

- (f) He believed that there was complete understanding between Berlin and Tokyo and that the Japanese were stalling for time while proceeding with their own policy at the dictation of the Axis. He was quite clear that there was nothing to be made of any idea of a standfast truce. The President suggested that the United Kingdom should give Thailand an undertaking that if they resisted Japanese attack or infiltration Britain would respect and guarantee for the future their full sovereignty and independence. Although for constitutional reasons the United States could not guarantee forces, such an undertaking by the British would be wholeheartedly supported by the United States.
- (g) Mr. Roosevelt stated that he was considering the advisability of sending a communication direct to the Japanese Emperor in which it would be made plain that if the present Japanese attitude continues war must result. It was not his intention, however, to take this step for the moment.

1405.

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*Le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au ministre-conseiller,  
la légation aux États-Unis*

*Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs to Minister-Counsellor,  
Legation in United States*

MOST SECRET

[Ottawa,] December 3, 1941

Dear Mr. Wrong,

We have read with great interest your letter of November 29th and previous communications describing developments in Washington relating to the crisis in the Far East. I am glad that our representations in regard to participation by Canada in meetings attended by representatives of the "Pacific Powers" were so well received.

Your description of the evident divergence of view between different groups in the State Department is in line with information that we received from other sources. In this connection it would be of interest to know whether the story written by Michael Straight in the last issue of the *New Republic*, in which he describes a memorandum presented to Mr. Hull by six of the nine members of the Far Eastern Division of the State Department, is in fact true. According to Mr. Straight's information the anti-appeasement argument of this memorandum was disliked by Hamilton, the head of the Division, and Ballantyne, who subsequently succeeded in having Cabot Coville transferred to a post in the Philippine Islands. If there is really as serious a divergence of view as Straight suggests the situation in the Far Eastern Division must be far from satisfactory.