

Excerpt from Exhibit No. 2692,
Official Transcript of the Inter-
national Military Tribunal at
Nurnberg, Germany, on 30 March 1946,
(Pages 6814-6816)

Witness: Joachim von Ribbentrop

Direct Examination by Dr. Horn

Q. Did Japan, before her attack on Pearl Harbour, notify Germany of her intention?

A. No, that was not the case. At that time I tried, as far as Japan was concerned, to move her to attack Singapore. A peace with England did not seem possible, and I did not know in a military way which measure would be possible to reach this aim.

The Fuehrer instructed me, at any rate, in a diplomatic way to do everything to reach or bring about a weakening of the position of England in order that the peace might be brought about.

We believed that this could be done best through an attack by Japan on the strong position of England in East Asia. Therefore, I tried to influence Japan to attack Singapore.

After the outbreak of the German-Russian War, I also tried to have Japan attack Russia, for in such a way I saw a quick ending of the war. Japan, however, did not do that. Rather I should say, she did neither the one thing we wanted nor the other, but she did a third thing. She attacked the United States at Pearl Harbour. This attack was for us a complete surprise. We had considered the possibility that Japan might attack Singapore or perhaps Hong Kong or attack England, but we never considered that it should attack the United States or that was anything that we wanted; that is, the possibility of an attack in England but if that would happen, the United States would intervene. That was the question which we considered often at length but we hoped that this would not happen and that America would not intervene. That attack on Pearl Harbour was told in Berlin - - or rather, I received knowledge of it through the press and then I received Reuter's message from the Japanese Ambassador Oshima. All other reports or proofs or anything else are completely untrue and I would like to testify to that under my oath. I would like to go further than that and concur and assert that even this attack was a surprise to the Japanese Ambassador - - as he told me, it was a complete surprise to him also.