

Government should be regarded as constituting an act of war, and therefore automatically bringing appropriate counter measures into force.

2. Procedure at paragraph 3 below, designed to reduce to a minimum time involved by necessity for inter-governmental consultation will be brought into operation forthwith.

3. Any authority in the Far East mentioned in paragraph 4 below, who receives information from any of the territories with which he is concerned that action on the part of the Japanese is either impending or has taken place, which in his view is such as to necessitate immediate counter measures will send to his own higher authority in London and to other authorities mentioned in paragraph 4, an *en clair* telegram marked "Most Immediate" (consisting of first code word contained in my immediately following telegram).¹ This warning message (receipt of which will be at once acknowledged by London authority telegraphing second word in my immediately following telegram) means that sender considers facts reported in a succeeding message in cypher prefixed by first code word call for immediate consideration by Governments concerned of nature of military counter measures to be taken. This cypher telegram will also be repeated to authorities mentioned in paragraph 4.

4. Authorities concerned in these arrangements are the four Commanders-in-Chief to whom this telegram is addressed, British Ambassadors to Washington, Tokyo, Chungking, and Shanghai; British Minister at Bangkok, and Governors of Burma, Hong Kong, and Fiji.

5. You should repeat to the Governments of Canada, Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa any telegrams which you may send under instructions in paragraph 3 above. These Governments are being invited to consider the introduction of similar arrangements to ensure that information of the kind described in paragraph 3 would be communicated to them without delay, and would be furnished by them to us and to our various authorities as in that paragraph. Netherlands and United States Governments also are being asked to arrange that their respective superior authorities in the Far East will ensure that information received by them will be sent to London and repeated to Commander-in-Chief in the Far East, through the most appropriate channel. Ends.

¹ Non reproduct.

¹ Not printed.