

Exhibit 2883

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Memorandum Handed to Ambassador Grew  
by Foreign Minister Toyoda  
on 26 July 1941

In my solicitude for friendly relations between Japan and the United States, I revealed frankly to you yesterday evening, prior to its announcement to the public, the views of the Japanese Government concerning the joint defense of French Indo-China undertaken by Japan and France, and requested the consideration thereof on the part of the American Government. I have asked you again to call on me, as I believed, in view of the matters appearing recently in American newspapers and reports, that to make a frank statement of the views of the Japanese Government repeatedly is the only way to prevent further aggravation of the situation.

Whereas the statement of the American Under-Secretary of State of 24 July dealt with general principles, I venture to declare that the situation in which Japan now finds herself is, in the light of the serious state of affairs within and outside the country, closely connected with the very existence of Japan herself.

If Japan had had an intention of advancing southward with territorial ambitions, she could have carried out the intention at any time she liked, without enduring the conversations with the Netherlands East Indies which lasted for six months. That she did not venture to take such a step, and even tolerated the failure of those conversations, was simply because she had a sincere desire of maintaining the peace of the Pacific. I expect that you are fully aware that the Japanese advance into northern French Indo-China was requisite for carrying through the China Affair. Nevertheless, we perceived through various reports which we had obtained an "encircling" of French Indo-China, constituting a menace to that area, which is indispensable in prosecuting the China Affair and in securing the necessary resources. It was against such a menace that Japan undertook the joint defence of French Indo-China.

The present step is only a "precautionary measure", as explained above, which both Japan and French Indo-China were compelled to take for the sake of defence, and I reassure you that, as I told you last evening, it has no offensive significance, either against French Indo-China itself or against the areas adjacent thereto. Besides, I firmly believe that the general peace of the Pacific can be maintained through, and only through, such measures.

Should any provocative attitude or any concrete step be taken against such measures of joint defence which Japan as well as French Indo-China were compelled to take for the sake of their self-defence, on the exclusively theoretical ground that it contradicts general doctrinarian principles which the American Government ~~em-~~  
~~braces~~, the Japanese Government may not be able, it is feared, in spite of all its efforts (which have succeeded in suppressing them thus far), to suppress an outburst of the national feeling which has unfortunately received an extremely strong impetus from the attitude which the American Government has taken in connection

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with its aid to the Chiang Kai-shek régime. In such a case, there is a danger that Japan would be forced to take some counter-measures, to the destruction of all the hopes of myself as well as the present Cabinet to prevent by all possible efforts the coming about of such a situation. This would be much to be dreaded, indeed, for the maintenance of friendly relations between Japan and the United States and the peace of the Pacific. It is cordially requested therefore that Your Excellency as well as your Government give prudent and general consideration thereto.

26 July 1941.

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 2 pages and entitled "Memorandum Handed to Ambassador Grew by Foreign Minister Toyoda on 26 July 1941", is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,

on this 11th day of July 1947.

Hayashi Kaoru

Witness: Urabe Katsuma

Translation Certificate

I, Nishi Haruhiko, of the Defense, hereby certify that I am conversant with the English and Japanese languages, and that the foregoing is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation of the original document.

Nishi Haruhiko

Tokyo,  
11 July 1947