

they would prefer to go on fighting in the expectation that an enduring settlement in China could only be brought about by the defeat of the Japanese, which they hoped would come before very long. They would rather expel the Japanese from China than have the Japanese remove themselves as a result of a settlement reached through the intervention of the United States Government.

Campbell told me that there have been no new developments of importance with respect to Thailand within the last two or three weeks. Reports received here indicated that the Japanese militarists were at the moment looking North rather than South. There were several reports of substantial Japanese troop movements to Manchukuo. The Japanese protests about the shipment of supplies to Vladivostok seem never to have been made officially, possibly because Konoye knew that an official protest would be promptly rejected here and that this would inflame opinion among the militarists in Japan.

Yours sincerely,

H. H. WRONG

1357.

28-C(s)

*Le haut commissaire en Grande-Bretagne au secrétaire d'État
aux Affaires extérieures*

*High Commissioner in Great Britain to Secretary of State
for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 1649

London, September 11, 1941

MOST SECRET. Personal for the Prime Minister. Begins. Craigie has wired reporting fully on conversation he has had with important unnamed interlocutor whose view it is that the atmosphere in Japan has recently become less aggressive and belligerent. Germans, it is claimed, have over-played their hand and created reaction against them. Moderate elements have become stronger and more vocal, and Emperor himself is now taking active interest in foreign affairs which it is believed has increased chances of war being averted. Craigie's own view is apparently that although present efforts to avoid hostilities should be proceeded with, there should be no relaxation of vigilance and preparations for possible trouble. The view of the Foreign Office, I gather, is that although atmosphere for the moment seems to have improved, situation is likely to become more acute later on. Ends.

MASSEY