

look below the surface. The British Ambassador and I were always in close consultation, and while the British attitude may have appeared weak to the public nevertheless I do not think it was so. What we both sought to do was to keep our country out of what might have been war with Japan. Around the 1st of February the situation was most sensitive and delicate. It seemed to me all the time that if war ensued - and I am convinced it would have ensued had economic sanctions been applied - then the British Empire would have had to hold the bag. France I am convinced would have stood back. I do not believe America would have come in, and Italy would not have been much use anyway. That part of the episode is a long story, and here again I am looking forward so much to telling you all about it.

The political situation at present is most unsatisfactory, both internally and externally. Internally they have arranged what is called a "Super-man" Cabinet. The Prime Minister, Viscount Saito, is a splendid man in every way, but party feeling in Japan runs excessively high. There are interior quarrels. I doubt if the army is satisfied with the present Cabinet, although General Araki, the Minister of War in the old Cabinet, has remained on. He has expressed some extraordinary opinions. The army has been fed for months past on what is called "patriotic food". So much so that the result simply is that I doubt if anybody can hold the sentiment which has been engendered.

What you indicate about Russia is by no means beyond the bounds of possibility.

As to the internal political situation, it is true there are not many with whom I can discuss it, but may I say with all respect that you are one of them. I am very anxious about conditions in Canada. I do not know if you have seen all this coming, but certainly I can say with sincerity that I have seen it coming. We have had in Canada for some time past an entirely wrong approach. We thought nothing could go wrong. We
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