

simultaneously to His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington for observations of the President. It has also been shown to the Netherlands Government which is entirely in agreement with line taken in it and is preparing to act similarly.

5. We should be grateful if we could be informed by most immediate telegram whether you concur in the terms of the draft note and in procedure suggested. In the circumstances it would be helpful if you would cause your reply to be repeated to His Majesty's Ambassador at Tokyo.

6. It will be appreciated that in drafting the note we were presented with a special difficulty owing to desire of the President that the Burma Road should be omitted from warning (see my telegrams Circular M.433,¹ paragraph 2, and Circular M.434,¹ paragraph 1). In the circumstances we have thought it best to relate warning directly to concentration of troops in southern Indo-China. Draft note thus brushes aside Japanese explanation about north Indo-China and leads logically to Japanese threat to Thailand as well as of course the Netherlands East Indies. This has the merit of being in accordance with immediate realities and the fact that the Philippines are also omitted (in accordance with paragraph 3 of my telegram Circular M.433) should, we feel, make absence of mention of Burma Road less noticeable. Ends.

1417.

28-C(s)

Le secrétaire aux Dominions au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
Dominions Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs

TELEGRAM CIRCULAR M.439

London, December 7, 1941

MOST IMMEDIATE. MOST SECRET. Following for your Prime Minister. Begins. Japan. My immediately preceding telegram Circular M.438. Following is text of draft note. Begins.

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that I have been instructed to make the following communication to the Imperial Japanese Government on behalf of His Majesty's Governments in the United Kingdom, Canada, Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa: His Majesty's Governments have followed closely, in consultation with the United States Government, the negotiations in which the latter have been engaged with the Japanese Government with the view to relief of present tension in the Far East. His Majesty's Government viewed with the same concern as the United States Government rapidly growing concentration of

¹ Non reproduit.¹ Not printed.