

~~TOP SECRET~~

From: Washington (Nomura)
 To : Tokyo (Matsuoka)
 9 May 1941
 (Purple-CA)

Unnumbered

To the Vice Minister*, from Wakasugi.**

I respectfully acknowledge receipt of
 your telegram.***

Because of various duties at this office
 it requires a long time for a secretary alone to handle long messages
 and the increased volume of traffic in connection with this matter.****

(My message #272 ***** required 6 men working
 for 6 hours.)

With the opening of negotiations, the volume
 of telegraphic traffic is bound to increase tremendously. As time is
 at a premium in handling these communications, you can well appreciate
 the inadvisability of having only the secretary handle this work.
 Furthermore, it goes without saying that the increased traffic will
 interfere greatly with other duties of this office.

However, fortunately, our communication clerks
 have been constantly reminded of the necessity of maintaining security,
 and they have faithfully adhered to this policy in their work.

Although I appreciate the intent of your
 telegram *** from the standpoint of security, I, nevertheless
 request your authorization to enlist the aid of Horiuchi, Hori,
 and Kazuware to handle communication duties under strict supervision.

Also please authorize me to have Kawabata
 of Chicago come here temporarily to assist us in our communication
 work. (Bring all codes and do his work in this office)

*Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ōhashi.

**Japanese Minister to Washington, under Ambassador Nomura.

***See JD-1:2446, unnumbered, dated 8 May (Purple-CA), in which Tokyo
 issues Washington special regulations for custody of the Chief
 of Mission private code (CA).

****Japanese-American negotiations, being conducted in great secrecy.

~~TOP SECRET~~

JD-1:2494

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(A-M)

Navy trans. 12 May 1941 (7)