

Mr. Hull told Halifax this afternoon that he thought it quite probable that Germany and Italy would declare war against the United States tonight. He felt that Japan's aggression had been concerted with its Axis Allies, and timed to coincide with an initiative on their part.

Other items of information from Washington were that a British river gun-boat had been sunk in Shanghai and that Japanese troops were attempting a landing in the Malay Peninsula.

1427.

2860-40

*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au haut commissaire
en Grande-Bretagne*

*Secretary of State for External Affairs to High Commissioner
in Great Britain*

TELEGRAM 1965

Ottawa, December 7, 1941

IMMEDIATE. SECRET. It is probable that an Order in Council will be made later today or tomorrow authorizing a submission to the King asking the King to approve the issuing of a Proclamation of a state of war between Canada and Japan.

2. The procedure will be the same as in case of Finland and you will, when authorized in the manner set out in paragraph 4 of this telegram, obtain the King's oral approval of the proposed Proclamation without presenting any written submission. The written submission will be sent later for the King's signature, and will bear the date of the oral approval.

3. I would suggest that you now make tentative arrangements to be received by His Majesty.

4. The action described in paragraph 2 is to be taken immediately after you receive from me a code telegram in the following form:

Japan. Please obtain the King's approval. Date of commencement of war, December blank.

5. Before leaving to obtain the King's approval, please telegraph the approximate time you expect that it may be given.

6. Please inform the King that His Majesty's Government in Canada desires that his approval may be communicated by telegram through you. Please state in that telegram the exact time and place of the approval.

7. Please acknowledge receipt of this telegram.