

No. 2726

64 2726

Def. Doc. #1634

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

Telegram (secret cipher process)

Rome Quir., 23 August 1939 23:30 o'clock

Arrival: 24 " " 3:30 "

Top Secret!

No. 364 of 23.8.

Top secret. Referring to my long-distance telephone talk with Counsellor of the Legation, Hewel. Count Ciano requested me to come to see him this evening and according to a report of the Italian Ambassador in Tokio, he related, "Since this report seems to be of very important nature, please transmit it at the earliest possible moment. It will enable us to take counter measures with speed and force". The Ambassador's report is based upon a report of his military attache, who was called yesterday (evening) to the Japanese War Ministry, and told that: The Non-Aggression Pact now to be concluded in Moscow has caused deep indignation in Japan towards Germany; that it will mean betrayal to the German-Japanese friendship and to the spirit of the Anti-Comintern Pact, especially when Japan has never been informed of such intention in advance. The Ambassador anticipates the below mentioned possible developments: (To what extent is this report based upon the conversation, which the military attache had in the War Ministry? It is not clear whether the report is based upon the ambassadors own opinion. Ciano

said the Ambassador, in this connection, is an especially calm observer.)

1. Collapse of the present government and formation of a new pro-British cabinet. 2. Change of the Japanese foreign policy. 3. Recall of the Ambassador from Berlin and probably of that from Rome. 4. Sending of reinforcements to the Kwantung Army to keep balance with the Russian reinforcement of strength.

The Ambassador's report continues that if the Axis Powers intend to interfere with the attitude of Japan, something must be done, and that the Japanese Army has declared to have received no direct information from Berlin and Rome up to the present. Ciano has immediately sent instructions to the Ambassador in Tokio requesting him to explain to the Japanese that 1. the Italian Policy has never been changed and her friendliness and understanding towards Japan also remain unchanged, that 2. the Japanese in judging the situation should remember that weakening of either England and France in Europe is only to her advantages that 3. recall of the Ambassadors would be an unprecedented measure and would only aggravate the situation, which, after all our efforts, has been smoothed out and seems to be in no way unfavourable for Japan.

Finally it is desired that the Ambassador assure the Japanese that they should continue to have full confidence in Italy as in the past. Attaching an extreme importance to the Ambassador's report, Ciano said that he hope that Germany also would do everything possible through her Ambassador and press to calm down the Japanese. Ciano thus concluded his report.

Mackensen

C E R T I F I C A T E
O F O R I G I N

I, YALE MALON, Chief of the Document Division, IPS, hereby certify:

1. That I am Chief of the Document Division of the International Prosecution Section, GHQ, SCAP, and as such have possession, custody, and control of original or copies of all documents obtained by the said Section.

2. That frames 136066-136067 being 2 sheets of a photostatic copy of telegram 364 from Meckensen to Berlin of 23 Aug. 1939 and contained in IPS Document 4047 were received by the IPS from the office of the Chief of Counsel of the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials.

(signed) YALE MALON