

Mr. Casey, who, as you know, has been under much pressure from his Government to get some sort of a military commitment from the United States, emphasized the extent of the dangers which would follow from any incursion into Thailand, at any rate to the west of a line running through Bangkok. Singapore would be threatened from the rear and Burma and the Burma Road would be exposed. He urged that some overt action should be taken by the United States which would impress on the Japanese militarists that an advance into Thailand would face them with the immediate risk of war with the United States. He suggested that the reinforcement of Manila by submarines, light naval craft, and in particular long-range bombers, was feasible and might have salutary results. Mr. Hull said that he had recommended this action to the Secretary of the Navy, who had it under consideration.

Later in the morning I saw Mr. Acheson and asked him his opinion on what could be done in this direction. He told me that he had just been discussing the question with Secretary Knox, who was favourably inclined to the despatch of some cruisers, destroyers, submarines, and aircraft to Manila and Singapore. Colonel Knox feels that they must avoid the possibility of having their heavy naval forces engaged in disadvantageous circumstances in the Far East, and he therefore cannot order American battleships to that region. Mr. Casey is seeing Colonel Knox today or tomorrow, with Mr. Hull's approval, and he proposes to push the matter as hard as he can.

Mr. Hull remarked that he had had no word from Vichy since Pétain's address yesterday and the reorganization of the Government. He said he was awaiting with interest reports from Mr. Murphy in North Africa on Weygand's reaction to these developments.

Yours sincerely,

H. H. WRONG

1345.

2356-C-40

Le secrétaire d'État suppléant aux Affaires extérieures¹ au haut commissaire en Grande Bretagne

Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs¹ to High Commissioner in Great Britain

TELEGRAM 1289

Ottawa, August 23, 1941

SECRET. Following for Robertson.² Begins. The matter of the Kelly, Douglas shipment of tea in Kobe has now come into the field of high policy. On our

¹ Ernest Lapointe.

² Le Premier ministre et le sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures étaient alors à Londres.

³ The Prime Minister and the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs were then in London.