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No. 1236 - 13 August 1945

By Auth.	A. C. of S., G-2
Date	13 August 1945
Initials	C. W. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT
Office of A. C. of S., G-2

"MAGIC"—DIPLOMATIC SUMMARY

NOTE: No one, without express permission from the proper authorities, may disseminate the information reported in this Summary or communicate it to any other person.

Those authorized to disseminate such information must employ only the most secure means, must take every precaution to avoid compromising the source, and must limit dissemination to the minimum number of secure and responsible persons who need the information in order to discharge their duties.

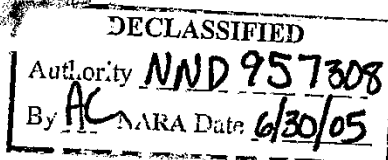
No action is to be taken on information herein reported, regardless of temporary advantage, if such action might have the effect of revealing the existence of the source to the enemy.

The enemy knows that we attempt to exploit these sources. He does not know, and must not be permitted to learn, either the degree of our success or the particular sources with which we have been successful.

PART II

1. Japanese Army reported dissatisfied with Allied reply: At 5:24 p.m. Tokyo time (0824 Z, 0424 EWT) on 13 August, the G.E.A. Ministry representative in Hanoi sent the following message, labelled "absolutely secret," to G.E.A. Minister (and Foreign Minister) Togo:

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"During the night of the 12th, while I was conferring with the Army Commander [possibly of the Thirty-eighth Army] and the commander of a division, telegraphic instructions were received from the War Minister stating that, since the reply from the four countries is not recognized as permitting the preservation of the national structure, for this reason the Army is to push forward ----- [words uncertain, probably "to the very end"]."

Note: The translation of the foregoing message has been thoroughly checked.

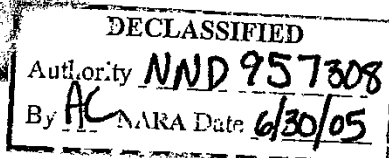
No message from the Japanese Minister of War fitting the above description has been received. The Japanese Army General Staff circular set forth in Item 2 below was dispatched to Sweden, Switzerland and Portugal between 1:45 and 2:32 a.m. Tokyo time on the morning of the 13th. It is conceivable that a similar message was sent out by the War Minister to Far Eastern posts at about the same time, and that it was misread or misinterpreted.

2. Japanese Army General Staff statement on surrender: The following is the text of a circular

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message dated 12 August from the Vice Chief of the Army General Staff to Japan's Military Attachés in Sweden, Switzerland and Portugal (it has been given advance circulation and is reproduced here to complete the record):

"Personal.

"1. As a result of Russia's entrance into the war, the Empire, in the fourth year of its [war] endeavor, is faced with a struggle for the existence of the nation. However, the Imperial Army and Navy are resolutely determined to continue their efforts to preserve the national structure ----- [one or two words missing] even if it means the destruction of the Army and Navy.

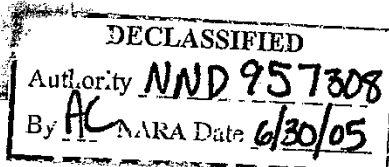
"2. You are well aware of the fact that as a final move toward the preservation of the national structure, diplomatic negotiations have been opened. The Army, however, with the determination stated in the previous paragraph is striving to carry on the national policy. Unless the aforementioned condition is fulfilled, we will continue the war to the bitter end.

"In this connection there may be peace propaganda offensives and all sorts of reports in every

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country, but--carrying on the fight without let-up--you are to keep what we have said in mind."

3. Delay in transmission of Allied reply to Japan: According to his own account, Japanese Minister Kase in Berne received the Allied reply to Japan's surrender offer from the Swiss Foreign Ministry at 9:30 p.m. (2030 Z, 1630 EWT) on 11 August. At 11:24 p.m., Kase filed the reply for transmission to Tokyo (in plain English text) and the Berne radio station started transmitting it 50 minutes later. Radio contact with Tokyo was lost, however, and the message was not completely transmitted to Tokyo until 10:40 a.m. Berne time (0940 Z, 0540 EWT), or 6:40 p.m. Tokyo time, on the 12th.

Note: At 10:02 p.m. Tokyo time (1302 Z, 0902 EWT) on the 13th Domei broadcast in English that:

"It is authoritatively disclosed that the official text of the Allied reply to the Japanese Government's message was received in Tokyo today, Monday, through the Swiss Legation."

A similar broadcast from "Tokyo to press" sent out two hours later mentioned that the Swiss Legation was "functioning in Karuzawa," a resort 80 miles northwest of Tokyo.

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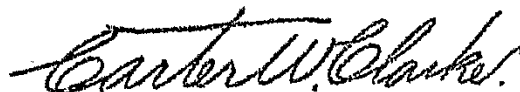
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No message from the Swiss Foreign Ministry to its Legation in Japan containing the Allied reply has been received. In view of the complete coverage being given all Berne transmissions and all transmissions to Japan, it is considered extremely unlikely that any such message was sent.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:



CARTER W. CLARKE
Brigadier General, GSC
Deputy Chief, MIS

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