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Le chargé d'affaires au Japon au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
Chargé d'Affaires in Japan to Secretary of State for External Affairs

TELEGRAM 62

Tokyo, April 17, 1941

Following note was handed to me this afternoon by Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs. Begins.

The Government of Canada prohibited the export of wheat and other commodities by order of the Governor General of February 13th last. The Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Japanese Government, through the Canadian Minister [*sic*] in Tokyo, requested the Canadian Government that wheat, for which contract had then been concluded, be permitted to be exported. While no settlement of matter had yet been reached, the order of the Governor General of March 14th further enacted that from April 1st the export of all commodities should be prohibited, except where special permission was obtained from the Minister of National Revenue. Thus a check was placed on the export of pulp, which was the only remaining article of importance which could be exported to Japan.

By the above-mentioned enactment of the Canadian Government, the economic relations between Japan and Canada have been suddenly cut off. This is an extraordinary situation indeed, considering the two countries are at peace with each other. Wheat is imported by Japan in order to supply needs of distressed populace of North China, and Canadian wheat being in excess of domestic demand, exporters are only too pleased to export it. As regards pulp, it is not used for military purposes, and it is in abundance in Canada. The restrictions placed on the export of such articles as these cannot be taken for anything but a blunt manifestation of ill will entertained by Canada against Japan. The attention of the Canadian Government is especially invited to the fact that, as regards wheat, it is against established international usage to refuse to permit the export of these goods [for] which a contract of purchase has already been concluded, and as regards pulp, permission for export is refused even for what had been already cut into a special size to meet Japanese requirements and is of no use for domestic consumers. Such would unnecessarily cause those concerned to suffer losses.

Ends.

The above is not a translation but as received.

1266.

443-40

Le chargé d'affaires au Japon au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
Chargé d'Affaires in Japan to Secretary of State for External Affairs

TELEGRAM 63

Tokyo, April 17, 1941

My telegram No. 35 of March 11th [10th] and No. 43 of March 19th.¹ In handing me this afternoon the note, the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs stated all that he desired was to see his country treated fairly, and that our

¹ Non reproduit.¹ Not printed.