

informed of this action and that the United Kingdom feels sure he will agree that the Dutch should from now on be brought fully into the United States-United Kingdom discussions of measures to be taken to counter further Japanese movements.

10. The President, on December 3rd, said that their information led them to think it probable that the Japanese attacks might be directed against the Netherlands East Indies, particularly against some Islands North of Sumatra. He commented that action of this kind would prove more easy of presentation to United States public opinion on the ground of a threat to the Philippines by encirclement.

11. We have received the text of the general statement handed to the Japanese representatives on November 26th but its acceptance by Japan would involve a complete reversal of Japan's foreign policy. Under it Japan would withdraw all its forces from China and Indo-China.

12. We have also received the text of the President's question concerning reports of Japanese troop movements which was handed to the Japanese representatives on December 2nd. The question was put bluntly. The President drew attention to the parallel between Japan's action in concentrating troops in Indo-China and similar action which Germany had taken in the last few years, and said it was for this reason, as well as because of broad problems of United States defence, that he wanted to know the intentions of the Japanese Government.

1412.

28-C(s)

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

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

MOST SECRET AND PERSONAL

Washington, December 6, 1941

Dear Mr. Robertson,

I have received your Most Secret and Personal letter of December 3rd concerning the situation in the Far East. You will have noted that there have been no further joint meetings of the so-called A-B-C-D Powers since our complaint was made that we had not been invited to attend. The consultations between the United States authorities and the representatives of the Powers mainly concerned with the Far Eastern crisis have been individual and not collective. Lord Halifax and Mr. Casey have been particularly active. During the past week Lord Halifax has had, I think, three secret meetings with the President, which have not been reported to the press at the President's express request. He has also seen Mr. Hull and Mr. Welles, or one of them,