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Def.Doc. # 2872

As Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs from February '38 to July '41 I had frequent opportunities of exchanging views with Mr. Shigemitsu, then Japanese Ambassador in London.

Mr. Shigemitsu was generally regarded as a man of high character. While clearly an ardent patriot, he foresaw the dangers into which the militarist clique in Japan were leading his country. He never underestimated Britain's strength and spirit, and had a proper appreciation of the determination of Mr. Churchill and the British people to win the war. He frequently used language agreeing with me that it would not be in the interests of his country to become involved in a struggle with Great Britain, and he appeared to foresee the peril of war with Great Britain and America in the Pacific.

I have been shown Exhibit No. 1062 which I recognise as having been drafted by Mr. Churchill for the purpose of handing to Mr. Shigemitsu whom he regarded as a reliable Representative in order that it might be put directly before the Japanese Foreign Secretary during his trip to Europe.

R. A. Butler
6/1/47

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Office of Special Commissioner in
South East Asia,
Cathay Building,
SINGAPORE

February 27th 1947

I, Right Honourable Baron Killearn, P.C.,
G.C.M.G., C.B., M.V.O., hereby certify that
Mr. Mamoru Shigemitsu was well known to me when
he was Japanese Minister to China.

In the spring of 1932 when fighting broke
out in the suburbs of Shanghai between Japanese
and Chinese forces, I, with other neutral
colleagues, endeavoured to put a stop to hostili-
ties and to prevent them spreading and to this end
arranged meetings attended by both Japanese and
Chinese representatives. On the Japanese side
Mr. Shigemitsu from the outset co-operated whole-
heartedly and much of the credit for reaching an
agreement was due to his persistent efforts and
patient co-operation.

When agreement had been signed he was unfortu-
nately seriously wounded in a terrorist outrage.
Despite the fact that he was in severe pain he
refused to allow his injuries to hold up the signature
of the agreement which was accordingly taken to him in
hospital where he signed it.

(Signed) Killearn

Witness to signature:
Robert Heatler Scott
Counsellor
H.P.M. Foreign Service

(Signed) R. H. Scott

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON**



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