

1306.

King Papers, PAC

*Mémoire du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au Premier ministre*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Prime Minister*

Ottawa, July 22, 1941

EXPORT OF WHEAT TO JAPAN

TOKYO TELEGRAMS NO. 112 OF JULY 11TH¹ AND NO. 121 OF JULY 22ND²

Of the 70,000 tons of wheat which were on firm order from February 13/41 when the export permit requirement was introduced, some 30,000 tons have now been shipped, all in the last seven weeks. There, therefore, remain 40,000 tons to be moved. At the rate at which the Japanese have been taking deliveries recently, it would take them another six or eight weeks to move the quantity remaining.

The Mitsubishi Company have, however, been enquiring of our Legation in Tokyo, through the Japanese Foreign Office, as to whether Canada would agree to sell them a further 100,000 tons of wheat for North China and Japan. The position you took in your conversations with the Japanese Minister was that Canada would grant export permits for the wheat on firm order on February 13th and would consider applications for further export permits in the light of all the conditions prevailing at the time the application was made.

At the present moment, when, according to information just received (D.O. telegram circular M.170 of July 22nd),³ Japan is proceeding with plans to seize by force bases in French Indo-China—aggressive action which, it may be expected will be followed promptly by the termination of the Anglo-Japanese Treaty and by the compilation of drastic United States embargoes—I do not think we should commit ourselves to assign to Japan another 100,000 tons of wheat.^{4*}

If you agree, I would like to send a telegram to McGreer pointing out that 40,000 remain to be shipped under existing Japanese contracts for which export permits will be granted and that it appears advisable to wait until these reserves are further reduced before deciding whether additional permits can be granted for the quantity now requested.†

N. A. R[OBERTSON]

¹ Document 1297.² Non reproduit.³ Document 1308.⁴ Notes telles que dans l'original:

* I agree. [King].

† Agreed to & telegram [Document 1312] sent. K[ing].

² Not printed.⁴ Notes as in original: