

Exhibit 2701

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Def. Doc. No. 1467

Telegram No. 932

To Ambassador Satō at Moscow
(Urgent, office-chief cipher)

21:30, 21 July 1945

Reference to my telegram No. 931,

1) We cannot accept unconditional surrender in any circumstances (your telegram No. 1416 is appreciated). It is obvious that, if the war be protracted, more blood will be shed by both sides, yet the Japanese nation will rise as one man against the enemy if it persistently demand unconditional surrender. But we intend, in conformity with the Imperial wishes, to bring about through the good offices of the Soviet Union a peace which is not the so-called unconditional surrender, with a view to averting the coming about of such a situation. It is necessary to make all possible efforts to cause Britain and the United States clearly to understand the above-mentioned intention of Japan. We cannot, therefore, ask the Soviet Union to use its good offices without attaching any condition; at the same time, it would also be impossible as well as disadvantageous, in view of the domestic situation as well as external relations, to set forth concrete terms of peace immediately now. In such delicate circumstances, Prince Konoe shall convey to the Soviet Government the concrete intention of Japan based upon the Imperial wishes, and after giving full consideration to the Russian demands in East Asia, he shall request the Soviet Government after consultation to negotiate with Britain and the United States.

2) Inasmuch as the present negotiations are of such importance as to involve the destiny of Japan, you should take all possible steps to find out the true intention of the Soviet Union, seeking, for instance, full explanation of the Russian reply transmitted in your telegram No. 1417.

3) You should make it clear, if necessary, that this special envoy is to be dispatched expressly by the benevolent wish of His Majesty, though of course the Government, in assisting the Emperor, is responsible for the matter. You should, further, insure that Prince Konoe's enjoyment of His Majesty's confidence, and also his distinguished position in our political circles, be impressed upon the Soviet Union.

4) As regards the proposal in the reference telegram No. 931, it is requested that it should not be made in writing, unless absolutely necessary.

5) I appreciate your opinion submitted in telegram No. 1417, but, since there has been decision by the highest authorities to the effect contained in the reference telegram, your further efforts are requested.

Translation Certificate

I, Nishi Haruhiko, of the Defense, hereby certify that I am conversant with the English and Japanese languages, and that the foregoing is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation of the original document.

H. Nishi