

DECLASSIFIED

Authority **NND 957308**By **AC** NARA Date **6/30/05**

TOP SECRET ULTRA

VJ-1

On 10 August, at 0120 hours Z time, the following message from the Japanese Foreign Ministry was transmitted to Stockholm and Bern:

A "In accordance with the will of the Emperor, who is desirous of saving humanity from the catastrophe of war, the Imperial Government has decided to request that the intentions of the Imperial Government be transmitted to the principal belligerent countries as stated in supplementary circular number 648 paren English text as given in supplementary wire 649 paren and also to transmit the gist of this directly to the Soviet Government through the Soviet Ambassador in Tokyo. In this connection, it is requested that the minister in Switzerland inform at once the U. S. Government and the Government of China and that the minister in Sweden inform Great Britain and Soviet Russia, and that the countries to which you are respectively accredited lend their assistance in obtaining an immediate answer.

Please wire back the results at once." A

The text of circular 648, mentioned in the above communication, reads as follows:

"The Japanese Government, being desirous of freeing mankind from the horrors of war and of bringing about an immediate peace, recently requested the good offices of the government of the Soviet Union, which was at that time neutral in the Greater East Asia War, in accordance with the will of his Majesty the Emperor. Unfortunately, however, our efforts in this direction saw no fruition.

Accordingly, in accordance with the will of his Majesty the Emperor, we would now like to cease our participation in the war and bring about a state of peace immediately.

We have made the following decision: The Japanese Government accepts the joint declaration decided upon and published in common by the leaders of the United States, Great Britain and China - in which declaration it later developed that the Soviet Union had had a part - on the condition that the stipulations of that declaration do not include any demand for alteration of the authority of the Emperor to rule the state.

The Imperial Government is most anxious to have this made clear to the government to which you are accredited at once, and that there be no error in the above understanding.

The Imperial Government has the honor to request the Swedish Government to transmit this at once to Great Britain and to the Soviet Union."

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*(circulated
to part II
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early HQ
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