

Item 9.

St. - S No. 63

Berlin, 23 January 1941.

Today the Japanese Ambassador mentioned to me the conversation between Ambassador Ott and the Japanese Vice Foreign Minister re Indo-China.

(Tokyo Telegram Report No. 85).

Kurusu gave me the background to the Japanese desire for Germany's influencing of */Einflussnahme/* Vichy as follows:

A Japanese advance southward in the direction of Singapore was unthinkable without using the land bridge of the Malacca peninsula. For this Japan has to pass through both Indo-China and Siamese territory. Therefore, any British influencing */Einflussnahme/* in Siam must be prevented.

I fully agreed with the Japanese Ambassador up to this point.

Then Kurusu tried to make me understand that a German advice */Rat/* in Vichy would surely be sufficient to make the French Government fall into line with the Japanese proposals.

I did not deduct anything from the expected */Vorgreifen/* answer from the German Foreign Minister on this matter, but mentioned to Kurusu that the Vichy Government would probably not like to give up rather large pieces of the French colonial possessions before the general settlement at the peace conference; also, the British mediation proposal reported to us from Tokyo was more favorable for Vichy than the Japanese.

/s/ WEIZSAECKER

Foreign Minister
Under State Sec'y, Pol.
Dg. Pol.

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. 4025E(5).

/s/ Ulrich Straus