

Def. Doc. No. 1401-Q-1

From Toyoda to Nomura
22 September 1941
No. 589

Rejected

I asked the American Ambassador in Tokyo to call on me at 4:30 P.M. on 22 September, and expressed my opinion to the following effect. The American Ambassador replied that he would convey it to the home government immediately.

(1) The intention of Premier Konoe in connection with the meeting of the two heads is evident in the message to the President of the United States itself.

(2) His intention is that the general principles shall be decided at the meeting of the two heads and the details shall be left to negotiation by the competent authorities of the two Governments. The American Government, however, takes the attitude that agreement on the pending points should be reached beforehand.

(3) As I have repeatedly stated, the Japanese Government has readily made replies to the inquiries of the American Government. Explanation with respect to the policy and attitude of the Japanese Government has been exhausted, and it now remains only to wait for the reply of the American Government.

(4) The Japanese proposal which I handed to the American Ambassador on 4 September not only includes all the pending points, but expounds the Japanese attitude covering a wider scope, and in no way narrows down the original proposal of the Government of the United States.

(5) The American Ambassador's inquiry of 10 September reminded me of the fact that the Government of the United States had a doubt as to using its good offices to restore peace between Japan and China. In this connection, I showed the American Ambassador privately the basic terms of peace between Japan and China. We are not taking a new position thereby, but it should be taken as an explanation of the Japanese proposal of 4 September. (The basic peace terms which I presented will be cabled to you separately as No. 590.)

(6) As for the situation in Tokyo, there is a great difference compared with that of a month ago, as the American Ambassador, conversant with Japanese affairs, must be well aware. This is an undisputed truth, and I hope that the American Ambassador will strongly impress the fact upon the Government of the United States. The present Japanese-American negotiations became a topic of conversation everywhere in the world from about the time the news began to appear in the American press, and in Japan also they have interested a part of the general public. Meanwhile, the anniversary of the conclusion of the Tripartite Alliance will come within a few days. The function in celebration of the anniversary will be held as last year, but the Government intends to have it performed in as calm a way as possible. I fear, however, that there may be some in this country who will try to seize the opportunity to arouse public opinion against the Japanese-American negotiations, and also that there may be some disturbances.

(7) The situation in Japan is very delicate, as explained above. The earliest possible consent of the Government of the United States to the meeting under consideration, at least as a matter of principle, is hopefully awaited. The situation is now extremely critical. It is requested that you should promptly convey the contents of the conversation to the Secretary of State and report his reaction to it.