'clock Tuesday, 22 July, to the memorandum sent on 14 July.
2. Although it understands the necessities which bring about this step, the French Government must once more, earnestly draw the attention of the Imperial Government to the gravity of the consequences of the putting into operation of the plan announced in the memorandum of 14 July.
3. However, the circumstances are such that, taking into account the firm assurance given by His Excellency, Prince Konoye, in his letter of 13 July addressed to Marshal Petain, it has no other course than to bow before the insistence of the Japanese Government.
4. It is in this spirit, that, in cooperation with the Japanese Government, the French Government, true to the policy which it has always, professed, will guarantee the defense of Indo-China against any attack and will share in defensive action having as its object such security, all offensive operations being excluded, in accordance with the agreement of French and Japanese local headquarters.
5. It must be well understood, on the other hand, that the presence of Japanese forces on the territory or in the waters of the Union shall be of only a temporary nature and that the Imperial Government will proceed to the total withdrawal of its forces as soon as the danger, in view of which they were admitted, has been removed.
6. Referring to the letter written by His Excellency Prince Konoye to the Marshall, the French Government is anxious to underline the fact that such a defensive cooperation does not imply any renunciation nor any limitation of the political rights of France once the

territories of the Union. Dominant considerations compel the French Government to demand of the Imperial Government to be good enough to demonstrate clearly in a public statement, in terms similar to those which appear in the message of His Excellency Prince Konoye the firm determination of Japan "to fulfil the duties to shoulder the responsibilities flowing from the solemn promise made by him with regard to the territorial integrity of Indo-China and of French sovereignty over this Union."

7. The French Government urges the extremely pressing necessity for such a declaration which is indispensable in the new circumstances for the maintenance of order in Indo-China and for the proper execution of the first steps rendered necessary by the arrival of Japanese armed forces.
 - A. (1) The French Government, intending, under the terms of its communication of today's date, to participate in the joint defence of Indo-China territory, relies on the Imperial Government supplying to the French Armed Forces in Indo-China supplementary means of defence of all kinds which the present urgency has not permitted France to obtain elsewhere. The French Government will be happy to know with the least delay the feeling of the Imperial Government on the preceding suggestions.
 - (2) In the same spirit the French Government will give to the Government-General of Indo-China all necessary instructions so that all military organizations actually on the spot shall remain available for defence, especially all coast defense works.
 - B. (1) The French Government emphasizes the extreme importance which it attaches to the public statement relative to the respect for the integrity of Indo-China and for the sovereignty of France over this Union.
 - (2) In the absence of such a statement neither French public opinion nor the troops stationed in Indo-China themselves would not understand and consequently would not admit the arrival of foreign forces into territories which are precisely those they are there to guard.
 - C. As regards arrangements of a technical nature which figure in the Japanese proposals announced in the Japanese Ambassador's letter of 21 July, the Japanese Government will doubtless realize, as does the French Government, that their putting into execution must be the occasion for an examination by competent authorities, more particularly as regards the suggestion put out in Article 3 (at the end) relative to "the temporary withdrawal of Indo-China forces from the neighbourhood of the points of disembarkation of the Japanese forces."

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