

SECRET

It may be taken as axiomatic that when a Japanese official talks to a foreign Ambassador on topics such as this, his views should not be accepted too literally.

It is evident from what the Vice M.F.A. said that the Japanese are trying to rush a decision, partly because, owing to the internal situation, the time for them is short, and partly because they hope that a hasty agreement will be more liberally provided with loopholes than one solemnly considered by the four Powers chiefly concerned.

I find it difficult to believe that the Japanese can have given assurances satisfactory to the U.S. about the Tripartite Pact when the Japanese M.F.A. less than a week ago solemnly declared it to be the basis of Japanese foreign policy (it will be recalled that under the Pact Japan recognized Germany's 'Italy's new order in Europe').

It is equally difficult to believe that the U.S. would discuss Japanese action in China in any detail without consulting the Chinese Govt., or assurances about expansion and economic clauses without

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without consulting us and the M. E. I.

In fact, a strong effort is being made by the Japanese to convince us, as well as the Americans, that everything is to be aimed by meeting their wishes at an early date.

As to the last para. I think there is every reason to doubt whether the Japanese Govt. is strong enough "to deliver the goods", but it is assuming the goods to be of a kind acceptable to us. And I am not impressed by the Vice M. E. A. to minimize the utterances of Col. Mabechi. It is easy to say that they are without any authority and merely represent "a certain school of thought". Unfortunately it is the school of thought which is still supreme, nor is there any organized element sufficiently powerful at present to overcome it.

J. A. ... 3/10

~~Mr. H 4/10~~
 Sir R. Campbell
 Mr. Hays
 Cdr. Cotteridge

Now see his list of last
 night for the same items.

Albion ...
 4.10

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