

Exhibit 2881

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Ref. Doc. No. 1400-H-6

Excerpt from Foreign Relations of the United States
Japan: 1931-1941 Vol. II

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Memorandum of a Conversation

[Washington,] June 17, 1941

Conformably with an arrangement made earlier in the day, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Ballantine and Mr. Schmidt met with Colonel Iwakuro and Mr. Wikawa at the latter's apartment.

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Colonel Iwakuro discussed at some length the deterioration of relations between the United States and Japan and the division of opinion in Japanese circles which had preceded the conclusion of the Tripartite Pact. The attitude of the United States, Colonel Iwakuro said, had left to Japan no other course than to sign the Tripartite Pact. For this reason, he said, it was most desirable that an improvement in American-Japanese relations be accomplished before taking up the consideration of such detailed controversial issues. He stated emphatically that Japan cannot at this time repudiate the Tripartite Alliance. He felt that once "good feeling" had been restored, other differences would be satisfactorily ironed out.

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The Japanese urged that discussions be carried on with all possible speed and asked when they could telegraph Tokyo. Mr. Hamilton pointed out that there were outstanding three large questions: economic non-discrimination in China, stationing of Japanese troops in China, attitude of the two Governments toward the European war, and added that the question of a statement regarding military bases presented an additional serious question.