

Ex 1683

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The undersigned, Ripa, Olof, Swedish Diplomatic Representative in Japan, declares and certifies that the annexed document is a complete and true (photo) copy of a letter, dated Tokyo 30 December 1943, sent by the Swedish Charge d'Affaires in Japan, addressed to the Jap Foreign Minister, copy of which original document is part of the official records of the Swedish Mission in Tokyo.

Tokyo, October 31st, 1946

/s/ Ripa

L.S. (Seal)

(Signature: O. Ripa)

Ex 1683

Tokyo, December 30th, 1943

Monsieur le Ministre,

The Netherlands Government having approached the Royal Swedish Government in a matter relating to the treatment of Netherlands subjects, made prisoners of war by the Imperial armed forces or interned by the Japanese authorities, I have the honour, in accordance with instructions received, to bring the following to the knowledge of Your Excellency.

The Netherlands Government have received information that a number of Netherlands prisoners of war and civilian internees should have been transferred by the Japanese authorities, to internment camps, which are exposed to air attacks, due to their close vicinity to military establishments, and consequently must be considered to be situated in zones of danger. It is reported that some of the camps are located in the cities on the Burma coast.

In this connection the Netherlands Government point to the stipulations contained in articles 7 and 9 of the Geneva Convention of July 27th, 1929, regarding the treatment of prisoners of war, the principles of which the Japanese Government hitherto generally seem to have been disposed to apply.

According to the aforesaid articles prisoners of war are to be interned in camps, established so far from the war zone, that their safety is not endangered. The Netherlands Government further emphasize that they, on their side, strictly adhere to the regulations of the said Convention in regard to the treatment of Japanese prisoners of war and civilian internees.

The Netherlands Government, therefore, should appreciate to receive an assurance from the Imperial Government to the effect that they are prepared to observe the above mentioned stipulations of the Geneva Convention of 1929, and that, if in some instances this should not have been the case, the Imperial Government have already taken steps to remove Netherlands prisoners of war and civilian internees from zones of danger.

I avail myself of this opportunity, Monsieur le Ministre, to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

His Excellency
Monsieur Mamoru Shigenitsu
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
etc. etc. etc.

/s/ Enk von Ludow

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