

agreement of the Thai Government given under duress, could not be allowed. If the British occupied Thailand Mr. Welles stated that the United States would move in behind them.

On December 1st the Japanese representatives met with Mr. Hull but had no new proposals to make. They referred to one or two points in their previous proposals but the Secretary of State answered stiffly, pointing out that the United States Government was unable to meet the Japanese on the important points of their proposals. (Stopping of aid to China, releasing of oil for Japan, and retention of a considerable number of troops in Indo-China.)

The most important development of the three days under review came in a meeting between the President and Lord Halifax which took place at noon on December 2nd. The President's views as stated in this meeting may be summarized as follows:

- (a) He wished the air patrols to be continued, and stated that he had given orders for three United States submarines to supplement this patrol;
- (b) He had instructed Mr. Welles to ask the Japanese to explain their troop movements in the direction of Thailand;
- (c) Believing that the Japanese reply would be "either mendacious or evasive" he said that it would be of great importance for the British and United States Governments to be clear as to what they would do in the event of certain hypothetical situations arising. He therefore asked Halifax to ascertain what the British Government would do in the event of:
  1. Japanese reply being unsatisfactory, reinforcements not yet having reached Indo-China, and
  2. Reply being unsatisfactory, reinforcements having in the meantime reached Indo-China, and
  3. Japanese attack on Thailand other than attack on Kra Isthmus, attack covering in his mind such Japanese pressure on Thailand as to force concessions to Japanese dangerously detrimental to general position.

The British Ambassador promised to get replies as quickly as possible.

- (d) He promised United States support in the event of Japanese attack on any British post that might be established in the Kra Isthmus, although he admitted that it might take a few days "to get things into political shape".
- (e) The President said that although it would be a good thing if Thailand would invite the British in, London must nevertheless do whatever immediate necessity dictated in any case.