

Ex 2103

Doc. No. 8410

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CC.1.8.0.--FFd.

Karuizawa, May 19, 1945

No 2203

Monsieur le Ministre,

I have the honor of informing Your Excellency that I had not failed to communicate to my Government for forwarding to the Government of the United Kingdom the answer of the Imperial Government which His Excellency Mr. Manoru Shigemitsu gave me on the subject of attacks against the survivors of British merchant vessels by Japanese submarines.

The Government in London has just asked the Federal Authorities to send to the Imperial Government the following communication:

"Primo. Government of United Kingdom have received through protecting power Imperial Japanese Government's reply to their protest regarding inhuman conduct of commanders and crews of certain Japanese submarines towards crews of torpedoed British merchant vessels. In this reply Imperial Japanese Government deny all knowledge of the facts mentioned in H.M. Government's communication.

"Secondo. H.M. Government find this reply entirely unacceptable. In all cases mentioned in H.M. Government's protest there were survivors who positively identified submarine concerned as Japanese. Moreover in one instance the submarine was identified as belonging to the Japanese I class.

"Tertio. H.M. Government desire further to draw attention of the Imperial Japanese Government to an operation order dated 20th March 1943 issued by Admiral commanding first Japanese Submarine Force. Fifth paragraph of this order authorises submarine commanders not to stop with sinking of allied ships and cargoes but at the same time to carry out complete destruction of allied crews except for such numbers as it may be desirable to apprehend with a view to securing intelligence. This order makes it clear beyond any possibility of doubt that the inhuman practices described in H.M. Government's protest are officially sanctioned and prescribed by High Authorities of Japanese Navy.

"Quarto. H.M. Government desire once again to draw most serious and urgent attention of the Imperial Japanese Government to these atrocities committed by

Japanese submarine commanders and crews and sanctioned by Japanese Naval authorities against crews of British merchant vessels and to demand that such inhuman practices cease forthwith and that strictest disciplinary measures be taken against both individual commanders responsible and Naval Authorities who prescribed these actions."

Please accept, Monsieur le Ministre, the assurances of my very high respect.

Swiss Minister

Certificate:-

I, Denzel Carr, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the French and English languages, and as a result of the comparison between the French and the English texts, I have established that this is a true and correct translation of International Prosecution Document No. 8410.

/s/ Denzel Carr