Regardless of who was responsible for the dropping of the *modus vivendi* (and there seems to be little doubt that the chief influence was the meeting of Soong and Hu Shih with the President), I believe that the decision was a sound one so long as we can be sure that the United States will back us up in any action that must be taken. The most recent developments seem to indicate that we can count on such backing.

<div align="center">Yours sincerely,</div>

<div align="right">NORMAN ROBERTSON</div>

1406.   592-40

Le haut commissaire adjoint de Grande-Bretagne au sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures

Deputy High Commissioner of Great Britain to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs

850H/244   Ottawa, December 4, 1941

IMMEDIATE. MOST SECRET

Dear Mr. Robertson,

I write to let you know that I have received a telegram from the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs about action to be taken in the event of war with Japan.

The first part of the telegram deals with section (b) of paragraph four of Mr. Hankinson's letter to you of the 22nd May last,[1] that is to say the paragraph beginning "At the first stage when war with Japan is regarded as inevitable within twenty-four hours the United Kingdom authorities will . . . etc."

I am informed that the Board of Trade have not hitherto possessed the powers to control export licences to *all* the destinations mentioned,* but that an Export of Goods (Control) Order, No. 42, has now been issued completing the powers of control. It was decided to take this action now instead of at stage one as originally contemplated.

The second part of the message deals with paragraph three of my letter to you of the 25th October last,[2] in which it was stated that the treatment of the Pacific ports of the U.S.S.R. would be urgently considered at stage one, but that pending a decision on this point, shipments for these ports would be detained. I now learn that the Russian Ambassador in London

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[1] Non reproduite.   [1] Not printed.
[2] Document 1375.
* L'auteur de la note suivante n'a pu être   * Uninitialled note as in original:
identifié:

<div align="center">*We* have.</div>