

Message of Premier Konoye to Marshal Pétain,
Taken from the official document dated July 15, 1941, in the custody of the Japanese Foreign Office.

The recent proposal of the Japanese Government, requesting to be afforded military bases and other facilities, was forced to be made due to the inevitable necessity of self-preservation and defense of Japan and of maintaining her position in the Great East Asia sphere. As to her obligations arising from the solemn International Agreement concerning the territorial integrity and respect of sovereignty of French Indo-China, the Japanese Government is determined meet them most strictly. It may be needless to reiterate here that nothing is further than its intention to avoid any part of them.

The Japanese Government further desires to fulfil these obligations successfully with a firm collaboration with France and a common defense with French Indo-China. The actual situation in the South, as the Government has instructed the Japanese Ambassador to explain to the French Authorities, has come to such a stage as to allow the Japanese Government no further delay in making the proposal mentioned

above
FILE COPY
RETURN TO ROOM 361

It is most earnestly requested that Your Excellency understand the real intention of the Japanese Government and the actual state of affairs, with an eye on the general trend of chaotic world, and accept our proposal open-mindedly without a shade of suspicion as to the intention of the Japanese Government.

I have the honor to directly appeal to Your Excellency in my unchanged respect to Your Excellency and with my faith in your sound judgment and resolute decision.

Certificate of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, who occupy the post of Chief of the Archives Section of the Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese consisting of 2 pages and entitled "Premier KONO's Message to Marshal Pétain, July 15th, 1941" is an exact and authorized copy of an official document in the custody of the Japanese Government (The Foreign Office).

certified at Tokyo

on this 28th day of October, 1947

/S/ HAYASHI, Kaoru (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

at the same place,

on this same date.

Witness: /S/ SATŌ, Takegorō (seal)

Def. Doc. #2814

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, who occupy the post of chief of the Archives Section, Foreign Ministry, hereby certify that in May or June, 1947, Mr. NIINO, Katsumi, defense counsel at I.M.T.F.P. had requested this section to investigate whether or not the original letter of ex-Premier KONOYE sent on July 15, 1941 to Marshal Petain was in existence, and that I had replied that I was unable to find the original letter at that time.

certified at Tokyo,
on this 22th day of November, 1947

/S/ HAYASHI, Kaoru (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

at the same place, on this same date.

Witness: /S/ URABE, Katsuma. (seal)

4.3659

近衛總理ヨリ「ベタン」主席ヘノ「メツセーヂ」

(外務省保管公文書寫)
昭和十六年七月十五日

軍事基地其他ノ諸便宜供與方ニ關スル帝國政府今同ノ申入ハ帝國ノ自存自
 衛ト大東亞圈ニ於ケル帝國ノ立場確保上實ニ已ムヲ得サルニ出ヅルモノナリ
 而シテ佛印領土ノ保全及ヒ主權ノ尊重ニ關スル嚴厲ナル國際取極ニ依リ生ズ
 ル帝國ノ責務ハ飽ク迄之ヲ嚴守スル覚悟ニシテ寸毫ト雖モ之ヲ避ケントスル
 モノニ非サルハ申迄セナエコトナリ
 否寧口佛國トノ固キ提携ト佛印ニ於ケル日佛共同防衛ニ依リ此ノ責務ヲ完全
 ニ果サント欲スルモノニシテ一方兩方ニ於ケル現實ノ清濁ハ別ニ我大使ヲシ
 テ貴國政府當局ニ説明セシメタル通り最早右申入ノ差延ヲ許サザルニ至ラシ
 メタリ
 石帝國政府ノ真意ト此ノ間ノ實狀トヲ御洞察相成世界動亂ノ大局ニ着眼セラ
 レ我政府ノ真意ニ柳カノ疑念ヲモ差狹マル、コトナク、虚心擔懷我申入レヲ
 快諾セラレンコトヲ切望シテ已マス
 本大臣ハ常ニ閣下ヲ尊敬シ閣下ノ明察勇斷ニ信賴スルガ故ニ直接閣下ニ訴フ
 ル次第アリ

RETURN TO ROOM 361
 COPY

文書ノ出所竝ニ成立ニ統スル證明書

自分、林設次外務省又書課長ノ職ニ居ル者ナル處、茲ニ添付セラレタル日本語ニ依ツテ書カレ二頁ヨリ成ル昭和十六年七月十五日近衛總理ヨリ「ベタン」主席ヘ「メツセーデー」ト題スル書類ハ日本政府「外務省」ノ保管ニ係ル公文書ノ正確ニシテ眞實ナル寫シナルコトヲ證明ス

昭和二十二年十月二十八日

於 東京

林

設次

右署名捺印ハ自分ノ面前ニ於テ爲サレタリ

同日於同所

立會人

佐

野

武

五

郎

證 明 書

自分、林^{ハシ}は外務省文書課長の職に在る者なるところ、昭和十六年七月十五日近衛元内閣總理大臣よりベタン元帥あて普簡に關し一九四七年(昭和二十二年)五月、六月ごろ、極東國際軍事裁判所辯護人、新納克己氏より右原本の存否につき、當課に調査の依頼ありたるところ、當時は發見する事を得ざりし旨回答せる事を證明する。

昭和二十二年十一月二十二日 於東京

林

ハシ

右署名捺印は自分の面前で行はれた。

同日同所

立會人

浦

部

勝

馬