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*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*

Washington, August 5, 1941

Dear Mr. Robertson,

With reference to my letter of August 2nd¹ and later telephone conversations on the subject of economic pressure against Japan, there are a few additional points on which I can give you some clarification. I told you last night that there seemed to have been some confusion between London, Washington, and Ottawa over what the United States policy in fact was. I think that I can straighten this out. The information given in my telegram No. 324 of August 1st incorporated a decision taken here only that afternoon. I received that information before it reached the British Embassy, and I passed it on to Mr. Noel Hall that evening when he happened to be dining with me.

The Embassy did not get its telegrams to the Foreign Office off until late in the evening of August 2nd. In the meantime, they had received a telegram from London complaining that the United States Government had not gone as far as had been expected in prohibiting trade with Japan. This telegram had reference to the policy which was applied immediately after the freezing order was promulgated—a policy summarized in my Telegram No. 311 of July 28th.² I gather from you that the telegram was repeated to Ottawa, where it arrived after my report of the stringent action taken here on Friday afternoon. The British Embassy have replied to it by saying that in view of the latest developments they do not propose to make representations unless they receive further instructions.

So much for that mix-up. There are some other matters requiring clarification. I think I did not make it clear that the United States would grant no licences for Japan covering any goods on the existing U.S. Export Licence List, with the exception of certain petroleum products. In addition, they will grant no Treasury licences covering woodpulp, metals and manufactures, machinery and vehicles, rubber and manufactures, and chemical and related products except certain pharmaceuticals, even in cases in which the specific products are not on their Export Licence List. By this means their entire export trade to Japan is really embargoed, except for raw cotton and some petroleum products.

With regard to raw cotton, Treasury licences will be issued covering exports up to the 1940 volume (about \$600,000 a month), but no public statement will be issued giving the basis of the policy.

¹ Non reproduite.

² Non reproduit.

¹ Not printed.

² Not printed.