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POLITICAL INFORMATION

Subject: Intensification of Japanese South Seas Policy

In recent years there has scarcely been one speech on foreign political program, or one Diet debate that has not at least suggested and in stereotyped expression brought up the problem of Japanese South Sea Policy. The reason for this was besides the life and death problems for Japan of raw materials, markets and immigration, the prestige of the Navy which maintained, as is widely known, in contrast to the continental aims of the Army, the necessity of sufficient protection of peaceful expansion in the South Seas by Japan.

It is not surprising that the present day Diet is paying more than merely traditional or academic interest in the South Seas problem when one sees that the Washington Treaty has recently expired, that the English and American new powerful naval armament is causing disgust in Japan, that the question of the world division of raw materials has reached a decisive stage as a result of the meeting of the Committee in Geneva and the concrete taking up of the German colonial and raw material problems, and that lastly, the lengthy Japanese-Netherlands East Indian trade treaty negotiations have not yet shown any satisfactory results.

The Japanese government has also recently tended to show tendencies of a certain intensification of its South Seas Policy. Several measures have been taken, which at the same time should meet the endeavors, anchored generally in the internal-political reform program for the strengthening and unifying coordination of the foreign trade policy.

In this way, the Foreign Ministry here has established a South Seas Division, and its mission is to unify and lead all official work done concerning the South Seas questions.

Moreover, the newly appointed Japanese Ministry to the Hague, former Director of the East Asiatic Bureau of the Foreign Ministry Kiwashima, was despatched on an inspection tour to the Netherlands East Indies before going to his new post. His activities there will scarcely be restricted to simple courtesy contacts with the NEI officials or to accelerate the Japanese-NEI Trade Treaty negotiations.

It is perhaps better to accept the view that Kuwashima, after his return to Japan, based on his impressions gained on the spot, will suggest to the concerned governmental quarters plans to further effectively carry out various Japanese projects in the South Seas, in order to, after his arrival at the Hague, lead Japanese-Dutch relations to a new and positive phase.

The highest leading principle for the Japanese policy will be in future as in the past -- this will be emphasized on all occasions -- the absolutely friendly economic development and penetration of extremely important raw material and market regions in close and friendly agreement with the Netherlands Government.

Concerning this gradual settling of the target by the government, a Minseito M.P. who pays special attention to South Seas problems, Hyogoro Sakurai, in his interpellation, made a point that appeared to be premature and to overshoot its target. He proposed that Japan should lease eternally the Netherlands, New Guinea and other small neighboring islands and conclude a non-aggression pact with Holland. Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hayashi made a reserved answer and said he would consider the proposal, and utilized the opportunity to again emphasize that Japan had no territorial ambitions concerning the NEI or the Philippines.

In the course of this debate, Hayashi in the end, touched briefly on the question of Australian immigration and promised that the government would take the initiative also in this direction.

In the Diet, and therefore in the open forum of Japan and the world, all the problems included in the concept of "Impetus Toward the South" were one after another touched upon. The expressions were renewed that Japan sees in the peaceful penetration and development of the thinly populated South Seas raw material areas where Japanese labor and capital had already widely taken hold one of the most natural ways to satisfy Japanese material necessity in the sense of a justified division of raw material and colonial areas of the world.

On the morning following the debate, a Domei report from the Hague had the effect of a cold douche. According to this report, the Dutch Government's answer to the Japanese proposal was that the conclusion of a non-aggression pact was contradictory to the general attitude and

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political tradition of the Netherlands, however, that the Netherlands Government was ready within the scope of the policy of the open door, which has always been maintained by it, to consider sincerely the Japanese proposal to acquire rights in New Guinea, provided it turns out to be legally valid.

(Signed) VON DIRKSEN

C E R T I F I C A T E
O F O R I G I N

I, YALE MAXON, Chief of the Document Division, IPS,
hereby certify:

1. That I am Chief of the Document Division of the
International Prosecution Section, GHQ, SCAP, and as such
have possession, custody, and control of original or copies
of all documents obtained by the said Section.

2. That frames 239 - 292 being 4 sheets of a photostatic
copy of telegram from Dixsen to Berlin of 8 March 1937 and
fained in IPS Document 4040 were received by the IPS from the
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YALE MAXON (Signed)