

SECRET

N.E.
Mr. Hayter

In speaking to Mr. Hull or Mr. Welles

16 A - /45

in the sense of F.O. let. 2653, perhaps it would be possible to make the following points:-

1. The change of Govt. in Japan suggests that that country is likely to be committed to a more extreme than a more moderate policy.
2. The possibility of a move southward at an opportune moment cannot be disregarded and we have had an urgent appeal from the Thai Prime Minister for cooperation.
3. But Japan probably realizes that a southward move would inevitably involve her in war with us and the U.S. The German advance on Moscow and the possible removal of troops from Siberia to reinforce the west may encourage Japan to move against Russia. She may also well feel that this is less likely to lead to war with the U.S. and with us. If Russia were successfully attacked by Japan, the latter would then be in a far better position to attack in the South and our danger would be much greater. What does the U.S. propose to do if Japan should attack

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

recap

Vladivostok

Russia?

Russia?

4. Obviously it would still be preferable to keep Japan out of the war and to detach her from the Axis if possible. We have been content that the U.S. should ~~not~~ ~~conduct~~ conduct talks with Japan with this object. We have committed ourselves, as ~~is~~ stated by the P.M. in his broadcast, to range ourselves with the U.S. if this fails. What are the views of the U.S.G. as to the line we should and they should now take?

5. As a personal view the danger might be stressed of allowing the news Japanese Govt. to believe that its composition and the threatening language it is employing the press to employ are frightening us in to withdrawing from the stand we have taken. Such an impression, were it created, however mistakenly, might easily precipitate the situation which it is the desire of both our Govts. to avoid.

John F. Kennedy
20/10