

*Mémorandum du deuxième secrétaire<sup>1</sup>**Memorandum by Second Secretary<sup>1</sup>*

MOST SECRET

[Ottawa,] December 17, 1941

THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN  
CONTINUATION OF MEMORANDUM OF NOVEMBER 28, 1941

1. The preceding memorandum in this series (December 6, 1941)<sup>2</sup> summarized the information contained in the telegrams received up to 9.30 a.m. on Saturday, December 6. This memorandum covers the developments reported during the next day and a half—that is up to Sunday afternoon, December 7, at about 3.30 when news was received that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbour.

2. On Thursday evening the President agreed that the United States, the United Kingdom and the Dutch should give a simultaneous warning to Japan, in the event that Japan sent an unsatisfactory reply to the President's enquiry about Japanese troop movements, that if Japan attacked Thailand, Malaya or the Netherlands East Indies Japan would do so at her own peril. At the President's request no reference was to be made to an attack on the Burma Road from Indo-China and the warnings from the United Kingdom and the Dutch were to follow the presentation of a warning from the United States. The following morning Kurusu brought the unsatisfactory Japanese reply to the President's enquiry.

3. After some hesitation the President (apparently on Saturday) agreed that the United States and the United Kingdom should both send an assurance of support to the Thai Government. The President approved of the text of Mr. Churchill's personal message to the Thai Prime Minister warning him of the imminent Japanese danger, urging him to fight if attacked and saying that the United Kingdom would come to Thailand's assistance to the utmost of its power, and the President himself sent a message to the Thai Prime Minister on Saturday night stating:

- (a) That the United States will regard it as a hostile act if the Japanese invade Thailand, Malaya, Burma or the Netherlands East Indies.
- (b) That when peace comes, no matter what happens meanwhile unless Thais aid Japanese, the United States and Great Britain would work for complete restoration of Thailand independence [and] sovereignty.

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<sup>1</sup> Escott Reid.

<sup>2</sup> Document 1411.