

to put it through within the next ~~two~~ or ~~three~~ months and before Prince Chichibu left England to return to Japan. He had accordingly told officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to speed up final instructions to Japanese Ambassador in London. Such an understanding was essential to the peace of the world or at all events the Far East. He did not know why Anglo-Japanese alliance had been abrogated but 'look at the result ever since'." (Tokio telegram No. 181(R) dated June 7th, 1937).

Mr. Eden went on to say that the two messages did not entirely coincide. The statement by the Japanese Foreign Minister must of course be taken as the more authoritative.

The two messages taken together confirmed our previous information that Japan was anxious for some relaxation of the present tension in the Pacific. The new Japanese Government appeared to be more stable than its predecessor, and therefore more capable of conducting an important negotiation. The matter would obviously have to be handled with great care at each stage, if alarm was not to be caused in one quarter or another.

Turning to the Report of the Technical Committee (E. (37) 33), Mr. Eden said that this was a valuable document and would be of great assistance. His only criticism would be that the Report, probably unintentionally, conveyed a rather pessimistic impression regarding the difficulties in the way of negotiating the suggested Pact. In his own opinion these difficulties would not be found to be insuperable.

MR. LYONS agreed with Mr. Eden that the difficulties indicated by the Technical Committee were capable of