

5. The Government of the United States undertake to refrain from such measures and actions as will be prejudicial to the endeavours for restoration of general peace between Japan and China. Text ends.

See my immediately following telegram.¹ Ends.

1383.

28-C(s)

*Le ministre-conseiller, la légation aux États-Unis, au sous-secrétaire d'État
aux Affaires extérieures*

*Minister-Counsellor, Legation in United States, to Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs*

MOST SECRET

Washington, November 24, 1941

Dear Mr. Robertson,

This letter is in continuation of my report of November 22nd² concerning the discussions between the Japanese delegation and the Department of State. I have just seen the long cable which was sent by Lord Halifax to Mr. Eden yesterday morning. I did not feel in a position to ask for a copy of it in view of Mr. Hull's earnest request that its circulation should be limited. As the cable ran to some seven pages single-spaced, my memory of its contents is not complete, but I think that I can give an accurate outline.

The cable was Lord Halifax's report of a meeting held on Saturday in Mr. Hull's office. Mr. Hull summoned to this meeting, in addition to Lord Halifax, the Netherlands and Australian Ministers, and the Chinese Ambassador was also summoned for the later part of the proceedings. The conversation continued for about two hours.

Mr. Hull began by reviewing the course of his discussions with Mr. Kurusu along the lines reported in my previous letter. He said that he had made it clear throughout in his discussions with the Japanese Envoys that Hitler's schemes of world domination were being assisted by a little Hitler in Tokyo. He had also made it clear that the United States had no more intention of stopping aid to China than they had of stopping aid to Great Britain.

Two motives which had inspired him during the negotiations had been his desire to give some help and comfort to the peace party in Japan and his desire to gain valuable time. Mr. Kurusu had told him that the Emperor himself strongly favoured the preservation of peace. The United States Chiefs of Staff were anxious to have more time to provide for the defences of the Philippine Islands. He had come to the conclusion that it would not be possible to prolong the current talks unless some temporary arrangement was reached. He had in mind an arrangement which might last for only two or three months, during the currency of which the discussion of a general settlement might proceed.

¹ Non reproduit.

² Document 1380.

¹ Not printed.