

No 776

Telegram (Secret Cipher Process)

Tokyo 3 July 1941 3:55 m  
Arrival 3 July 1941 6.30 hours  
No. 1109 of 2 July 1941

To be kept in locked file

Most Urgent!

For the German Foreign Minister  
Re Telegram of the 1st, No. 942 (Foreign Minister)

Immediately upon receipt of the above telegraphic order I have called on MATSUOKA, personally, transmitting the message of the German Foreign Minister. MATSUOKA stated that he had already received from Ambassador OSHIMA the announcement of the message already before today's Cabinet Session, presided over by the Emperor, had begun. Even without knowing the exact text he had made use of the fact that a special message from the German Foreign Minister was imminent for backing up his point of view and for bringing about a clear-cut decision. He was thankful for the message with which he would tomorrow immediately acquaint the Army and Navy, as well as the Emperor. He was personally in full agreement with the trend of thought set forth by the German Foreign Minister. He regretted that his opinions had not prevailed for the moment. During the Cabinet Session he had warningly pointed out to Premier KONOYE and other Cabinet members that the Japanese people would, after some time, demand government action against the SOVIET UNION. Antagonistic forces, who now are in the foreground, will in the long run be unable to carry their point.

He requests to assure the German Foreign Minister that he will adhere to the previous way /an alter Linie Festhalten/.

I brought to MATSUOKA's attention that the resolution of the Cabinet will certainly not be understood by the people, who will in the future heavily blame the government for the missing /their opportunity/.  
(Matsuoaka said the reason for the formulation of the Japanese statement to the SOVIET Ambassador was the necessity to deceive the Russians or at least to keep them in a state of uncertainty, owing to the armaments still being incomplete. At present SMETANIN was not aware of speedy preparations being made against the SOVIET UNION as is hinted at in the government resolution transmitted to us.)

He has furthermore informed SMETANIN that, as far as was known to Japan the USA had not promised armed assistance /Waffenhilfe/ nor had the SOVIET UNION asked for it. He wished to give the earnest advice not to attempt any cooperation of this kind since, at the request of her Allies, Japan would not tolerate shipments.

I told MATSUOKA that JAPAN's attitude could not satisfy us. MATSUOKA replied that he had expected this, personally regretted the Cabinet resolution, but he assured us again that deficiencies in preparedness

would

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would be eliminated as fast as possible, and that the army was preparing for all eventualities.

OTT

Remark: Transmitted to Special Train under No. 2129

Tel. Ktr. 3 July 1941

Certificate:-

I, Ulrich Straus, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the German and English languages, and as a result of the comparison between the German and the English texts, I have established that this is a true and correct translation of International Prosecution Document No. 4062E

/s/ Ulrich A. Straus

AFFIDAVIT

I, W. P. Cuning, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and say:

1. That I am an Attache of the United States Department of State on the Staff of the United States Political Adviser on German Affairs, and as such I am a representative of the Office of Military Government for Germany (U.S.). That in my capacity as above set forth, I have in my possession, custody, and control at the Berlin Documents Center, Berlin, Germany, the original captured German Foreign Office files and archives.

2. That said original Foreign Office files and archives were captured and obtained by military forces under the command of the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Forces, and upon their seizure and capture were first assembled by said military forces at a Military Document Center at Marburg, Germany, and were later moved by authorized personnel of said Allied forces to said central documents center, above referred to, and known as the Berlin Documents Center.

3. That I was assigned to said document center at Marburg, Germany, on August 15, 1945; and said captured German Foreign Office files and archives first came into my possession and control while I was stationed at Marburg, Germany, and that thereafter the same have continued in my possession and custody and under my control.

4. That the document to which this affidavit is attached is a true and correct photostatic copy of an original German Foreign Office document which was captured from said German Foreign Office files and archives, and which came into my possession and custody and under my control in the manner above set forth.

5. That said original document, of which the attached is a photostatic copy, is being held and retained by me in order that it may be examined and inspected by various interested agencies, and a photostatic copy of said original is hereby furnished and certified to because of the unavailability of said original for the reasons above set forth.

s/ W. P. Cuning  
W. P. CUNING

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23rd day of April 1946.

s/ G. H. GARDE  
G. H. GARDE  
Lt. Colonel, AGO  
Acting Adjutant General

OFFICE OF MILITARY  
GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)