

EXHIBIT NO. 23

HM: This telegram must be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (SC)

LONDON

Dated November 23, 1941.

Rec'd 12:55 a. m.

SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington.

Triple Priority
5670, November 26, 6 a. m.

MOST SECRET FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM THE FORMER NAVAL PERSON.

'Your message about Japan received tonight. Also full accounts from Lord Halifax of discussions and your counter project to Japan on which Foreign Secretary has sent some comments. Of course, it is for you to handle this business and we certainly do not want an additional war. There is only one point that disquiets us. What about Chiang Kai Shek? Is he not having a very thin diet? Our anxiety is about China. If they collapse our joint dangers would enormously increase. We are sure that the regard of the United States for the Chinese cause will govern your action. We feel that the Japanese are most unsure of themselves.'

HM

WINANT.

EXHIBIT NO. 24

CJ: This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (SC)

LONDON,

Dated November 26, 1941.

Rec'd 1:25 p. m.

SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington.

5770, November 30, 4 p. m.

PERSONAL AND SECRET FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM FORMER NAVAL PERSON.

'It seems to me that one important method remains unused in averting war between Japan and our two countries, namely a plain declaration, secret or public as may be thought best, that any further act of aggression by Japan will lead immediately to the gravest consequences. I realize your constitutional difficulties but it would be tragic if Japan drifted into war by encroachment without having before her fairly and squarely the dire character of a further aggressive step. I beg you to consider whether, at the moment which you judge right which may be very near, you should not say that "any further Japanese aggression would compel you to place the gravest issues before Congress" or words to that effect. We would, of course, make a similar declaration or share in a joint declaration, and in any case arrangements are being made to synchronize our action with yours. Pardon me, my dear friend, for presuming to press such a course upon you, but I am convinced that it might make all the difference and prevent a melancholy extension of the war'.

EDA

WINANT.