

We pointed out to him that every report of the actual or prospective shipment of materials to Japan had provoked bitter comment in the Canadian press and had led to scores of representations from organizations and individuals to the Government and Members of Parliament. In this atmosphere any loading of goods for shipment to Japan which might indirectly and remotely be useful for military purposes might provoke an incident which would have very serious consequences. In our judgment this was a very real risk which the Government's policy in refusing export permits was designed to avoid.

Mr. Yoshizawa said that he had explained to his Government the reasons for our policy, though he was not himself convinced that the risk of local disorders arising out of shipments to Japan was as great as we believed. He planned to have his Consul in Vancouver report to Ottawa for consultation next week and thought of going out to British Columbia himself to size up the local situation so that he could advise his Government accordingly.

Mr. Yoshizawa referred to the statement in Mr. Ohashi's note to Mr. McGreer that the Canadian restrictions on the export of wheat and pulp wood to Japan could only be taken as "a blunt manifestation of illwill entertained by Canada against Japan". We agreed that there was no doubt a deep public mistrust of recent developments of Japanese policy since the conclusion of the Tripartite Pact with our enemies and this mistrust had not been lessened by Mr. Matsuoka's visit to Berlin and his conclusion of an agreement with the U.S.S.R. Nevertheless, taking a long view of relations in the Pacific, we thought our preventive policy of avoiding any occasion for an incident which would provoke anti-Japanese demonstrations in British Columbia was a wise one the reasons for which his Government should appreciate.

Mr. Yoshizawa then referred to his Government's doubts about the desirability of maintaining diplomatic relations between our countries now that the economic relations which had been the principal reason for establishing them were ceasing to exist.

We told Mr. Yoshizawa that his representations and those which his Government had addressed to Mr. McGreer would be brought to your attention immediately on your return. In the meantime there was nothing we could add to the explanations we had already given him.

N. A. R[OBERTSON]

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*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures au chargé d'affaires au Japon*  
*Secretary of State for External Affairs to Chargé d'Affaires in Japan*

TELEGRAM 54

Ottawa, April 20, 1941

Reference your telegram No. 63 of April 17th and earlier telegrams reporting Japanese representations against refusal of export permits. Similar representations have been addressed to the Canadian Government from time to