

Exhibit 2887

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Def. Doc. No. 1401-J-1

From Toyoda to Nomura
7 August 1941
No. 452

(1) You are well aware, through our repeated telegrams, of the earnest intention of the Konoe Cabinet, harbored since the time of the preceding Cabinet, to adjust the diplomatic relations between Japan and the United States. Nevertheless, relations between the two countries are at present in such an extraordinarily strained condition, owing to misunderstanding existing between them and also third-power activities, that we can no longer afford to leave the situation as it is now. The only possible way to tide over the present crisis is, it is believed, for the responsible heads of the two Governments to meet personally, and lay bare their hearts to study the possibility of saving the situation.

(2) In accordance with that view, and in consideration of the fact that the first proposal of the Government of the United States included an offer of similar import, Premier Konoe is disposed to take a trip in person as far as Honolulu to meet President Roosevelt, provided that the United States consents to it. It is desired, therefore, that you emphasize that the present attempt is based upon a sincere desire on the part of the Japanese Government to maintain peace in the Pacific, and sound out the response of the Government of the United States.

(3) In case the Government of the United States appears to hesitate to accept our offer on account of our troop movement into French Indo-China and of the news of the strengthening of Japanese forces in the north (this is possible in the light of your telegram No. 649), you will stress these points: (a) that it is a resolution of unprecedented importance on the part of the Japanese Government that, in view of the serious situation, the Premier should personally attend the meeting, and (b) that it is a duty owed by both Governments to their respective nations that they should make every possible effort for maintaining peace in the Pacific.

(4) When the consent of the Government of the United States shall have been obtained, an immediate report will be expected regarding the date that suits the President, it being considered necessary, in light of the present situation, that the conversations start at the earliest possible date. As for the agenda, it will be deliberated upon, as occasion demands. But it is the desire of the Japanese Government that the general conversations be on the line of the plan now under consideration for the adjustment of Japanese-American relations. It is hoped further that, both the Premier and the President being pressed by business, the term of the conversations may be so arranged that it will not exceed a few days, and that, from practical considerations, the delegation of each country may consist of not too many members.

(5) Absolute secrecy must be preserved as to the present matter, in view of its importance, until it is settled, and it is requested that you in person will convey our proposal to the President or to the Secretary of State. However, as it is considered proper to publish it promptly when it shall have been settled, provided that the President has no objection, we expect to announce it officially after due consideration concerning the date and other details, and we shall entrust to you the making of suitable advance arrangements on these points. In order to maintain secrecy we intend not to inform the American Ambassador in Tokyo of this proposal for the time being. This is for your information.