

Def. Doc. No. 2032

EXHIBIT # & 3280-B

FROM : FOREIGN MINISTER HIROTA
TO : AMBASSADOR KAWAGOE (CHINA)
DISPATCHED: August 8, 1937
SUBJECT : TRUCE NEGOTIATION

No. 171 CODE (STRICTLY SECRET. URGENT. TO BE HANDLED IN THE SAME MANNER AS MESSAGE IN EXCLUSIVE CODE FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION)

Explanation to separate telegram No. 170:

1. The purpose of proposing the line connecting Mentoukou, Chochu, Kuan Kaoshachen is to include the strategically important hills on the right bank of the Yungting and Hai Rivers and all important points such as Tientsin and Taku.

2. As for the withdrawal of the Central Army set forth under C, it is only natural that we should demand first of all this step, inasmuch as we have always insisted that the presence of the Central Army in Hopei Province is in violation of the Umezu-Ho Ying-chin Agreement. Hence, no truce parley can materialize so long as this requirement is not carried out.

3. As for the liquidation of the East Hopei regime, the Army was very reluctant to agree but finally gave in, being persuaded that this might help in directing the negotiation to our advantage. You are requested to pay special attention to this point referred to in the note to (B)

4. As for the negotiation for the adjustment of Sino-Japanese relations under D, it would be most desirable to carry it on side by side with the truce parley, if there is a prospect of quick agreement. However, it is extremely undesirable that the truce parley should be delayed on account of the negotiation for the adjustment of diplomatic relations, causing unexpected complications and setting all to naught. You are requested to bear this point particularly in mind.

Explanation to separate telegram No. 170:

1. The purpose of proposing the line connecting Mentoukou, Chochu, Kuan Kaoshachen is to include the strategically important hills on the right bank of the Yungting and Hai Rivers and all important points such as Tientsin and Taku.

2. As for the withdrawal of the Central Army set forth under C, it is only natural that we should demand first of all this step, inasmuch as we have always insisted that the presence of the Central Army in Hopei Province is in violation of the Umezu-Ho Ying-chin Agreement. Hence, no truce parley can materialize so long as this requirement is not carried out.

3. As for the liquidation of the East Hopei regime, the

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C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in Japanese consisting of 2 pages and entitled "Telegram No. 171 from Hirota, Foreign Minister, to Kawagoe, Ambassador to China, despatched on August 8, 1937" is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,

on this 5th day of February, 1947

/S/ K. Hayashi (seal)

Witness: K. Urabe (seal)