

Exhibit 2702

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Telegram No. 1449

From Ambassador Satō to Foreign Minister Tōgō

(Office-chief cipher, urgent)

Dispatched from Moscow at 23:53, 25 July 1945
Arrived at Tokyo at 20:10, 26 July

Reference to my telegram No. 1441,

I met Lozovsky on the 25th and made the statement in my separate telegram No. 1450. Subsequently, there were questions and answers as follows:

SATŌ: As I have just stated, the Japanese Government seeks the good offices of the Soviet Government in order to bring the war to an end, and intends to have Prince Konoe explain the Government's concrete intentions in connection therewith directly to the Soviet Government. I hope that you will understand this point.

LOZOVSKY: May I have the text of your present statement? The content of the statement is very important, and the written statement will be greatly conducive to exact understanding of it by this Government; precise understanding cannot be expected from the oral statement only. Moreover, if I can have it in written form, it will be convenient for my reporting to my government.

There are a few questions which I should like to ask. I would like to understand that (1) the Japanese Government is asking for the services of the Soviet Government to bring to an end the war with the United States and Britain, and (2) that Prince Konoe is to propose some concrete proposal in this connection. But it is not clear whether the very proposal is connected with the ending of the war or with the improvement and strengthening of Russo-Japanese relations. I should like to have this point explained so that I may report it to the Government.

SATŌ: To answer the first point, the concrete intention of the Japanese Government which Prince Konoe is to lay before your Government is connected, as I understand, with both of the problems you have just mentioned. It is connected on the one hand with the request for the good offices of the Soviet Government, and on the other with the question of the improvement and strengthening of Russo-Japanese relations. In the next place, though it goes beyond the limits of the instructions I have received, I will put what I have stated today in writing for your reference and submit it to you later on my own responsibility, in the light of the importance of the matter which you have pointed out, and in consideration of the fact that the high authorities of the Soviet Government are now in Berlin. But, in view of the delicate nature of the question, I desire that the document be kept strictly confidential until the reply is given by the Soviet Government.

It is believed, I should like to add, that there is no mistake in considering, in the light of the deep confidence of His Majesty the Emperor which Prince Konoe enjoys and the distinguished position which he holds in political circles in Japan, that his mission is to cover a wide scope, including asking the Government of the Soviet Union for its good offices and exchanging views in order to facilitate solution of questions between Japan

and the Soviet Union and going further into the future relations between the two countries.

LOZOVSKY: I fully understand the delicate nature of the question, and also that your proposal should be treated strictly confidentially. The matter will be reported to the Government as soon as your written statement is sent to me, and the instructions from the Government will be conveyed to you as soon as they are received.

SATŌ: I appreciate your kindness. I do hope personally, not to mention officially, that a prompt reply will be obtained.

(On leaving, I added as follows:)

As regards the mission of Prince Konoe, the objective of the Japanese Government is to ask for the good offices of the Soviet Government to bring the war to a termination. Since the objective is good, I hope you will kindly endeavor to persuade the Soviet Government to hear this directly from Prince Konoe.

Today's conversation was as above. I made repeated explanations about the mission of the special envoy, and I think I have succeeded in making a considerable impression upon Lozovsky. Especially the point that the Japanese Government asked for the good offices of the Soviet Government seems to have arrested Lozovsky's attention. He listened to me with an eager and polite attitude throughout the interview, and promised to give the answer of the Soviet Government.

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