

Telegram (Secret Cipher Process)

To be kept in locked file.

Tokyo, 21 June 1941 1030 hours  
Arrival, 21 June 1941 2015 hours

No. 1009 of 21 June

Most urgent!

For German Foreign Minister.

MATSUOKA, who had invited me, told me the following information during a long conversation:

*Proceeding  
against the* 1). Renewed negotiations between Japan and the Netherlands Indies is not to be expected. Existing tension unbearable in the long run. For attacking Netherlands East Indies, air and naval bases must be set up in French Indo-China. Hence he had asked through Ambassador OSHIMA whether French consent to this could be obtained by Berlin, otherwise he would take up the matter with VICHY directly.

I have the impression that the activistically minded Congress of the Unity Party /Einheitspartei/, and the attitude of public opinion towards the problem of the Netherlands Indies, enables the government to enforce an energetic stand against the Anglophile circles by pointing to public opinion.

2). Regarding WANG CHING WEI's visit, MATSUOKA observed that Japan would not accept any solution of the China conflict without Wang Ching Wei. Ching King had previously been approached to this effect with Wang Ching Wei's consent. These efforts must be regarded as having failed.

He intends to seek the recognition of Wang Ching Wei by Germany and Italy, should this be confirmed during another conversation with Wang Ching Wei. He is certain that the Axis powers will consent to this, since the German Foreign Minister had recently replied to a question by Ambassador OSHIMA that he was ready, as heretofore, and as recently agreed upon in Berlin, to strengthen the position of Wang Ching Wei; however, with the postscript that the Fuehrer had not yet taken up the matter.

3). The United States of America had not yet replied to the Japanese communication of 12 May. A report from Ambassador NOMURA showed that HULL wanted to make his last anti-German declaration a firm, constituent part of an American-

Japanese agreement. Such a nonsensical proposal will only prove that the United States of America wishes to cause the negotiations to fail while holding Japan responsible. He would try to act in such a way that this blame is unequivocally with the United States; this would be useful for inner political reasons.

Upon my question MATSUOKA confirmed that Ambassador GREW had recently forwarded a sharp note of protest concerning the shelling of an American gunboat near CHUNGKING and the damage caused to the American Embassy there. Actually the gunboat had not been hit and no personnel casualties had occurred in the American Embassy. He had drawn the attention of the American Ambassador to the exposed position of the American craft, promising, in addition, an investigation of the case. He presumed that this had settled the incident.

Since the protest by the American ambassador was neither mentioned in the Japanese nor in any other press, I take it that both sides are striving for a settlement without any publicity.

4). MATSUOKA further informed me that he knew of the development of German-Russian relations through concrete news from OSHIMA. He repeated his previous declarations on this subject. He hoped that in the future handling /of this matter/ a way may be found which would ease his own position, and that of the Japanese government. Japan would under no circumstances allow shipments of war-essential materials of the United States from America to Siberia. He was certain that the measures taken by the Japanese Navy would hold back the United States of America from a utopian beginning.

MATSUOKA was pointedly positive and cordial during the conversation. He intentionally stressed that the army and navy agreed with his policy, evidently in order to counter rumors concerning the difficulty of his and the Cabinet's position.

OTT

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. 4081-E.

/s/ Ulrich A. Straus

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