

bility to the British and Chinese. I think myself that the main responsibility was the President's, who was, of course, influenced by the Chinese representations made directly to him by Soong and Hu Shih, and also by a personal message from "a former Naval person" saying that the one point that troubled him was the thin diet which would be given to Chiang Kai-shek if the *modus vivendi* were arranged. There is, I believe, some difference of opinion between the President and Mr. Hull, and Mr. Hull is not happy over this.

The President, in any case, seems to have taken matters into his own hands, and you will have read in this morning's papers the latest example of his own effective type of open diplomacy in the record of his press conference yesterday.

I saw at the British Embassy yesterday a telegram from London which may not have been repeated to you on the Japanese oil position. This estimates that existing stocks would be sufficient for a full year of active warfare and for two years of consumption at the present rate. An American report of Japanese troops in Southern Indo-China puts the figure on November 26th at a total of 70,000, with more troops landing currently and all dock space in Saigon occupied. Another observer places the figure at over 100,000.

Yours sincerely,

H. H. WRONG

P.S. Since dictating this, I have been to the British Embassy and have had a talk with Halifax and Campbell. Halifax had just returned from a discussion with Hull. In the course of this he asked Hull directly what the United States would do if the Japanese invaded Thailand, and he got no definite answer. Orders have been issued to the Commanders of the United States forces in the Far East to be prepared for any eventuality and to be on particular guard against sabotage, but no decision has been taken on the question of peace or war.

Hull was still worried and disturbed over the responsibility for the dropping of the *modus vivendi*, and to Halifax he placed the major blame for this on Soong and on the advice he gave to Chiang Kai-shek. I gather that Chiang Kai-shek has been liberally distributing personal messages to his friends in high places and that Mr. Stimson in particular has been greatly influenced here. Until a day or two ago Stimson was urging Hull to play for time so that the U.S. forces in the Far East could be strengthened, but he is now saying that they must not let the Chinese down.

Hull offered to give Halifax a copy of the document handed to the Japanese on Wednesday, but could not find one on his desk and said that he would send it later on.

H. W.