

No. 2758

Ex 275A

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Summary the Opinion of the German Government as told by Ambassador Ott in Tokyo on 11 May 1941.

It goes without saying that the Japanese Government itself would be in the best position to decide to what degree the proposal of the American President would restrict future Japanese action in Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere. The German Government cannot but consider the proposal as originating from a far-reaching deliberation of the American President aimed at bringing about the relaxation of tension in the Pacific, in order to relieve the anxieties of the anti-war elements in the USA, and to advance in the established direction of participation in the war. The only way to check the determination of the leaders of the American Government to go to war has been to clarify the fact that American entry into the war will necessarily cause Japanese participation in the war. Therefore, there is no doubt that the American President is planning first to neutralize this fact and then to facilitate positive action on the European front.

The policy of the American Government is to intensify de facto unneutral actions (patrol or convoy) without declaring war, to wait for counter-actions by Germany and Italy, and thus to shift the responsibility of starting the war to the axis side. Therefore, the German Government thinks it proper for the Japanese Government in its reply to the USA (1) to emphasize that the continuance of actions contrary to international law such as patrol or convoy, now being taken by the American Government will

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be considered as intentional measures of the USA. to provoke war, and that it will necessarily force Japan to enter the war, (2) to state clearly that the Japanese Government is ready to study American proposals if the USA refrains from such actions.

In view of the grave effects this matter can have on the powers of the Tripartite Pact, the German Government asks of the Japanese Government that the content of the Japanese reply before being dispatched be confidentially shown to the German and Italian Government and that their opinions thereof be heard.

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CERTIFICATE OF SOURCE AND AUTHENTICITY

I, HAYASHI Kaoru, who occupy the post of Chief of Archives Section, Foreign Minister, hereby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese, consisting of 3 pages and entitled "Summary of the Opinion of the German Government as told by Ambassador Ott in Tokyo on 11 May 1941" is an exact and authorized excerpt from an official document in the custody of Japanese Government Foreign Ministry.

Certified at Tokyo,  
on this 21 day of May, 1947

/S/ HAYASHI, Kaoru

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

At the same place,  
on this same date.

Witness: URABE, Katsuo

Translation Certificate

I, Charlie S. Terry of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the above certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/S/ Charlie S. Terry

Tokyo, Japan  
Date May 27, 1947