

Exhibit 2885

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Def. Doc. No. 1401-G-1

From Toyoda to Nomura
5 August 1941
No. 448

(I) Explanation. (The explanation should be given orally, and not in writing.)

The significance and nature of the measures taken by the Government of Japan for the common defence of French Indo-China have been made clear by the exhaustive explanations of the Japanese Foreign Minister and the Japanese Ambassador to the United States. In short, they are peaceful and defensive measures which a third Power has no need to intervene in. They are, moreover, necessary for preventing an explosion of anti-foreign views, in view of the provocation of public opinion by the recent trend of the policy of Great Britain, the United States, the Netherlands East Indies, etc., toward Japan, and eventually for preserving the peace of the Pacific from rupture.

The following proposal will be made because the Government of the United States might possibly be unable to shake off a sense of uneasiness, notwithstanding the above explanation. And, as to the proposal, conversations will be started immediately--off the record and confidentially, in consideration of the present situation--and when an agreement is reached, it will promptly be taken into the framework of adjustment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the United States for which negotiations have been conducted for some time past.

At any rate, we are convinced that the Government of the United States will agree to the views of the Japanese Government that it is necessary to examine, with sympathy and calmness, the various causes which have produced the present tense relations between the two countries, and to try to improve the situation or eliminate the causes which might lead up to disquietude of military, economic and political nature.

(II) The Proposal.

1. The Japanese Government undertakes:-

(A) that, in order to remove such causes as might constitute a menace of a military character to the United States, it will not further station its troops in the southwestern Pacific areas except French Indo-China and that the Japanese troops now stationed in French Indo-China will be withdrawn forth with on the settlement of the China Incident, and

(B) that, in order to remove such causes as might constitute a menace of political and military character to the Philippine Islands, the Japanese Government will guarantee the neutrality of the islands at an opportune time on the condition that Japan and Japanese subjects will not be placed in any discriminatory positions as compared with other countries and their nationals including the United States and its nationals, and

(C) that, in order to remove such causes as might be responsible for the instability of the economic relations between Japan and the United States in East Asia, the Japanese Government will cooperate with the Government of the United States in the production and procurement of such natural resources as are required by the United States.

2. The Government of the United States undertakes:-

(A) that, in order to remove such causes as might constitute a direct menace of military character of Japan or to her international communication, the Government of the United States will suspend its military measures in the South Pacific areas, and also that, upon a successful conclusion of the present conversations, it will advise the Governments of Great Britain and of the Netherlands to take similar steps, and

(B) that, in order to remove such causes as might be responsible for military, political and economic friction between Japan and the United States, the Government of the United States will cooperate with the Japanese Government in the production and procurement of natural resources as are required by Japan in the Southwestern Pacific areas, especially in the Netherlands East Indies, and in the solution of the pending issues between Japan and the Netherlands, and

(C) that, in conjunction with the measures as set forth in (B) above, the Government of the United States will take steps necessary for restoring the normal relations of trade and commerce which have hitherto existed between Japan and the United States, and

(D) that, in view of the undertaking by the Japanese Government as set forth in 1. (A) above, the Government of the United States will use its good offices for the initiation of direct negotiations between the Japanese Government and the Chiang Kai-shek regime for the purpose of a speedy settlement of the China incidents, and that the Government of the United States will recognize a special status of Japan in French Indo-China even after the withdrawal of the Japanese troops from that area.

(III) Publication:

(At the beginning of the negotiations, the point should be made clear orally)

The present negotiations will be conducted in secrecy, as explained above. However, in case it is considered desirable, from the general viewpoint, to publish a part or the whole progress of them, official announcement will be made after agreement upon time, contents, form, etc.