

The purpose of the agreement is described in the preamble as being to clear the way for negotiations for a general settlement. It is specified that the firm term of three months can be extended if both the parties so desire.

Mr. Hull was very anxious to present a draft along these lines to Mr. Kurusu as soon as possible, and Mr. Casey says that he was rather disappointed that those present at the meeting were not all able to pledge the support of their Governments. Mr. Casey gave it his personal blessing, while explaining that he had no instructions. Dr. Loudon was able to give some general indication of his Government's attitude. Lord Halifax had received a reply from London to his report of last Saturday's meeting, of which you have doubtless received a copy in Ottawa, so that you know the attitude that he took.

Mr. Casey says that the Chinese are very nervous that they may be being "sold down the river". Mr. Soong¹ even called on him this morning before breakfast to express his fears. It is possible, of course, that they think that a clean breach of the negotiations between the United States and Japan would mean that they would have the United States as a belligerent ally. This is, however, a very tricky calculation.

As I understand it, the U.S. draft agreement would leave the existing freezing orders in full effect, and the relaxation would only apply to future trade. The whole arrangement is designed clearly so as to be terminable on short notice in case of infractions. The products which might come from the United States would have to be moved in Japanese bottoms, so that they would not get any economic benefit from the agreement for at least a month after it came into effect.

I am seeing Mr. Welles in a few minutes on the subject of the Department's Telegram No. 484 of November 24th, to which I shall reply separately.

Yours sincerely,

H. H. WRONG

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Le ministre aux États-Unis au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures

Minister in United States to Secretary of State for External Affairs

TELEGRAM 524

Washington, November 25, 1941

IMMEDIATE. Following from Wrong. Begins. Your telegram No. 484 of November 24th. Since the Legation had received no information from Department of State concerning meeting in question, in the Minister's absence I saw

¹ Représentant personnel de Chang Kai-shek au président Roosevelt.

¹ Personal Representative of Chiang Kai-shek to President Roosevelt.