

INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION SECTION

Doc. No. 2851

14 Nov 1946

ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Title and Nature: Typewritten Memorandum "Content of Replies Made to the Ambassadors of France and Great Britain Concerning the Issue of HAINAN Island"

Date: 11 Sep 37- Original () Copy (x) Language: English
28 Jun 38

Has it been translated? Yes () No (x)

Has it been photostated? Yes () No (x)

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL

Japanese Foreign Ministry

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: Japanese Foreign Ministry

PERSONS IMPLICATED: HIROTA, Koki; General UGAKI, Kazushige

CRIMES TO WHICH DOCUMENT APPLICABLE: All China Military Aggression; Relations with France; Relations with Great Britain

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS

I. Summary of Jap Govt Negotiations with France

1. Repeatedly the French Ambassador protested the presence of Japanese warships and troops in vicinity of HAINAN Island and each time the Japanese Foreign Ministry assured the French Ambassador that Japan's motive was to cut off communications of Chinese vessels along the China coast.

2. The French position during all talks with the Foreign Ministry of Japan was that France's interest lay in maintaining the status quo of HAINAN Island as a result of the provisions of the treaty between Japan and China re Chinese territories.

3. The Japanese Foreign Minister consistently maintained that Japan had no willful territorial ambitions in HAINAN Island.

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4. The French Ambassador informed Vice-Minister Mr. HORINOUCHI that the French Govt has decided to prohibit transportation of weapons via French Indo-China and again asked assurance that Japan had no territorial ambition.

5. The French protested the bombardment of SAMAH and of HAIKO on 30 and 31 March on the grounds that the territory is in the French sphere of influence according to the Franco-Japanese Agreement. The Japanese reply was that there was no present plan for occupation, that the bombardment was made "out of a strategic necessity", although no prediction could be made about the future result when warfare extended in South China.

II. Summary of Japanese Negotiations with Great Britain

1. The British Ambassador presented Mr. HORINOUCHI a memorandum regarding the serious concern of the British Govt over the Japanese occupation of the HAINAN Island or the PARACEL Islands.

2. The Japanese Vice Minister interviewed Mr. Craigie, the British Ambassador, about Britain's interest in the HAINAN incident and inquired about any treaty relation Britain had to maintain.

3. The British Ambassador explained that Britain's interest lay in territories close to HAINAN Island and so Britain could not remain indifferent.

4. On 4 Oct 1937, Vice-Minister Mr. HORINOUCHI replied to Mr. Craigie that the Japanese had a "design" to occupy the Island and that a similar reply was being sent to Britain.

5. On 28 June the Foreign Minister General UGAKI had an interview with the British Minister who wished further clarification of HAINAN. UGAKI replied that Japanese occupation of the island would be based on the military operation extending to Canton and not on territorial ambition. The British Ambassador replied that Japan should well anticipate British objections if the island were occupied.

III. Summary of Japan's Position in Replies made to French and British Protests

1. The Japanese denied on each occasion occupation but avoided to do so in any form of writing.

2. The Japanese maintained the argument that the future occupation of HAINAN depended on military necessity in the conflict over South China and not on territorial ambition in China.

REQUEST FOR DOCUMENT NUMBER

FROM: W. W. Wagner Room No. 363

TO : French Division
~~Document Division~~

Request a document number be assigned the following item:

(Give description to enable you to identify document. Use separate sheet for each item to be handled as a separate document.)

Document below may be of interest
to you. (Hanson Island Diplomacy
Negotiation).

Deadline date on my final brief is:

FROM: Document Division.

The above has been assigned Doc. No. 2851

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Caption of this file: The outline of the Reply to the Ambassadors,
British and French.

Japan's actual purpose for occupation is in destruction of
communication on the part of China not in territorial occupa-
tion; this part released Japan's intention.