

is known as a strict disciplinarian and his appointment may mean a firm hand with trouble-making elements.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has served in Berlin, and most recently as Ambassador to Moscow.

He is very able, a personal enemy of Matsuoka, and is married to a German.

Several members of the old Cabinet are continuing, and the new one appears to be more of a stop-gap rather than a war Cabinet.

1371.

109-38

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

TELEGRAM CIRCULAR M.330

London, October 18, 1941

IMPORTANT. MOST SECRET. Following for your Prime Minister. Begins. Japan. Following is repetition of telegram No. 2032 of October 18th from His Majesty's Ambassador at Tokyo. Begins.

I learn from a good Japanese source that when resignation of late Cabinet was first mooted, there was every prospect of a purely militarist Government taking over pledged to execute extremist policies. Indeed it was combination of internal difficulties with somewhat retrogressive progress of negotiations with the United States which brought about the Cabinet's fall. Owing to last moment efforts of the more moderate elements, constitution of the new Cabinet will ensure continued pursuit of policy of maintaining peace in the Pacific, though we must expect a somewhat more vigorous assertion of what Japan considers to be her rights. [Ends.]

2. I take this to mean that we need not anticipate any *immediate* action likely to involve Japan in war with the democracies.

Ends.

1372.

109-38

*Mémorandum du sous-secrétaire d'État adjoint aux Affaires extérieures*¹
au sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures

*Memorandum from Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*¹
to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs

[Ottawa,] October 20, 1941

SHIGENORI TOGO, FOREIGN MINISTER OF JAPAN

The new Foreign Minister is one of the few members of the Japanese Diplomatic Service that I have looked upon and still consider a personal friend.

¹ H. L. Keenleyside.