

Exhibit 2878

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

[Washington,] July 2, 1941

Mr. Ballantine and Mr. Schmidt, who were later joined by Mr. Hamilton, called at the apartment of Colonel Iwakuro and Mr. Wikawa by arrangement following an intimation . . . that the Japanese would like to meet us for further discussion.

. . . . .

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Mr. Wikawa said these conversations were being kept very secret in Japan owing to the opposition which could be expected from third countries and from certain groups in Japan. Mr. Matsuoka's statements and the statements of other individuals were often largely for home consumption.

Mr. Hamilton replied that these conversations were also kept very secret here; and brought to Mr. Wikawa's attention the fact that the President and the Secretary of State in the administration of matters of policy were able at times judiciously "to apply the brakes". It seems to us, Mr. Hamilton said, the Japanese Government, if it so desired, could pursue a similar course to indicate more clearly that Japan is now committed to a peaceful policy. He added that we do not expect the impossible, of course, and do not ask Japan to repudiate contractual obligations.