

No 2932

42932

Def. Doc. No. 1401-K-2

From Tōgō to Nomura
10 November 1941
No. 755

Reference to my telegram No. 754.

Whereas the Japanese Government has, in connection with the adjustment of Japanese-American relations, endeavored to promote the solution of the China Affair, and the United States Government also has maintained that the China problem cannot be excluded in considering the general peace of the Pacific, it will meet the original desire of the Japanese Government relative to the problem of peace between Japan and China if the United States intends at this juncture to proffer its good offices between Japan and China in accordance with the line suggested by Secretary Hull, and to leave the details of the peace conditions to direct negotiation. By making use of Hull's suggestion we can exclude the problem of stationing and withdrawing of troops from the present negotiations, thereby expediting the conclusion thereof, and we are also enabled to conduct peace negotiations with China without the interference of the United States.

In utilizing that suggestion, however, we must first obtain a commitment or a statement by the United States to the effect that the establishment of Japanese-Chinese peace would not be made a condition for the conclusion of the Japanese-American negotiations, and that the United States would not impede peace between Japan and China (including assistance to Chiang also should be included), thereby making it clear that the agreement between Japan and the United States should be speedily signed and put into execution.

(In substance, this will mean, with respect to the China problem, that Article 3 of Proposal "A", concerning the China Affair, in my telegram No. 726 is replaced in the agenda of the Japanese-American negotiations by the fourth clause of Proposal "B" in my telegram No. 727--"The Government of the United States undertakes not to indulge in measures and actions prejudicial to the endeavors for the restoration of general peace between Japan and China." I trust that the suggestion of Hull was made out of a sincere desire on the part of the United States for the speedy arrival at a Japanese-American understanding, and that she offers her good offices to Japan and China from such a point of view. However, should it be the case that the United States intends to postpone the settlement of other matters until the establishment of the Japanese-Chinese peace, and to continue assisting Chiang meanwhile, the acceptance of the suggestion will not only render Japanese-American understanding impossible, but will result in Japan's being held responsible for the failure of the negotiations. It is desired that you bear this in mind, and negotiate with caution.

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