

Def. Doc. No. 1102-A-1

From Nomura to Konee
17 April 1941
No. 233

I had a talk with the Secretary of State today, at his private residence. He offered to commence the negotiations with a draft which will be conveyed separately in my telegram No. 234. Tentatively it will be called Draft Understanding. As to this draft, we had been sounding out the intention of the American Government privately until we could ascertain that Secretary Hull had no objection to it in general. Thereupon, the plan has been framed after complicated negotiations, in which I partook in private.) And it was his request that I should obtain instructions of the Japanese Government in this connection, lest the agreement reached between the Secretary of State and myself should be disavowed by the Tokyo Government, in which case the American Government would be put in a very awkward position.

We have made a careful study of the matter with the members of the Embassy staff, military and naval attachés, Colonel Iwakuro, et al. We have also given full consideration to the state of affairs at home and abroad, and we, working as one, exerted efforts to make the present understanding advantageous for us. But, of course, it does not cover all aspects of Japanese-American relations. With respect to the contents of the items, also, it is feared that they have defects. Nevertheless, it is our belief that, if an understanding to such an effect be reached on this occasion,

(1) it will not be contradictory to the spirit of the Imperial Rescript given on the occasion of the conclusion of the Tripartite Alliance, and it is presumed that the conclusion of the understanding will even conform to the Imperial wishes;

(2) it will not betray the faith of the Tripartite Alliance;

(3) it will be the first step toward maintenance of the peace of the Pacific, which is the fundamental policy of the Japanese Government; and

(4) it will further serve as the groundwork for Japanese-American cooperation in rebuilding the peace of Europe.

In this connection, I earnestly request your instruction allowing me to proceed with the negotiations according to this plan, leaving all the defects thereof to be remedied at the proposed conference.

辯護國側文書第一四〇→第一號

野村發近衛宛一九四一年四月十七日第二三三號

本十六日國務長官ト私邸ニ於テ會談長官ヨリ別電第二三四號（兩國了解案ト假稱ス本了解案ニ付テハ豫テヨリ内函工作ヲ行ヒ米國政府側ノ贊意ヲ「サウインド」シ居リタル處「ハル」長官ニ於テモ大體之ニ異議ナキ旨確メ得タルニ依リ本使ニ於テモ内密ニ干與シ種々折衝セシメタル結果本案ヲ約シタルモノナリ）ニ依リ交渉ヲ進メテ宜シク政府ノ訓令ヲ得ラレタキ旨申出アリ長官ハ貴使トノ間ノ話カ進ミタル後東京ヨリ否認サルコトアラハ米政府ノ立場ハ困難トナルヲ以テ斯クシタシト申セリ

本件ニ關シテハ豫テヨリ館員陸海軍武官以岩畔大佐等ト慎重研究ヲ重ネ全員一致協力シ且内外ノ諸情勢ニ對シテモ充分考察ヲ加ヘ以テ本了解案有利ナラシムル様努力シ來リタルカ素ヨリ兩國關係ノ全面ニ觸レタルニアラス各項目ノ内容ニ至リテモ不備ノ點アルナランモ當方ノ所見トシテハ此際斯カル筋書ノ了解ヲ成立セシムルモ

一、三國同盟成立當時ノ御詔書ニ悖ルコトナカルヘク或ハ畏レ多キコトナ

ハルカ聖旨ニモ副ヒ得ルカトモ拜察ス

二、決シテ三國同盟ノ信義ニ悖ルコトナカルヘシ

三、政府ノ根本方針タル太平洋平和維持ノ第一歩トナルヘシ

四、更ニ他日歐洲平和維持ニ日米協力ノ下地トモナルヘシ

就テハ此ノ際大局ノ爲ニ枝葉ノ不備ナル點ハ之ヲ會議ニ於テ補正スルコトト爲シ何卒此ノ筋ニテ交渉ヲ進メテ宜シキ御同訓ニ接シタク切望ノ至リナリ（了）