

Exhibit 2898

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Excerpt from Foreign Relations of the United States  
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Memorandum of a Conferation

Washington, 7 September 10, 1941

The Japanese Ambassador called at his request at the Secretary's apartment.

The Ambassador then inquired what the Secretary's reaction was to the Japanese Government's proposals of September 6. The Secretary commented that it seemed to us that whereas our previous conversations had related to a broad and liberal understanding covering the entire Pacific area, the present proposals had narrowed down the spirit and the scope of the proposed understanding. The Secretary also observed that, in regard to the matter of the Tripartite Pact, as this was a military alliance and as Germany was engaged in a movement of world conquest the situation presented real difficulties for this Government which he did not see how the new proposals met.

Mr. Obata said that as the Japanese Government concurred in all the points in which tentative agreement had been reached in our previous conversations the Ambassador and he felt that the new proposals did not serve to narrow the scope and the spirit of the original proposals. The Secretary then suggested that if we were under a misunderstanding, the misunderstanding should be cleared up and suggested that Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Ballantine meet with the Japanese Ambassador and Mr. Obata in an endeavor to clear up all doubtful points.