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Karuizawa, 28 December 1944.

My dear Minister,

My Government has just sent me a notification from the United States Government to be delivered to the Imperial Government on the subject of the torpedoing of the ship "Jean Nicolle" by the Japanese Navy.

Owing to the importance which the United States Government attaches to this affair, the United States Government would have hoped that I might be able myself to hand the notification to the Foreign Ministry. Unfortunately, the state of the road covered with snow and frozen in the middle of the mountain does not allow me to go down to Tokyo; and so I have asked Mr. Blaile, the diplomat of the Tokyo Service to go to take the prepared note to the Ministry. I will inform my Government that I have handed the note personally and I believe my Government will not object to this procedure.

My personal visit would not have changed anything for you would certainly not be in a position to tell me anything about the conditions in which the torpedo attack took place.

The Department of State asks me to inform myself personally about the fate of the rescued Nilson and Carlin, members of the crew who were taken prisoners, and I should be very glad if you could tell me where they are, before the closing of the investigation.

Believe, my dear Minister, that my sentiments are the best and accept at the same time my most cordial wishes for you and yours.

To His Excellency
Minister Tadakazu Suzuki
Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Tokyo

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Alexander Ashton, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the French and English languages, and as a result of the comparison between the French and the English texts, I have established that this is a true and correct translation of International Prosecution Document No. 8403.

/s/ A. Ashton

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