

Exhibit 2865

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Excerpts from PEARL HARBOR ATTACK
(United States Government Printing Office-Washington: 1946)
Memoirs of Prince Konoye

Part 20

Pages 4014-4016

THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE SUPREME COMMAND AND STATE AFFAIRS FROM EACH OTHER
THE ANGUISH OF CABINETS FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

The fact that the Supreme Command and State Affairs are independent of each other has been a matter of anguish for cabinets from generation to generation.

During the present Japanese-American negotiations, too, the government on the one hand was conducting these negotiations with all its powers, but the military was vigorously making preparations in case the negotiations should be broken off: Moreover, as to what those preparations were, we did not know at all, and it was not possible to have them go along step by step with diplomacy. Since the military vigorously went about moving ships, mobilizing troops, etc., and these things were discovered by the United States, the United States would question the sincerity of our diplomacy, so that we were frequently embarrassed because the relationship between diplomacy and military matters was not smooth.

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But the Japanese constitution is built on a framework of direct rule by the Emperor, and is fundamentally different from the English constitution. Especially in reference to the problem of the authority of the Supreme Command, the government has no power at all of raising its voice, and the only person who may restrain both the government and the Supreme Command is the Emperor.

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Recently Premier Tōjō spoke to the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, Kido, and sympathetically that, now that he had become Premier, he understood for the first time how difficult it was for the previous Premiers to do things, and that he himself would to the very end proceed with a duplication of posts; to this I understand the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, Kido, replied that that was not the first time that someone had said this, that it had been exactly the same from the time of the first Konoye Cabinet, and that, late though it may be, to have the Army realize this point was fine.