

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

40850

~~SECRET~~

MS-942
This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (SECRET)

Bern
Dated April 24, 1945
Rec'd 9:43 p.m.

DC/R

Secretary of State,
Washington.

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS DIVISION
APR 25 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

US URGENT
2409, April 24, 9 p.m.

note 740.00119 PW/4-2445

Foreign Office official telephones that according note April 14 Japanese Foreign Office (Legations 2303, April 20) to Gorge, there were members of Japanese Foreign Office and Japanese Ministry for Greater East Asia aboard AWA MARU.

Japanese Government accordingly greatly interested in obtaining earliest possible response its inquiries contained Legation's 2193, April 14 and 2302 April 20.

HARRISON

JT

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-2445

DCR - GP-C Unit
Anal. *[Signature]*
Rev. *[Signature]*

JAN 9 - 1946

Confidential File

711.94114 Supplies/4-2445

+

FICP A35

TOKYO (DOHEI) IN ENGLISH AT 1:00 AM TO THE AMERICAN ZONE

(SADAO IGUCHI)

(TEXT) TOKYO, APRIL 25 -- SADAO IGUCHI, SPOKESMAN OF THE BOARD OF INFORMATION, TOLD A FOREIGN PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY THAT UPON FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE OF THE ILL-FATED 'AWA MARU', WHICH WAS OUTRAGEOUSLY ATTACKED AND SUNK BY AN AMERICAN SUBMARINE ON APRIL 1, THE FOLLOWING FACTS WHICH HAVE BECOME KNOWN:

"A CHECK UP OF THE PASSENGER LIST WITH THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AT THE VARIOUS PORTS OF EMBARKATION REVEALED THAT MORE THAN 1,800 PASSENGERS, MANY OF WHOM WERE NOTABLES, WERE ABOARD THE SHIP AT THE TIME OF THE SINKING.

"IGUCHI FURTHER REVEALED THAT MANY WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE AMONG THE PASSENGERS. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH NO CONFIRMATION HAD BEEN RECEIVED GOTARO OGAWA, FORMER MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND LATER SUPREME ADVISER TO THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT, MAY HAVE BEEN ON BOARD, AS HE WAS TO RETURN TO JAPAN BY THE 'AWA MARU.'

"OTHER PASSENGERS OF WHOM IT HAS BEEN DEFINITELY CONFIRMED AS HAVING BEEN ON THE 'AWA MARU' AT THE TIME OF THE SINKING ARE AS FOLLOWS: SHINPEI TAKEUCHI, VICE-MINISTER OF GREATER EAST ASIATIC AFFAIRS; YOSHITARO YANADA, DIRECTOR OF THE INVESTIGATION BUREAU OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND FORMER FIRST SECRETARY OF THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND LONDON; TAKEZO TOKO, CHIEF OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF GREATER EAST ASIATIC AFFAIRS MINISTRY; MITSUMASA HOSHINA, SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF GREATER EAST ASIATIC AFFAIRS; AND CONSUL SHICHIRO SUZUKI AND CONSUL TAKEJI HORUCHI.

"IGUCHI SAID THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT IS WAITING FOR THE LIST OF SURVIVORS FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED THAT WHEN THE REPORT OF THE SINKING OF THE VESSEL WAS RECEIVED, THERE WAS A VIEW NATURALLY EXPRESSED IN SOME QUARTERS THAT DELIVERIES OF RELIEF SUPPLIES BE STOPPED UNTIL A SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES WAS REACHED.

"IN SPITE OF THIS, HOWEVER, IGUCHI ADDED, THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE JAPANESE EXPEDITIONARY FORCES IN THE SOUTHERN REGIONS SENT INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL INTERNMENT CAMP AUTHORITIES CONCERNED TO THE EFFECT THAT THE DELIVERIES OF THE RELIEF SUPPLIES BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FROM A HUMANITARIAN POINT OF VIEW. THESE INSTRUCTIONS, IGUCHI SAID, HAVE BEEN DULY CARRIED OUT.

"IN REGARD TO THE AMBASSADORS' CONFERENCE OF THE GREATER EAST ASIATIC NATIONS LAST MONDAY, IGUCHI SAID THAT SINCE NO COMMENT HAS BEEN MADE BY THE ANGLO-AMERICANS ON THE PRINCIPLES ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE, IT SHOWS CLEARLY THAT THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES ADOPTED ARE FAR ABOVE REPROACH AND SO TRUE AND JUST THAT EVEN THE ENEMY COUNTRIES CANNOT REFUTE OR DENY THEM."

CNO 4/25-448A

Tokyo from

Central Files

This Document must be Returned to the RM/R Central Files

CS/TJ

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-2545

711.941

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

42633
35
DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

LFG-1426
This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (SECRET)

Moscow via War
Dated April 26, 1945
Rec'd 6:25 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

PRIORITY

1352, April 26, 11 a.m.

AW
APR 26 1945
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ack 4-27-45
EOR: EAG

Embassy has received note from Foreign Office dated April 24 (REEMBS 872, March 23, 4 p.m.) stating that Japanese Embassy in Moscow informed Foreign Office on April 7 that Japanese Government had decided to send to Nakhodka the AVA-MARU, a vessel of 11,200 tons displacement, to transport cargo to Allied prisoners of war in Japan and that the vessel would be ready to proceed to Nakhodka the middle of April.

Note continues that on April 18 Foreign Office received second note from Japanese Embassy stating that Japanese Government had been obliged to cancel the planned dispatch of the AVA-MARU since the vessel has been lost on a return voyage from the south where "it had delivered the first part of a cargo" and that the Japanese Embassy had alleged in its note that it had learned from an official American statement that

the AVA-MARU

Anal.
Rev.
Out.
Dist.

DCR - CP-G Unit

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-2645

FILED

MAY 8 - 1945
Confidential File

711.94114 Supplies/4-2645

36

-2-#1352, April 26, 11 a.m., from Moscow via War

the AVA-MARU had been sunk by a United Nations submarine in spite of a guarantee of safe conduct given by the United Nations.

The Soviet note is not clear as to exactly what is meant by the "first part of a cargo".

KENNAN

JMS

ADDRESS REPLY TO

The Secretary of the Navy
AND REFER TO INITIALS
AND NO.

NAVY DEPARTMENT 44896
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



Serial 0034213
(SC)A14-3/EF37

26 APR 1945

SECRET

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS
DIVISION *Telegram to Bern*
APR 30 1945 *5-1-45*
file
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to Bern cable 2193, dated 14 April 1945, which was forwarded to the Navy Department with a request for information on which to base a reply to questions raised by the Japanese Government in connection with the AWA MARU incident.

All presently known details concerning the circumstances of the sinking have been communicated to the Department of State in earlier correspondence. Concerning survivors on which the Japanese requested additional information, you are informed that the sole survivor was KANTARO SHIMODA, aged 45, a steward. He is now at Guam, in excellent health, and has been accorded the status of a protected person.

SHIMODA states positively that the ship was the AWA MARU.

Sincerely yours,

Forrestal

JAMES FORRESTAL

Hon. E. R. Stettinius, Jr.,
Secretary of State.

DCR - GP-C Unit	
Anal.	<i>file</i>
Rev.	<i>DEH</i>
Cat.	<i>E.M.S.</i>
Dist.	

Note:
940.00115 PW/4.26

(1)

RECORDS BRANCH

DC/R

711.94114 Supplies/4-1-445

711.94114 SUPPLIES/4-2645

CONFIDENTIAL

JAN 9 1945

Supplies/4.2645

PREPARING OFFICE
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

TELEGRAM SENT

PREPARING OFFICE WILL
TYPE HERE CLEARLY THE
CLASSIFICATION OF THE
MESSAGE:

Collect

Department of State

SECRET

Charge Department: **XX**

Charge to

The Washington
telegram must
be closely paraphrased before
being communicated
to abroad.
SECRET

VIA
VIA
DEPT
APR 30 1945

AMEMBASSY,

MOSCOW.

977

Phrase "first part of cargo" in Soviet note (REEMBS 1352, April 26) probably refers to fact that relief cargo was discharged on outward voyage of Awa Maru. The ship was sunk on its return voyage to Japan.

The vessel had been accorded safe conduct by Allied military authorities. It was carrying as part of its cargo that portion of relief supplies picked up by Japanese at Nakhodka in November allocated for distribution to the southern Japanese-occupied areas. On the night of April 1 the ship was sunk by American submarine action. According to submarine commander no illumination was visible and ship was some distance from scheduled course.

Above information has been transmitted to Japanese Government and investigation of circumstances surrounding incident is being actively pressed. The hope was expressed to Japanese Government that there would be no change in its announced plans to pick up a further consignment of relief supplies at Nakhodka for Allied nationals. Any assistance the Soviet

6 PM

711.94114 supplies / 4-2645

711.94114 SUPPLIES / 4-2645

CONFIDENTIAL FILE

SENT

PREPARING OFFICE
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

TELEGRAM SENT

PREPARING OFFICE WILL
TYPE HERE CLEARLY THE
CLASSIFICATION OF THE
MESSAGE:

Collect

Department of State

Charge Department:

Washington

Charge to

-2-

authorities may be in a position to give in this connection
would be greatly appreciated. Above information concerning
Awa Maru incident may be furnished Soviet Foreign Office.

Grew
Acting
(*YDK*)

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES

10 15 APR 30 PM 6 09

COMMUNICATIONS
SECTION DESK

Anal.	<i>Frank</i>
Rev.	<i>[Signature]</i>
Cat.	
D-t.	<i>[Signature]</i>

DCR - GP-C Unit

APR 30 4 58 P.M.

90
EE

SWP:EDKuppinger:EHJ 4-27-45

am *Boy*