

Ex. 631

TELEGRAM (Secret Cipher Process)

Tokyo, 21 February 1941  
Arrived 21 February 1941

10:05 o'clock  
20:45 o'clock

No. 250 of 21 February

MOST URGENT

In connection with Telegram No. 241 of 19th with Pol. VIII.

Today the press further occupied itself with the alleged Japanese proposal for peace mediation. Judgment is generally reserved, emphasizing that it was in no way definite that the press reports from London are correctly repeating Butler's declaration in the Lower House. "HOCHI" warns against the danger that Japan's peace gesture would be propagandistically misused by opposing powers to Japan's disadvantage.

The Japanese Government spokesman declared in today's press conference that he could not make more detailed statements regarding the substance of MATSUOKA's answer to EDEN, but that he had the impression that Butler's Lower House declaration had been incorrectly repeated by the press. MATSUOKA's answer to Eden had not contained a concrete proposal for mediation, but had merely, in general phrases, touched upon the fundamental attitude of Japan toward the question of world peace.

Continuing, the spokesman repeated yesterday's MATSUOKA's press-dementi having the following content: "As Foreign Minister of the Japanese Government I have never offered to any nation of the world mediation for the reestablishment of world peace. I answered an inquiry from Eden regarding Japanese mediation activity between Thailand and Indo-China. Although I expressed my opinion regarding the reestablishment of world peace in their answer, I have never sent to any nation a message, the subject of which was Japanese mediation for world peace, as is rumored."

I also refer to the detailed statement of D.N.B., Tokyo No. 602, 603, 604. For obvious reasons I have advised the D.N.B. representative here against detailed reporting for the present.

OTT

1300

TELEGRAM (Secret Cipher Process)

Tokyo, 9 February 1941  
Arrived: 9 February 1941

7:50 o'clock  
18:00 o'clock

No. 192 of 9 February 1941

MOST URGENT!

SECRET!

Ha. Pol. 538 g

In answer to telegram No. 123 of the 3rd.

The Vice Foreign Minister personally handed to me a memorandum in the following content:

1. Japan is honestly willing to support Germany in the procurement of rubber and other raw materials from the South-East Asian Sphere.
2. The Japanese Government has taken notice of the fact that Germany has concluded a contract for the purchase of over 25,000 tons of raw rubber from Indo-China and prepares the transport of this amount from Indo-China to Dairen.
3. Instruction requested as to what the total amount of raw rubber is, which Germany (aside from Indo-China rubber) still wants from South East Asia this year.
4. As it is to be expected that the export of raw rubber from the Malayan States and the Netherlands Indies to Japan will be made difficult, Japan will only be able to cover its own most necessary requirements with difficulty there. In consideration of this circumstance it will be necessary to reach a compromise between the amount of raw rubber desired by Germany and the amount actually able to be delivered. The negotiations concerning this /are to be made/ exclusively through diplomatic channels, not, however, as has happened several times until now, through military authorities.
5. The Japanese Government requests information as soon as possible as to what raw materials (kind and amount) besides rubber, Germany wishes to obtain from the South East Asian areas still in this year.

The commercial execution of the business will be taken over by Showa TSUSHU (compare Report No. 220 of 2 August 1939 and following /ones/). As representatives of the Hamburg exporters in question, NIGGEMANN, Dairen, shall for the Germans, together with SHOWA undertake the internal winding up. For this purpose I have requested NIGGEMANN by telegram to come here at once. I request that he be given the necessary instructions via the Embassy.

OPT

Berlin, 17 February 1941

to Pol. VIII 560 g

Diplogerma TOKYO  
No. 179

TELEGRAM IN CIPHER

(Secret Ciphor Process)

(Secret Appendix to Secret Matters b)

URGENT!

To telegram No. 175 of 6 February.

I request that you inform the Japanese Government that the German Government welcomes the Japanese intention that Thailand and France reach no political or military agreements whatsoever with a third power, whereby this obligation, as far as it concerns France, was to apply only to Indo-China. I request that you add that the armistice treaty, of course, applies to France with all her possessions, colonies, protectorates, so that we remain interested, if only for this reason, in the further development of affairs in Indo-China and therefore were awaiting current information on affairs in Indo-China.

WEIZSAECKER

TELEGRAM (Secret Cipher Process)

Tokyo, 19 February 1941  
Arrived, 19 February 1941

10:30 o'clock  
20:15 o'clock

No. 241 of 19 February

MOST URGENT

In addition to telegram No. 235 (with Pol. VIII) of 18.

1. During my visit today, the Foreign Minister at once approached me on /the subject of/ his instruction to the Japanese Ambassador to London, reported yesterday by a preceding telegram, and regarding yesterday's statements by the press chief of the Japanese Government. The Foreign Minister declared that Eden, in his recent answer to the Japanese Ambassador to London, had bluntly imputed that Japan, in her mediation action between Thailand and Indo-China, merely aims at the oppression of small nations in the Great East Asia Sphere. He had refused to enter into a discussion with Eden regarding this local Japanese act of mediation, and had preferred to make clear Japan's altruism by the declaration of a general mediation /and/ the willingness to reestablish world peace. Of course, he had left no doubt at this that these applications had sprung solely from his own initiative.

2. The Foreign Minister further reported that he had declared in a secret --- session of the Upper House on the occasion of a discussion on the Tripartite Pact that he was firmly convinced of the victory of the Axis Powers, since he had absolute confidence in the Fuehrer. The effect of these words had been very strong and had even visibly impressed opponents of the Governments.

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