

[PIÈCE JOINTE 2/ENCLOSURE 2]

Le ministre d'Australie au Japon au chargé d'affaires au Japon
Minister of Australia in Japan to Chargé d'Affaires in Japan

Tokyo, April 26, 1941

My dear McGreer,

With reference to the proposal that Sir Robert Craigie, yourself and myself should meet and discuss the possibility of a possible economic action against Japan, I enclose herewith a copy of the cablegram¹ on the subject which I have received from Australia, and also a memorandum setting out my views.

Yours very sincerely,

J. G. LATHAM

[ANNEXE À LA PIÈCE JOINTE/SUB-ENCLOSURE]

Mémorandum du ministre d'Australie au Japon
Memorandum by Minister of Australia in Japan

[Tokyo, April n.d. 1941]

ECONOMIC REPRISALS AGAINST JAPAN

I am in general agreement with the views expressed in telegram No. 112 from the Australian Department of External Affairs. The situation in Europe may tempt Japan to new Southern moves. Further importance is given to the subject by the fact that Mr. Ohashi has told me that the Japanese Government is obtaining a report on the question of what he terms economic pressure on Japan.

2. My opinion is that we should, after careful but speedy consultation amongst ourselves, produce a complete programme of economic action vis-à-vis Japan which we should then place before the U.S. Government, not perhaps for their cooperation, but for their information, and in the hope that they would see their way to work on parallel lines.

3. The programme should provide for (a) coordination of present measures in different parts of the Empire and as far as possible with U.S.A.; (b) future action if reprisals should be called for. There is an evident absence of coordination at present. An example is to be found in the recent embargo on the export of wheat from Canada the only result of which was that wheat was obtained from U.S.A. A somewhat similar case occurred in connection with lead.

¹ Non reproduit.

¹ Not printed.