

Chargé d'Affaires of our Legation might profitably be instructed to discuss these proposals with the United States Ambassador in Tokyo. We assume that no action will in any event be taken until the situation has been discussed with Washington and therefore it would not be inappropriate concurrently to invite Mr. Grew's advice which should be of exceptional value. Subject, therefore, to similar instructions going forward to Sir Robert Craigie, we are directing Mr. McGreer to see the United States Ambassador and to report his views when submitting those of Sir Robert Craigie and his own.

W. L. MACKENZIE KING

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Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au chargé d'affaires au Japon
Secretary of State for External Affairs to Chargé d'Affaires in Japan

TELEGRAM 61

Ottawa, May 3, 1941

SECRET. Reference my telegram No. 59 of April 24th. The Prime Minister saw the Japanese Minister on April 28th and informed him that the Government had decided to grant export permits for the shipment to Japan of wheat and pulp logs for which firm orders had been placed before the export permit requirement was introduced. He made no commitment in respect of future applications for export permits which would have to be considered in the light of the conditions existing at the time. He explained to Mr. Yoshizawa that Government policy in respect of these commodities had been governed by the determination to do everything possible to prevent occasion for any anti-Japanese agitation developing in British Columbia. The present modification of our export permit policy, therefore, involved certain risks, against which the Government were insuring by asking the Press to refrain from comment on permitted shipments and by inviting the cooperation of all British Columbia members of the Dominion Parliament in avoiding public discussion of the questions of policy involved. It was made quite clear to Mr. Yoshizawa that if, despite all the precautionary measures we were taking, trouble nevertheless developed in British Columbia over the proposed shipments, then we might be obliged to stop the ships from sailing in order to prevent local disturbances from becoming more serious.

2. On April 29th the Prime Minister met the British Columbian Members of Parliament. He explained the whole situation to them, fully and frankly, informed them of the decision which the Government had already taken, and asked for their cooperation in handling a difficult situation which contained grave possibilities of mischief for Canada and for the Empire.

3. On the following day the Prime Minister called at the Japanese Legation to let Mr. Yoshizawa know that the British Columbian Members had agreed