

SECRET
SECRET

November 8th, 1941

Quit of Telegram from Former Naval Person to President shown me to-day by Mr. Dunn refers to Chiang-kai-Shek's appeal to F.N.P. and President. Gives text of appeal (see F.O. telegram No.).

Points:-

1. Refers to British air situation in Singapore but says H.M.G. would send pilots to China and even some planes.
2. Emphasizes need for a joint and formidable deterrent to Japan. U.S.G.'s time-gaining policy so far brilliantly successful but U.S.-British-Dutch embargo is forcing Japan to decisions for peace or war.
3. F.N.P. thinks Japan will go into Yunnan cutting Burma Road. This disastrous for Chiang whose collapse, besides being world tragedy, would leave Japan with large forces for attack North or South.
4. Refers to Chiang's appeal for a warning against an attack on Yunnan. Hopes President might remind Japan that an attack aimed at China "from a region in which we have never recognized that Japan had any right to maintain forces would be in open disregard of the clearly indicated attitude of the U.S.G. We should of course be ready to make a similar communication."
5. No independent British action will deter Japan because we are so tied up elsewhere. "But of course we will stand with you and do our

H.E.

Mr. Hayslett
Mr. Deering
Mr.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Minutes.

urmost to back you in whatever course you choose". F.N.P. thinks Japan more likely to drift into war than to plunge in.

F.N.P. asks what the President thinks of foregoing.

Mr. Dunn told me that as far as he knew no reply had been sent by the President as yet and that the matter was receiving very careful consideration. Incidentally he expressed a similar view to that of Dr. Hornbeck, i.e. that the mission of Mr. Kurusu was merely a time-gaining device for Mr. Kurusu was not an important figure.

R.C.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.