

Government at once, and should be grateful for earliest possible expression of views by immediate telegram. Ends.

1310.

Skelton Papers, PAC

*Le premier ministre d'Australie au Premier ministre
Prime Minister of Australia to Prime Minister*

TELEGRAM 4

Canberra, July 23, 1941

MOST IMMEDIATE. SECRET. Addressed to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs No. 467, repeated to the Prime Minister of Canada No. 4, Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa No. 52, Prime Minister of New Zealand No. 272, Australian Minister at Washington No. 75, Australian Minister at Tokyo No. 4.

Secret. Your telegram Circular M.172. [Begins.] Commonwealth Government is fully in accord with conclusions set out in paragraph 4 of your telegram under reference. As you are aware we have always attached the highest importance to gaining assurance of collaboration of the United States in the course of action in restraint of Japan. Now that the United States Government has decided to adopt severe measures in the event of Japanese move in Indo-China, we feel strongly that the whole object of our policy in the Far East over the past year would be negated if the British Empire now lagged behind the United States in effectiveness or determination of its own counter measures, and the same consideration would apply to any attempt at this stage to dissuade the United States from proceeding to contemplated lengths. We emphasize, however, need in our opinion for the utmost frankness in the present exchange with the United States Government in the sense of paragraph 4 (3) in order that there can be no possibility of misunderstanding. Ends.

1311.

592-40

*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au secrétaire aux Dominions
Secretary of State for External Affairs to Dominions Secretary*

TELEGRAM 132

Ottawa, July 23, 1941

IMMEDIATE. MOST SECRET. Following for your Prime Minister. Begins. Your telegram Circular M.172 of July 22nd.

1. Canadian Government concur in your conclusion that, in present situation, we should co-operate completely with the United States in the policy they appear to be prepared to adopt in face of Japanese move on Indo-China.