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*Le ministre aux États-Unis au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*  
*Minister in United States to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 523

Washington, November 28, 1941

MOST IMMEDIATE. MOST SECRET. Negotiations between the United States and Japan are on the verge of collapse, although Kurusu apparently has not yet been instructed to leave. Yesterday's interview between Japanese and the President is said to have been confined to restatement of general position without progress towards solution.

2. Hull's suggestion of temporary *modus vivendi* has been dropped, mainly because of strenuous Chinese opposition expressed to the President by Soong and Chinese Ambassador on Wednesday, based on disastrous effect of *modus vivendi* on Chinese morale, and also on military position through possible concentration of Japanese forces on Chinese territory. There is some disposition in State Department to ascribe dropping of this idea partly also to lack of enthusiasm of United Kingdom and Dutch Governments.

3. Reports from United States observers in south-eastern Asia of large Japanese forces movements, however, now seem to make discussion on this basis impossible. There is serious apprehension that attack will be made on Indo-China within few days, with Kra peninsula as objective, accompanied by *coup d'état* move towards Kunming.

4. Document given to Japanese by Hull on November 26th was not, repeat not, shown to representatives of other Governments here. It was broad statement of general principles acceptable to Pacific settlement, and its text will probably be made public shortly. It was badly received by Kurusu.

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*Mémorandum du sous-secrétaire d'État adjoint aux Affaires extérieures<sup>1</sup>*  
*au sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs<sup>1</sup>*  
*to Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

MOST SECRET

[Ottawa,] November 28, 1941

THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN

In his initial discussions with Mr. Kurusu and Admiral Nomura, Mr. Hull made it clear to the Japanese that no "arrangement" of any lasting value could be reached between Japan and the United States unless, at the same time, Japan turned away from her "axis connections and aggressive ambitions".

<sup>1</sup> H. L. Keenleyside.