

No. 2696

42696

Def. Doc. No. 1465

Telegram No. 893

To Ambassador Satō at Moscow

(Urgent, office-chief cipher)

12 July 1945, 20:50

With reference to my telegram No. 891, et al.

Having received no report on your interview with Molotov, I feel like one marching out troops without sufficient reconnaissance, but it is considered proper to convey to the Soviet Union, prior to the commencement of the Three-Power Conference, the Imperial wish to end the war. I hope that you will make explanation to the following effect directly to Molotov:

"His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, being solicitous over the increasing calamity and damage of the war to the belligerent countries, desires that the war should promptly be brought to an end. Nevertheless, so long as Britain and the United States adhere to the demand for Japan's unconditional surrender in the Greater East Asia War, there is no other way for Japan but to fight through the war at all hazards for the honor and existence of the country. It is much against our will to shed more blood of belligerent nations for that reason. His Majesty hopes to restore peace as soon as possible for the sake of the happiness of mankind."

The above Imperial wishes are rooted, not only in His Majesty's benevolence to his subjects, but in his hearty desire for the happiness of mankind, and he intends to dispatch Prince Konoe Fumimaro as special envoy to the Soviet Union, bearing his personal letter. You are directed, therefore, to convey this to Molotov, and promptly obtain from the Soviet Government admission into that country for the special envoy and his suite. (The list of members of the special envoy's suite will be cabled later.) Further, though it is not possible for the special envoy to reach Moscow before the Russian authorities leave there for the Three-Power Conference, arrangements must be made so that the special envoy may meet them as soon as they return to Moscow. It is desired, therefore, that the special envoy and his suite make the trip by plane. You will request the Soviet Government to send an aeroplane for them as far as Manchouli or Tsitsihar.

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.

H. Nishi

Tokyo  
3 May 1947