

No 2933

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From Nomura to Togo
10 November 1941
No. 1066

RETURN TO ROOM 361

1. I had Mr. Moore approach Mr. Thomas (member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and well acquainted with Mr. Hull). The gist of Mr. Moore's report is that the United States is not making a bluff, that if Japan engages in further aggression the United States will fight Japan, that the American people are spiritually prepared, and that the United States Navy is "ready for action".

2. Yesterday evening, Sunday, I met a Cabinet member. He caused the persons around him to withdraw, and spoke to me in real earnest, with the introductory remark, swearing by God to our intimate friendship, that he was telling this to no one except myself. He said that the United States Government had in its hands reliable information that Japan would shortly take action, and that the United States Government considered that neither my visit to the President on Monday nor Mr. Kurusu's coming to the United States would have any effect on the general situation. Thereupon, I told him in detail that the Japanese people had become impatient especially after the freezing of Japanese assets, but that they want a speedy conclusion of the pending negotiations and to maintain friendship by all means, and that they do not want a war against the United States.

He said, however, that "our Boss" (the President) believed the above-mentioned information, and so did the Secretary of State.

In press comments, except those in the Daily News and Hearst papers, a Japanese-American war is far more popular than an American-German war, and it is said that there are some Britons who are trying to take advantage of that popularity. With regard to Anglo-American military collaboration, an agreement of views is reported already to have been reached in preliminary conversations. Some urge the necessity of having a part of the British fleet sent to Singapore. It is not improbable that the President, out of considerations of domestic politics, may more in this direction. The said Cabinet member said that the United States would not choose to take action, but that, if Japan took action, the United States would surely act for its honor in view of the developments which have thus far occurred.

3. In my interview with the President on the 10th, I will do everything in my power in pursuance of your instructions.