

No. 2230

Ex 2230

Berlin, 28 May 1939

Diplogerna Tokyo

No. 174

Telegram in cipher
(Secret Cipher Processing)

Exclusively for the Ambassador personally.
Re your telegrams No. 213 and 217.

1. The formal communication made to you 20 May at the request of War Minister, General Hajiri, that the Foreign Minister there would have us informed at the latest on Sunday, 21 May of the positive or decision of the Japanese Cabinet Conference has proved to be without effect. The local Japanese Embassy has up to today not been in a position to make any official communication at all regarding the state of affairs.
2. Oshima reported the following in yesterday's strictly confidential and unofficial conversation: He has received a telegram from Arita, according to which the Japanese Government wishes to reserve entrance into a state of war in case of European conflict. In a very energetic telegram to Arita Oshima has refused to pass this point of view on to the German Government at all. Thereupon the War Minister requested Oshima by wire to hold off until later against Arita in order not to disturb the discussions among the various factors in Tokyo. The Army is firmly resolved to fight the matter out quickly and even at risk of a cabinet overthrow.
3. I request you without making use of the aforementioned confidential communications of Oshima's to make it clear to your authorities that the absence of the communication formally announced to you as well as of every other communication has produced great astonishment in us and in the Italians. It is unavoidable that as a result of this silence the Japanese attitude is now beginning to be regarded with distrust. We can no longer understand here what can be going on in Tokyo and for what reasons the Japanese Government at this advanced stage of the negotiations is still evading a clear-cut attitude. Our local skepticism is of course still further heightened by the attitude of the Japanese delegation at the World Postal Congress in Buenos Aires.

G.F.M.
/German Foreign Minister/

/Frano Nos. 135951-2./

AFFIDAVIT

I, W. P. Cuming, 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. Cuming
W. P. CUMING

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

/s/ G. H. Garde
G. H. GARDE

Lt. Colonel, AGD
Acting Adjutant General

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

AFFIDAVIT

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/s/ W. P. Cumming
W. P. CUMMING

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/s/ G. E. Garde
G. E. GARDE
Lt. Colonel, AGD
Acting Adjutant General

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