

D. D. #2421

Litchfield, Connecticut,
January 10, 1947.

I, Eugene H. Dooman, Counselor of the American Embassy at Tokyo from May 22, 1937, to December 8, 1941, certify that on May 23, 1939, while Charge d'Affaires ad interim of the Embassy, I met Baron Hiranuma, at that time the Prime Minister of Japan, and that he then requested me to convey to the President of the United States a proposal that a conference of the Great Powers be called by President Roosevelt to endeavor to avert the war which was then threatening in Europe.

Baron Hiranuma said that if war should break out in Europe the United States and Japan would inevitably be drawn into it, and that a world war would accomplish nothing but the destruction of civilization. He added that if the proposed conference could be held, Japan would agree to the placing before it of the Sino-Japanese conflict, even though it had been the policy of the Japanese Government to refuse to allow third countries to intervene between Japan and China. An extended account of our conversation will be found in my despatch no. 3956, dated June 7, 1941, from Tokyo to the Secretary of State.

I had long been aware that Baron Hiranuma maintained exceptionally close personal relations with the Emperor and certain other influential members of the Imperial Family. As the Japanese Army had repeatedly declared that no interposition of third powers between Japan and China would be tolerated, it was clear that the Prime Minister could not have made the proposal described unless he were prepared to invoke the intervention of the Emperor in overcoming the opposition of the Army, which would be certain, to laying the Sino-Japanese conflict before the Western Powers. His proposal for an international conference which would seek, among other things, a settlement of Sino-Japanese issues, postulated a willingness to resort to this extreme and unprecedented measure, with results within Japan no one could foresee. I was, therefore, profoundly convinced at that time that Baron Hiranuma was earnestly and courageously seeking to restore peace in the Far East on a durable basis and to avert war with any of the Western Powers.

That conviction was only strengthened by subsequent knowledge that he had supported the sending in January 1941 of Mr. S. Hashimoto to the United States to explore with officials in the Department of State and with leading Americans the possibility of negotiations between the United States and

Japan looking toward the resolving of the critical situation in the Pacific.

I confidently believe that no evidence will be adduced before the International Tribunal to controvert my considered judgment that Baron Hiranuma did not promote war and that he was not involved in any conspiracy to promote war.

George D. Brown

一九四七年一月十日

コネクテカット リックフィールドニ於テ

D.D. 2421

一九三七年五月二三日ヨリ一九四一年十二月八日迄

東京米國大使館参事官タリシ自分 | ユージン・エック

ドウマンハ次ノコトヲ證明ス 即チ一九三九年五月二十三日 自分

ガ臨時代理大使デアッタ時ニ南時ノ日本總理大臣デアッタ平沼

男爵ニ面會シタ其ノ際男爵ハ自分ニ對シ歐州ニ於テ南時

切迫シタ事ヲ對案ヲ回避スルコトニ努ムル為メ大統領ニヨリ

列施會議召集セラルベントイフ提案ヲ米國大統領ニ傳達ス

ラ要請シタ。

MIRACUM

平沼男爵ハ若シ歐州ニ對案ガ起ルハ米國モ日本モ引キ込

マルコトハ避ケ難イダロウ又世界對案ハ文明ノ破壊ヲ免

成スルノミデアロウト言ヒ、更ニ附言シテ若シ提案セラルル

會議ヲ用クコトガ出来ハ日本政府ハ従来日支關係ニ第三

國ガ干渉スルコトヲ拒絕スル政策デアッタガ夫レニ拘拘ラス

日本ハ其會議ニ日支紛争問題ヲ議題ニスルコトニ同意

スルダロウト言ッタ。其等ノ會議ノ詳細ナル記事ハ一九四一年

六月七日附第三九三六號 東京ヨリ國務^{長官}ニ對スル自分ノ

書信中ニオテ居ル。

自分ハ平沼男爵ガ天皇及皇室ノ他ノ有カテ自皇族ト特別

ニ密接ト個人的關係ヲ持テ居ルコトヲ古クカラ知ツテ居タ。

日本ノ陸軍ハ屢ニ日支百ニ第三國ノ介入スルコトヲ許サズト
言明シテ居ルカラ 陸軍ハ日支紛争ヲ西洋列施ノ

會議ニカケルコトニ必ズ反對スベク總理大臣ハ軍ヲ反對ヲ排除
スル為ニ天皇ノ御裁定ヲ奏請スル用意ガタイ限リ上述ノ提
案ヲスル若ハナイトイフコトハ明白デアラフ。

他ノ問題ト共ニ日支問題ノ解決ヲ求ルル國際會議ヲ

男爵ガ提案スルイフコトハ日本國內テハ何人モ豫見出来ナイ

結果ヲ生ズベキ極端ノ前例ナキ方法ニ依ルコト同意デアリトイフ

コトヲ前提トスルワケデアカラ私平治男爵ハ其ノ當時極東

ノ平和ヲ永續性ル根基ノ上ニ求メ又西洋列強ノ何トモ裁奪

ヲ避ケヤウト熱心ニ勇敢ニ努メテ居ルコトヲ深く信ジタリテアル。

其ノ確信ハ其ノ後平治男爵ガ夫橋中代ヲ一九四一年

一月米國ニ派遣スルコトヲ支持シタリトイフコトヲ知り更ニ強固ニセリ

レタ。橋中代ハ米國國務省官吏及米國務遂階級ノ人

ニ就キ太平洋ニ於ケル危機解決ヲ目指ス。日米百ノ會談ノ可

能性ヲ探求スル為ニ派遣セタリテアル。

私平治男爵ハ裁奪ヲ推進シタリトイフ裁奪ヲ推進シ

共同謀議等ニ加リテ居ラヌトイフ私ノ熟慮セン判断ヲ覆

ス様ナシテ裁奪ハ國際法廷ニ提ホセズルコトハナイト私カニ信ズル

モノデアリ

ユージン・エイチ・ドウマン