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Def. Doc. No. 1472

Telegram No. 1450

From Ambassador Satō to Foreign Minister Tōgō

(Urgent, office-chief cipher)

Dispatched from Moscow at 23:23, 25 July 1945
Arrived at the Foreign Ministry at 16:40, 26 July

Reference to my telegram No. 1449,

In the interview with Lozovsky on 25 July, I made the following oral statement (it was, however, arranged, as reported in my telegram No. 1449, to send it later in writing to Lozovsky).

1. On the occasion of my interview with the Acting People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs on 13 July, I handed to him the message of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, and conveyed simultaneously the Imperial wish to dispatch Prince Konoe as Special Envoy to the Soviet Union. I received, on 18 July, his written reply to the effect that, as there was stated in the Imperial message nothing concrete as to the mission of the special envoy to be dispatched to Moscow, the Soviet Government was not able to give a definite reply.

2. With a view to clarifying the situation in this connection, I should like to make the following statement.

The mission of Special Envoy Prince Konoe, who is to be dispatched in accordance with the wishes of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, consists of requesting the Soviet Government to use its good offices to bring the war to an end; in laying before that Government the concrete intention of the Japanese Government in connection therewith; and, at the same time, in consulting with it about the improvement and strengthening of Russo-Japanese relations, which are to be the foundation of Japan's foreign policy throughout the war period as well as the post-bellum period.

3. In accordance with the instruction of the Japanese Government, I convey the above to the Soviet Government, and reiterate that it is by reason of the Imperial wish to prevent further bloodshed in the war that His Majesty ordered the Japanese Government to dispatch the special envoy, and that the mission of the special envoy is to set forth the concrete intention of the Japanese Government in this connection and request the consideration of the Soviet Government. I hope, therefore, that the Soviet Government will give kindly consideration to the present proposal, and will promptly give assent to the dispatch of the special envoy. I consider, further, that it is needless to say that ex-Premier Prince Konoe enjoys the confidence of His Majesty the Emperor, and holds a distinguished position in Japanese political circles, a fact well known to the Soviet Government.

Translation Certificate

I, Nishi Haruhiko, of the Defense, hereby certify that I am conversant with the English and Japanese languages, and that the foregoing is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation of the original document.

H. Nishi

Tokyo
3 May 1947