

hth: C204/9/41

August 30, 1941.

We suggest:

That as between the two drafts, the B draft be given preference;

That mention of the United States be avoided;

That objection to Japanese encroachment be not limited to "the southwest Pacific area";

That express mention of "war" be avoided;

That communication, when made, be confidential to the Japanese Government and, as to text at least, be not made public.

We suggest that in place of warning against "encroachment in the southwest Pacific" the warning be made more broad, be made a warning against continuance in and expansion of a policy and program of conquest by force.

B

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have watched with grave concern successive encroachments of the Japanese armed forces in Indo-China and the accumulating evidence of an intention on the part of the Japanese Government to continue this policy of expansion by force or threat of force into countries bordering on British territories. They cannot disregard the plain threat to security of those territories which such a policy would constitute.

His Majesty's Government therefore, who have for their part no aggressive intentions either against these countries or against Japan herself, feels that the time has come for most complete candour. They accordingly find it necessary, in the interests of peace, to let the Japanese Government know that any further Japanese encroachment in the South-West Pacific area would compel His Majesty's Government to take counter measures even though these might lead to war between Great Britain and Japan.

August 29th 1941.

A

His Majesty's Government are aware of the communication which President Roosevelt made to the Japanese Ambassador on August 17th regarding the concern of the United States at Japanese military activities in Indo China and the steps which the United States Government would be compelled to take if the Japanese Government pursued a similar policy in regard to neighbouring countries. His Majesty's Government shares the concern of the United States Government and cannot disregard plain threat to the security of British territories, which such a policy on the part of Japan would constitute.

His Majesty's Government therefore, who have for their part no aggressive intentions either against countries bordering on British territories or against Japan herself, feel it necessary in the interest of peace to let the Japanese Government know that any further Japanese encroachment in the South-West Pacific area would compel His Majesty's Government to take counter measures even though these might lead to war between Great Britain and Japan.

August 29th 1941.