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Epreuve illisible

MOST SECRET

Chile

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

C249204

The following is the text of an intercepted instruction from the Japanese Foreign Office to their Ambassador to Chile, outlining the statement the Ambassador is to make to the President of Chile, in order to persuade him to maintain Chilean neutrality. The Japanese are proposing to the German and Italian Governments that their Ambassadors in Santiago should make a similar approach:-

"1. The fact that Chilean ships are able to sail freely on the Pacific is due to the careful attention paid by Japan to the safety of these ships, in recognition of Chile's attitude of neutrality. We regard Chilean sea transport as extremely important to the economic prosperity of Chile, and as long as she maintains the status quo, it is our intention to give the matter our most friendly consideration.

2. We rule the Pacific absolutely, but we show only impartiality. Soon communication between the United States and Australia will be cut off entirely. Already we are studying concretely the question of sea transport between Chile and the East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. When this is effected, then Chile will begin to reap in earnest the rewards of neutrality.

3. It appears that the Americans are threatening a boycott of Chilean products or the cutting off of the supply of American commodities to Chile; but whether Chile heeds them or not, it is clear that the practical advantages which Chile can receive from that quarter will be no greater than in the past. If, however, Chile should ever go so far as to bow to American pressure and break off relations with the Axis, she will become a mere dependency of the United States on the model of Brazil, Ecuador, and Peru. We do not believe that this could be tolerated by a country of so glorious a history as Chile.

4. If Chile should, through American pressure or blandishments, go so far as to break off relations with Japan, we should be compelled to make still stronger our blockade of the United States commodity supply, and in consequence, the coast of Chile would be exposed to the havoc of war, and the