

Document No. 4115

*(note letter)*  
*interviews.*

*O.K.*

*Exh. 1207*

~~Excerpt No. 9~~ - From statement of Shigenori TOGO  
dated 11 March 1946, 1000-1200 hours (page 1)

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- Q. Who would be considered responsible, who would you consider responsible for the composition of that note?
- A. That notification, as I have previously explained, was a summation of the results of the studies and discussions which took place at the liaison conferences regarding negotiations with the United States. The note itself was written by the Foreign Office, but the responsibility for the composition rests with the participating members of the liaison conferences. The responsibility for the contents of the notification rests with the members of the liaison conferences. Furthermore, the matter was also reported to the Cabinet and passed the Cabinet without objection.
- Q. Could you give me the names of the individuals at the liaison conferences and the Cabinet members who would be considered responsible for the contents of the note?
- A. As I have said at a previous meeting, members of a liaison conference who were responsible for the study and discussions on the matter were TOJO, SHIMADA, SUGIYAMA, NAGANO, TSUKADA, ITO, KAYA, SUZUKI, and the three secretaries, HOSHINO, MUTO and OKA. As to the members of the Cabinet, under the constitution they are responsible for decisions of the Cabinet, even on matters outside of the competence of their respective offices.

~~Excerpt No. 16~~ - *interrog.* From statement of Shigenori TOGO  
dated 11 March 1946, 1000-1200 hours (page 3)

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- Q. I understood from you that the note was composed by the Foreign Office after the contents of what the note should contain had been decided upon at the liaison conferences. I also understand that after the note was composed by the Foreign Office it was presented for approval to the Cabinet on December 1, 1941, at which time the Cabinet approved it. Is my understanding correct?
- A. The first part of your understanding is correct, that is, that the writing of the note took place in accordance with the decision of the liaison conference as to its contents. However, I should like to make some correction as to the date. December 1 was the date of the Imperial Conference, at which the decision for war was made. However, previous to the Imperial Conference the main points of the note to be sent were reported to the Cabinet; but as to the drafting of the note, that came afterwards, and at a later Cabinet meeting the main points were further explained and the continuation of the explanation that was made at the former Cabinet meeting. I cannot recall definitely, but it seems to be around November 30, but I could have the date more definitely confirmed later.

*interview*  
~~Excerpt No. II~~ - From statement of Shigenori TOGO  
dated 11 March 1946, 1000-1200 hours  
(bottom of page 4 and top of page 5)

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- Q. From what you have stated would you consider that the members of the Cabinet and members of the liaison conference, whose names you have mentioned, are equally responsible with you as regards to the contents of the note and its delivery?
- A. As to the contents of the note, I think it is but natural that all the members of the liaison conference are responsible. As to the Cabinet, they would have at least a final responsibility in that they expressed no objection, that is, from the legal point of view. Of course, it all depends whether you view the matter superficially or formally, or whether you would like to view it more profoundly. But, practically speaking, in the light of actualities it might be said that there is a difference in the degree of responsibility by the liaison conference and the Cabinet because not all the Cabinet members attended the liaison conference, but the situation was such that whatever was approved by the liaison conference was approved by the Cabinet. Although there may be a difference in degree of responsibility, the Cabinet might have at least a nominal responsibility.
- Q. Who knew and approved of the details concerning the manner of the delivery of the note?
- A. As to the delivery of the note, instructions were sent previously to the Embassy in Washington stating that it was to be delivered at 1:00 PM, December 7, Washington time, as much as possible to the Secretary of State, and that all preparations be made for the purpose of delivering the note at the specified time. The instructions themselves were dispatched by the Chief of the Cable Section of the Foreign Office. Regarding the sending of such instructions, all members of the liaison conference knew. It is naturally a matter on which there should be no objections, and, therefore, it was approved as a matter of course.

Exh. 1207

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*interview*  
~~Excerpt No. 12~~ - From ~~statement~~ of Shigenori TOGO  
dated 11 March 1946, 1000-1200 hours  
(bottom of page 5 and top of page 6)

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Q. Why was England not advised of declaration of war?

A. In the latter stages of the negotiations, when I became Foreign Minister, our relations with Britain were naturally considered. As a matter of fact, in case understanding was reached with the United States, agreements with Britain, the Netherlands, and other countries concerned would be necessary. Therefore, inquiry was made of the United States government on this matter. Regarding this point the Secretary of State informed Ambassador NOMURA that such matters would be handled by the United States and that the United States government would duly inform Britain and the other countries concerned. That being the case, it was not considered necessary to make any notification in London, since it would be going from Washington. However, on the morning of December 8, Tokyo time, shortly after the visit of Ambassador GREW at 7:00 AM, I asked for the visit of Ambassador GRAGIE of Britain. At that time I informed the British Ambassador the results of our negotiations with the United States and for reference gave him a copy of the Japanese note to the United States. Thereafter, around noon, the British Ambassador was duly notified, in writing, that a state of war existed between Japan and Britain. And, as I recall it, that notification was delivered before the commencement of hostilities with Great Britain.