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NB
dates
me

From: Washington (UAWRK)
To: Tokyo (SUMMER (Vice Chief, Gen Staff))
20 September 1941
JAS

I want to
keep this one
for pit file.

196 [Parts 1-6 complete]

Answer to your wire #949^a.

A. Today, the 20th, I conferred with the German Attaché. We exchanged opinions in a roundabout way, without making direct statements. His ideas are more or less as follows:

1. Britain would probably actually welcome a Japanese attack on Russia, as she would think that it would lighten the heavy pressure on her south. Nevertheless Britain and America would probably continue their aid to Russia (of which the quantity is very small). In case of a northern advance by the Japanese Army, he feels America's attitude would be more or less as you estimate in 1 of your wire.

Part 2.

2. 2 of your wire tallies with the German Attaché's opinions. He even goes on to say that even though the Japanese Army should invade the Netherlands East Indies and Singapore, America would probably not force even a political or commercial war with Japan, provided that the Japanese Army does not directly attack the Philippines or block the shipment of tin, rubber and the like from Malaya and the

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Part 3.

He continues, if Japan should reserve these products like tin and rubber for her own exclusive use, America might declare war against us with little delay, but it is more probable that even in this case America would hesitate for a long time, giving Japan an interval which we would have to use for the assiduous collection of materials of war such as, for one, gasoline.

3. 3 and 4 of your wire coincide with the opinions of the German Attache.

Part 4.

B. My opinions on the foregoing:

1. America is maintaining her traditional far-eastern policy, devoting her best efforts to upholding and augmenting her power in the Far East, particularly in the South Seas, and to insuring the transport of war materials to England from the South Seas, Australia, and India. Therefore, if the Empire should drive southwards I doubt that America would look on unconcerned.

Part 5.

I mean, as I have set forth in previous wires, #159^b and others, that although America would not force Japan into a decisive war, she would, quite possibly, sever economic

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along that line.

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2. The greater part of your wire #949^a coincides with the views which the German Attaché has frequently expressed to us. The German Councillor and Naval Attaché also agree that an invasion of the Dutch East Indies by the Imperial Forces would probably not occasion a Japanese-American war.

Part 6

However German and Italian, especially German, estimates on the U.S. are almost always over-optimistic and, at times are of such a nature as to make one think them deliberately planned for the purpose of impelling the Imperial Forces into a Northern or Southern Drive.

a - In process.

b - Parts 1-3 in process, part 4 D-10165.

Inter 21 Sept 45 (2)
 Rec'd --M--
 Trans 2 May 1945 (9387-o)

Japanese

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