

# ROOSEVELT BELIEVED JAP CONFLICT INEVITABLE

By JACK BELL  
WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 (AP)—A Japanese message to Tokyo intercepted nearly a month before Pearl Harbor described the late President Roosevelt as believing that Japan would be "on the move soon."

This came to light today as the congressional inquiry into the Pacific military disaster entered its second day of public hearings.

The message, sent by Japanese Ambassador Kichisaburo Nomura on November 10, 1941, quoted "a certain cabinet member" as having told Nomura that Mr. Roosevelt and the then Secretary of State Cordell Hull, did not believe the impending "peace" conferences would alter the tense diplomatic situation.

The peace conferences were shortly to begin with Nomura and Special Envoy Saburo Kurosu representing the Japanese government.

In a message that was decoded and translated by U. S. army intelligence two days after it was sent, Nomura said that on November 9 a cabinet member had talked to him. Without naming him, the Japanese ambassador quoted the cabinet official as follows:

"Dear Friend"

"You are indeed a dear friend of mine. I tell this to you alone. The American government is receiving a number of reliable reports that Japan will be on the move soon. The American government does not believe that your visit on Monday to the president or the coming of Mr. Kurosu will have any effect on the general situation."

When Nomura protested that neither the Japanese government nor its people desired a war with the United States, the cabinet member was quoted as replying:

"Well, our boss, the president, believes those reports and so does the secretary of state."

The Nomura message, sent after the ambassador had been advised by Tokyo that November 23 was the deadline for concluding negotiations with the United States, was one of a series made public by the congressional investigating committee.

The committee opened its formal hearings yesterday with testimony of army and navy witnesses on the actual attack made by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Today the committee was presided by Chairman Barkley (D-Ky.) a review of the Japanese version of the attack. This was to be furnished by the army and navy witnesses, Rear Adm. T. B. Inglis and Col. Bernard Thielein, from captured Japanese documents.

First, however, the committee planned to finish its cross-examination of the two on the initial phase of their testimony.

**Ships Rerouted**

Before a crowd jammed into every corner of the committee room, Senator Ferguson (R-Mich.) drove yesterday at the point that Adm. Harold R. Stark, then chief of naval operations, had ordered Hawaii-bound shipping rerouted to the south almost two weeks before the Japanese attack.

Ferguson and Senator Brewster (R-Me.) put their heads together often for whispered conferences during the cross-examination period. Ferguson indicated later to reporters his questions were designed to show that there was some advance knowledge in Washington of the possibility of attack.

There remained little doubt, after yesterday's presentation of the intercepted Japanese messages, that the official Washington knew Japan was on the verge of going to war.

From January, 1941, eleven months before the attack, the United States armed forces had been intercepting and decoding Japanese military messages. They had broken the Japanese diplomatic code by August 6, 1941, and Tokyo's instructions to its representatives in the world's capitals were being read by Americans.

It was in this flood of messages that Nomura's report on his conversation with the cabinet officer stood out, among these others:

The Japanese were reporting in detail the movements of the U. S. Pacific fleet and continued reporting it until the day before the attack.

They ordered their code books and machines destroyed December 2.

They apparently believed that

the United States and Great Britain were preparing to occupy The Netherlands East Indies and they were prepared to attack in that area.

The Japanese told their axis allies as early as the last week in November that negotiations with the United States were broken off and got German and Italian promises to join with them if they went to war against America. Laid before the committee were many which indicated that Tokyo had instructed its "peace" ambassadors to play for time while the Japanese task force already was steaming toward Pearl Harbor.

Nomura and Kurosu were told by Tokyo in a November 28 message the navy translated the same day that the negotiations with the United States actually were being broken off, but told them not to give that impression here.

On December 1, the Japanese here asked Tokyo whether it would be possible to arrange a conference at Honolulu between Vice President Wallace, or Harry Hopkins, representing the United States, and former Premier Konoye for Japan.

"We realize, of course," their message said, "that an attempt to have President Roosevelt and former Premier Konoye meet, failed."

Tokyo told Berlin November 30, 1941, in a message translated here December 1, that negotiations with the United States "now stand ruptured-broken."

**"Grave Situation"**

"In the face of this our empire faces a grave situation and must act with determination," said the message, which asked the Japanese ambassador to arrange for talks with Hitler and German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop.

On December 3, 1941, Nomura messaged Tokyo urging the Japanese government to make its reply to an American inquiry about the increase in Japanese forces in Indo-China clear as to "our peaceful intentions."

"There is no saying but what the United States government will take a bold step, depending upon how our reply is made," the message said.

In the same message in which Nomura told of his conversation with the unnamed cabinet officer, the ambassador also reported he had sent Frederick Moore, legal adviser to the Japanese embassy in Washington, to interview both Senator Elbert Thomas (D-Utah) of the senate foreign relations committee and Secretary Hull. Moore brought back this report, Nomura said:

"The United States is not bluffing. If Japan invades again,

the United States will fight with Japan. Psychologically the American people are ready. The navy is prepared and ready for action."

The late Frank Knox, then secretary of the navy, previously had made a speech which Nomura and other Japanese officials had interpreted in messages to Tokyo as indicating an aggressive attitude on the part of some American officials that Nomura said did not seem to be borne out in diplomatic conversations.

After he had sent his telegram about the conversation with the cabinet member, Senator Thomas and Hull, Nomura reported in an "extremely urgent" message the gist of talk he had had with President Roosevelt, which he said "was held in a private room in the White House to avoid publicity."

Nomura outlined at length the views of his government with respect to American demands for the withdrawal of Japanese troops from China and French Indo-China and other matters then under discussion. Then he quoted Mr. Roosevelt as follows:

"It is my earnest wish that the preliminary talks relative to this question would have good results which would serve as a basis of future negotiation. I

## Two Killed, One Wounded In Blazing Gun Battle

SEATTLE, Nov. 16 (AP)—A veteran Seattle police patrolman and a negro gunman died and another police officer was wounded in a blazing gun battle here last night.

Patrolman Fred Hull, about 50, died on the way to a hospital after exchanging shots with Eugene Moszee, 21, negro service station attendant. Moszee was killed when he took refuge in a gas station lubrication room after fleeing from a Madison street beer tavern.

Patrolman Ralph L. Osborn was wounded in the ankle. Police reported that Moszee was thrown out of the bar when he drew a knife.

He left in an automobile when police were summoned. He drove to a service station nearby, where he was employed, and hid in the lubrication room.

As Police Officers Hull and Osborn approached the room, the cornered negro started shooting. Hull fell, mortally wounded, and Osborn also went down with a bullet through his ankle. Osborn jumped up and emptied his revolver through the door to the room.

Other police officers, arriving on the scene, also began shooting through the door. The negro slumped, killed by the hall of bullets.

Patrolman Hull was hit by three bullets. One of them pierced his heart.

### Cooperation Urged In Power Program

SPOKANE, Wash., Nov. 16—(AP)—E. J. Stoneman, Platteville, Wis., president of the National Rural Electrical Cooperative association, said yesterday "the next five years may be the most critical period" for public power, and urged her cooperatives to participate in the public power program.

Speaking at a regional meeting of the NRECA, Stoneman said "there is room in America for both public and private power distribution systems."

John M. George, Culdebac, Ida., regional director, presided at the meeting of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Nevada members, which closes today. Bonneville Power Administrator Dr. Paul Raver is scheduled to address today's closing session.

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will, just as the Japanese government hopes, do my best in order to help carry on these negotiations successfully. I wish that the Japanese government would clearly set forth its intention of following a peaceful course in this policy and not an opposite course. This is the way to attain results toward which both you and we are working."

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