

offering to act as mediator in a dispute between Indo-China and Thailand. It was widely believed that Japan's role as mediator was but a cover for still more aggressive designs.

In the event, during July and succeeding months Japan was subjected to economic restrictions of the most drastic nature, imposed through common action by the United Kingdom, the Governments of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, the United States, and of some other countries as well. The assets of Japan in all of these countries were frozen. Exports to Japan were thereafter to be by permit only, and in consequence there has since been a virtual embargo upon products from North America which formerly went to Japan in considerable quantities. I may mention in passing that so far as exports from Canada to Japan were concerned, these were covered by an Order in Council passed as far back as February 13th of this year. Previous to that date some small quantities of strategic materials -- chiefly non-ferrous metals -- had been exported under permit; but since that date the only exceptions have been in the case of two commodities for which firm orders had been accepted before the regulations went into force. Even here the quantities licensed have not finally been lifted from Canadian ports because of the disappearance of Japanese merchant shipping from the North Pacific.

The Canadian action in imposing economic restrictions was part of a common policy agreed upon by all of the nations concerned. There was, throughout, the closest consultation between the Canadian Government and the Governments of