

Doc. 220 (For the Defense)

Br. Ex. 153-4

Ct. Ex. 58

Defendants' Excerpt.

#### I. PRELIMINARY PHASE

1. Late in January 1941, through the medium of private Americans and Japanese, there was informally brought to the attention of the President and the Secretary of State a suggestion that the Japanese Government would welcome an opportunity to alter its political alignments and modify its attitude toward China. It was represented that if an agreement could be achieved with the United States which would offer Japan security this would enable the moderate elements in Japan to gain control of the domestic political situation in Japan. It was further represented that there was adequate support in the Japanese Government for an agreement with the United States which would provide *inter alia* for practical nullification of Japan's alliance with the Axis and for a settlement of the conflict between China and Japan on terms which would give complete recognition by Japan of the "open door" in China provided that Japan received similar treatment elsewhere in the Far East. It was also represented that the Japanese people were weary of the hostilities with China and that most elements in Japan were prepared for a recasting of Japan's policies along liberal and peaceful lines.

2. Under any circumstances it would have been necessary before entertaining representations of such a character to proceed with caution and to examine with deliberate care the sponsorship and contents of a proposal advanced in this way. Such a procedure was at that time especially essential in view of Japan's record during the preceding ten years. In connection with this record, it will be recalled that on January 15, 1941, the Secretary of State, in a statement before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, said:

. . . . .

Foreign Relations II, pp. 328-329.