

Exhibit 2870

3

Def. Doc. No. 1401-A-1

From Nomura to Konoe  
17 April 1941  
No. 233

I had a talk with the Secretary of State today, at his private residence. He offered to commence the negotiations with a draft which will be conveyed separately in my telegram No. 234. (Tentatively it will be called Draft Understanding. As to this draft, we had been sounding out the intention of the American Government privately until we could ascertain that Secretary Hull had no objection to it in general. Thereupon, the plan has been framed after complicated negotiations, in which I partook in private.) And it was his request that I should obtain instructions of the Japanese Government in this connection, lest the agreement reached between the Secretary of State and myself should be disavowed by the Tokyo Government, in which case the American Government would be put in a very awkward position.

We have made a careful study of the matter with the members of the Embassy staff, military and naval attachés, Colonel Iwakuro, et al. We have also given full consideration to the state of affairs at home and abroad, and have, working as one, exerted efforts to make the present understanding advantageous for us. But, of course, it does not cover all aspects of Japanese-American relations. With respect to the contents of the items, also, it is feared that they have defects. Nevertheless, it is our belief that, if an understanding to such an effect be reached on this occasion,

(1) it will not be contradictory to the spirit of the Imperial Rescript given on the occasion of the conclusion of the Tripartite Alliance, and it is presumed that the conclusion of the understanding will even conform to the Imperial wishes;

(2) it will not betray the faith of the Tripartite Alliance;

(3) it will be the first step toward maintenance of the peace of the Pacific, which is the fundamental policy of the Japanese Government; and

(4) it will further serve as the groundwork for Japanese-American cooperation in rebuilding the peace of Europe.

In this connection, I earnestly request your instruction allowing me to proceed with the negotiations according to this plan, leaving all the defects thereof to be remedied at the proposed conference.