

What a verbose document!

(1) Copy to F.O. by next bag  
"Confidential", adding  
anything that Hornbeck  
said in covering draft.

(2) Telegraph briefly substance  
of U.S. Govt reply at  
A. B. C. D. E.

Vasum

4/9

HE.

Service attached

W. Officer

The attached aide-mémoire was handed to me by  
Dr. Hornbeck today. In giving me the document he made  
certain remarks which are summarised in the attached draft  
to the F.O. As regards Dr. Hornbeck's first point -  
secrecy - I told him that I felt sure that the State  
Dept. need have no anxiety on this score. We for our part  
were equally anxious that the contents of our communication  
to the State. Dept. should be kept secret and it was  
obviously in everyone's interest that the Japanese should  
have no knowledge of these communications.

After/

After giving<sup>me</sup> the note, Dr. Hornbeck said that he thought he ought to call our attention to the fact that during the last few days the State Dept. had received a report from their people in China that the British and French marines had been withdrawn from Amoy. Hitherto, Dr. Hornbeck said, there had been an understanding between us and the Americans that neither of us should alter the dispositions of our forces in China without giving previous warning to the other. Up till now, this understanding had been faithfully observed by both sides but in this case no previous warning had been given to the Americans of our intention to move these marines from Amoy. Dr. Hornbeck went on to say that he quite appreciated that our action had no doubt had to be taken in a great hurry on account of European developments and he was not making any complaint. He did, however, wish to call our attention to the matter since he thought it highly desirable that the undertaking should continue to be observed in the future.

I told Dr. Hornbeck that we had no information on this particular matter but that I felt sure that our failure to give any previous warning to the U.S. authorities was due solely to the fact that the move had to be carried out <sup>on</sup> short notice owing to the war.

It might perhaps be worthwhile letting the F.O. know by bag of Dr. Hornbeck's remarks as he seemed to attach importance to the matter.

FRHM: September 5th, 1939.

*Yes. Please do so in a letter to Howe referring to the annexed despatch.*

*Truly yours  
Phillips*

*579*