

thousands, perhaps the figure specified in the agreement of last August between Vichy and Japan. He left Lord Halifax with the impression that he also would include some sort of undertaking against a Japanese attack on Siberia. In return, he thought that the Japanese might be offered the chance of securing through the blockade limited supplies of certain materials, including oil, though not of the highest grade, foodstuffs, and perhaps a few other commodities. He asked Lord Halifax, Mr. Casey, and Dr. Loudon¹ to seek from their Governments authority to agree on the volume and nature of the supplies which might be furnished. He did this in order to save time, as it might be necessary to present specific figures to the Japanese on very short notice not permitting reference to the home governments.

He said that he invited comment from the Governments concerned. Lord Halifax was able to tell him, on the basis of a telegram from Mr. Eden, that the United Kingdom was ready to consider an arrangement on these lines, provided the quantities reaching Japan were too small to permit any accumulation of stocks. Mr. Casey and Dr. Loudon both thought personally that their Governments would take the same view, but Dr. Loudon was insistent that only the lower grades of oil should be allowed to reach Japan. The Chinese Ambassador emphasized the great importance attached by his Government to the maintenance of the economic embargo on Japan and pointed out that the proposal would permit Japan to continue fighting China. It would, however, make it difficult for an attack on Kunming.

This is a summary of Lord Halifax's report to London. In presenting it, he asked for instructions at the earliest possible moment. I believe that Mr. Casey and Dr. Loudon have similarly sought urgent instructions. There has been no move on the side of the State Department to inform the Legation of these developments. I should be glad to know whether Mr. Moffat has made any approach to you. I have taken the initiative in asking the British Embassy to keep us up-to-date.

Yours sincerely,

H. H. WRONG

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Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au ministre aux États-Unis

Secretary of State for External Affairs to Minister in United States

TELEGRAM 484

Ottawa, November 24, 1941

MOST IMMEDIATE. Radio and press reports describe a meeting of representatives of "Pacific Powers" which was held in the State Department on Saturday last. Those participating were said to be Great Britain, China, Netherlands Indies, Australia and the U.S.A.

¹ Le ministre des Pays-Bas aux États-Unis.

¹ Minister of The Netherlands in United States.