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Def. Doc. No. 1473

Telegram No. 1484

From Ambassador Satō to Foreign Minister Tōgō

(Office-chief cipher, urgent)

Dispatched from Moscow at 22:31, 30 July 1945  
Arrived at Tokyo at 19:40, 31 July

Reference to my telegram No. 1476,

Apprehending delay in the reply of the Soviet Government, I met Lozovsky at 5 P.M., 30 July, to convey our desire again, and had a colloquy as follows:

SATŌ: I have come to see you in the hope that I may obtain the reply of the Soviet Government to the Japanese request, made on the 25th, that the Soviet Government should use its good offices to bring the war to an end. Though it has been arranged that you will let me know as soon as the reply is ready, I have ventured to call on you as it is today already Monday.

LOZOVSKY: As both Stalin, Chairman of the Board of People's Commissars, and Molotov, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, are now in Berlin, it is unavoidable that it takes some time before the reply is made. To our great regret, the reply is not yet ready.

SATŌ: I fully understand the circumstances. However, a joint declaration was published on the 26th by the United States, Britain and China, demanding the unconditional surrender of Japan. Unconditional surrender, however, is quite out of the question for the Japanese Government.

I have already told you this at our meeting before the last (on the 13th). Nevertheless, if that formula can be avoided, Japan hopes to end the war on broad terms of compromise, so long as its honor and existence are guaranteed. This is why Japan has asked for the services of the Government of the Soviet Union. I hope that Chairman of the Board of People's Commissars Stalin will give careful consideration to this point. It cannot be helped if I do not receive a reply today, but I wish that you would kindly tell Commissar Molotov that I called upon you in expectation of obtaining the reply today.

LOZOVSKY: I will be sure to endeavor to convey your request to Molotov at the earliest possible opportunity (*pri maleishoi vozmojnosti*).

SATŌ: I shall be much obliged if you will kindly do so. The Japanese Government is intending to dispatch Prince Konoe, who enjoys His Majesty's confidence, as Special Envoy to Moscow, and, as I have stated in our previous interview, he is to carry on with the Soviet Government discussions of wide scope as to how the Japanese Government should establish anew the peace of the Far East, and to ask for the services of your Government in this connection. It is expected that the Soviet Government may have various requests and directions to make with regard to its services, and I understand that Prince Konoe will be invested with broad authority in negotiating with the Soviet Government. It is hoped that you will also convey this point to Commissar Molotov.

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LOZOVSKY: I will comply with your request without delay.

SATŌ: What I fear is that the Three-Power Joint Declaration may disturb the Soviet Government in using its good offices which the Japanese Government is asking for. The high authorities of the Soviet Government are in Berlin now, and I expect that they will give due consideration to the removal of such obstacles.

LOZOVSKY: I promise again that I will transmit your requests to them.

Translation Certificate

I, Nishi Haruhiko, of the Defense, hereby certify that I am conversant with the English and Japanese languages, and that the foregoing is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation of the original document.

H. Nishi

Tokyo  
3 May 1947