

Year	Month	International Situation	European Front
1941	November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Ambassador NOMURA presents the Proposal "Ko" concerning the US-JAPAN negotiations to Secretary of State HULL. 10. British Prime Minister CHURCHILL declares in speech that if a war breaks out between JAPAN and the UNITED STATES, BRITAIN will participate in it promptly. 11. President ROOSEVELT declares that UNITED STATES is ready to fight in case of need. 17. Ambassador KURUSU takes part in the US-Japanese Negotiations on JAPAN's proposal "OTSU" concerning the US-Japanese negotiations to HULL, US Secretary of State. 19. The US-Japanese Negotiations on JAPAN's proposal "KO" ruptured. 20. Ambassadors NOMURA and KURUSU present the proposal "OTSU" concerning the US-Japanese negotiations to HULL, US Secretary of State. 25. The extension of the Anti communist Pact agreed. 26. Secretary of State HULL presents so-called HULL's Note to Ambassadors NOMURA and KURUSU. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8. The UNITED STATES constructs in ICELAND. 16. German Army initiates second tack upon MOSCOW. 22. New Zealand Army penetrates North AFRICA. 22. German Army force occupies N
1941	December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Martial law proclaimed throughout MALAYA. 6. BRITAIN declares war on FINLAND, HUNGARY and ROMANIA. 7. President ROOSEVELT dispatches his personal radio message to JAPAN. 8. JAPAN opens hostilities against the UNITED STATES and BRITAIN. 8. Ambassador NOMURA hands JAPAN's note announcing rupture of US-JAPAN negotiations to Secretary of State HULL. 8. JAPAN takes over the US and British concessions in CHINA. 8. Military agreement between JAPAN and FRENCH INDOCHINA concluded. 9. CHILE and the UNION of SOUTH AFRICA declare war upon JAPAN. 11. JAPAN-GERMANY-ITALY Tripartite Pact signed. 11. GERMANY and ITALY declare war upon the UNITED STATES. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. German Army forces withdraw. 8. German Army announces suspensions on the eastern front. 17. Communications between MOSCOW and GRAD reopened. 19. Fuhrer HITLER inaugurated as Commander of the Army. 24. British Army occupies KENYA AFRICA.

International Situation		Domestic Situation
	East Asia Front	
see at-	<p>5. Imperial General Headquarters Navy Section gives orders to the Combined Fleet to make necessary preparations for operations against the UNITED STATES, BRITAIN, and the NETHERLANDS.</p>	<p>5. The "Principles Governing the Execution of National Policy" implementing JAPAN's resolution to make war upon the UNITED STATES, BRITAIN, and the NETHERLANDS decided at the Imperial Council.</p>
TISCO,	<p>5. South SHANTUNG operations launched.</p> <p>6. The Imperial General Headquarters Army Section gives orders concerning the battle order of the Southern Army and the South Seas Detachment, and that they be prepared for invasion of the South Seas strategic points and HONG KONG.</p> <p>15. The Southern Army and the South Seas Detachment get assignments to invade the South Seas strategic points.</p> <p>21. The Imperial General Headquarters Navy Section gives directive to the operational forces to advance to the surface standby points.</p> <p>26. The US Military authorities issue a warning to the Hawaiian Army force.</p> <p>26. The Carrier Striking Task Force charged with the Hawaiian operations leaves HITOKAPPU BAY in WTOROFU ISLAND.</p> <p>27. The US Marines evacuate SHANGHAI.</p>	<p>6. Ambassador KUNUSU leaves home for the UNITED STATES.</p> <p>10. The "Fundamental Wartime Economic Policy" decided at Liaison Conference.</p> <p>13. The "Foreign Measures in Connection with the Principles Governing the Execution of National Policy" decided at Liaison Conference.</p> <p>15. The "Draft of Policy for Expediting Termination of War Against the UNITED STATES, BRITAIN, the NETHERLANDS, and CHIANG's Government" decided at Liaison Conference.</p> <p>17. The 77th Extraordinary Session of the Diet convened.</p> <p>20. The "Outline of Military Government Measures for the Occupied Southern Territories" decided at Liaison Conference.</p> <p>23. The "Outline of Measures to Be Taken Toward THAILAND" decided at Liaison Conference.</p>
OV. per IN- Com h	<p>1. The Imperial General Headquarters issues orders for execution of the operations.</p> <p>1. The DUTCH EAST INDIES Army and Air Forces mobilized.</p> <p>1. Emergency alert measures enforced throughout the PHILIPPINES.</p> <p>2. The Imperial General Headquarters issues orders to initiate invasion operations on the 8th.</p> <p>4. Army units charged with the MALAYA operations leave Port SAN-YA on HAIWAN Island.</p> <p>8. Surprise attack upon the Hawaiian Islands.</p> <p>8. Japanese forces land on MALAYA.</p> <p>8. Attacks on the PHILIPPINES initiated.</p> <p>9. Japanese Army forces commence stationing troops in THAILAND.</p> <p>8. Japanese Navy blockades HONG KONG and requests the vessels of friendly and neutral countries to get out of the port.</p>	<p>1. The "Matter Concerning the Opening of Hostilities Against the UNITED STATES, BRITAIN and the NETHERLANDS" decided at Imperial Council.</p> <p>4. The "Matter Concerning the Treatment of the NETHERLANDS" decided at Liaison Conference.</p> <p>4. The "Measures to Be Taken by MANCHOUKHO at the Outset of the War" decided at Liaison Conference.</p> <p>6. The "Measures to Be Taken by CHINA at the Outset of the War" decided at Liaison Conference.</p> <p>8. Foreign Minister TOGO reveals the details of the US-JAPAN negotiations.</p> <p>8. The Imperial Rescript on opening hostilities against the UNITED STATES and BRITAIN issued.</p> <p>The Army and Navy honored with an Imperial message.</p> <p>8. The Ordinance for Enforcing Air Defense promulgated.</p>



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Records of the Meeting of the
Inquiry Committee of the privy council on Dec. 8, 1941

Inquiry Committee Meeting
Concerning Declaration of
War against America and
England.

Dec. 8, 1941 (Monday) 7:30 a.m. all the councillors of the
privy Council (except councillor KANEKO) meet in the East Third
waiting Hall in the Imperial palace. Naval Minister SHIMADA
reports on the starting aspect of the war opened against America
and England. While he is reporting the Council receives the
Emperor's reference bill for thier deliberation ertaining to
the above subject. President HARA announces the general committee
meeting and the meeting opens at once.

Members present:

President HARA
CHAIRMAN of Inquiry Committee; Vice President SUZUKI

Inquiry Committee members:

Councillor	ARIMA	Councillor	ISHII
"	ISHIZUKA	"	KUBOTA
"	MINAMI	"	SHIMIZU
"	ARAKI	"	HARA
SU	SUGAHARA	"	MATSUI
"	USHIO	"	MATSUURA
"	FUKAI	"	HAYASHI
"	MANO	"	FUTAGAMI
"	OBATA	"	OSHIMA
"	MITSUCHI	"	TAKEGOSHI
"	IKEDA	"	IZAWA

A member absent: Councillor KANEKO

Government members;

- Premier)
- Home Minister) TOJO
- Army Minister)
- Education Minister HASHIDA
- Agriculture and Forestry Minister)
- Overseas Minister) INO
- Welfare Minister KOIZUMI
- Justive Minister IWAMURA
- Navy Minister SHIMADA
- Foreign Minister TOGOA
- Communication Minister TERASHIMA
- Finance Minister KAYA
- Commerce and Industry KISHI
- Railway Minister HATTA

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Explaining members:

Chief Secretary of the Cabinet HOSHINO
Chief of the Legislative Bureau MORIYAMA
Chairman of the Cabinet Planning Board SUZUKI
Chief of the Intelligence Bureau TANI
Chief of the East Asia Bureau, Foreign Ministry YAMAMOTO
Chief of the Europe and Asia Foreign Minister SAKAMOTO
Chief of the Treaty Bureau Foreign Ministry MATSUMOTO
Chief of the Army Affairs Bureau, Army Ministry MUTOA
Chief of the Naval Affairs Bureau, Navy Ministry OKA
Chief Secretary HORIE
Secretary MOROHASHI
Secretary TAKAISUJO

(Meeting opened at 7:45 a.m.)

Chairman SUZUKI declared that the meeting come to order, obliged to deal with this bill.

Comm. member ISHII asks in regard to the time of declaration of war.

TOJO answers that it shall be done as soon as the Imperial sanction is obtained on this subject.

KUBOTA questions regarding the relationship between negotiations with America and treatment of this subject. To this premier TOJO answers that at their meeting in the Emperor's presence on Dec. 1st, war against America, England and Holland was decided on. Therefore those negotiations were continued only for the sake of strategy.

SHIMIZU asks whether or not war is to be declared against Holland; also he asks what will be the attitude of Siam. TOJO replies that Japan will not declare war against Holland in view of future strategic convenience. As for Siam the Japanese Government is in the course of negotiations with her for concluding an alliance pact.

MINAMI asks what attitude Germany will assume in relations to the Tripartite Alliance, following the disposition of this subject. To this TOJO and SAKAMOTO, Chief of the Europe and Asia Bureau, reply that, as far as the German Government is concerned, as soon as Japan declares war against America and England, Germany and Italy will also assume the same attitude as Japan, and they will not make a separate peace. In fact they are preparing the draft of an agreement therefore.

NARA asks what will be the attitude of Soviet Russia. TOJO replies that relationship between Japan and Soviet Russia

at present stand on the basis of the Neutrality pact, but as to the treatment of the same he expects special care to be taken. As to the general situation, Soviet Russia is now fighting against Germany, so she will not avail herself of the Japanese southward advance. Also she will not make any ready move following America's potting which is naturally expected. Further, if Soviet Russia grants America use of her territory in the East, that means Russia makes Japan her enemy; therefore she can not easily make such a decision. In the future Japan shall never fail to keep an increasingly close watch over Russian Activities.

SUGAHARA asks about the budget distribution of expenses incurred in connection with this proposition. Finance Minister KAYA explains that it will be drawn upon a special account of Emergency War Expense just as in the case of the China Incident.

Comm. member FUKAI debated on the fact that, under the present currency system disposition of required funds will be easily made for the time being, but in regard to materials required thoughtful planning is necessary; so he inquires the Government opinion regarding it. TOJO replies that, in conclusion based on views from all angles it is not necessary to have much anxiety so far as material supplies are concerned and as for financing and money circulation they shall be treated with most careful attention to their bearing on material.

Comm. member FUTAGAMI says that according to the draft for an Imperial edict which is accompanying this project for reference, it seems as though action of war is started from our side and so, he asks, if it does not give America an excuse for her declaring war. To this premier TOJO answers that action of war may have been started from our side, the cause of the war is really nothing but the fact that America gave various economic pressures to Japan. FUTAGAMI further asks if accuracy is lacking in using the words, "America" and "England" in the draft for the Imperial edict. Foreign Minister TOGO and Chief of the Treaty Bureau MATSUMOTO answer that there are precedents that they used such words as, "China," "Russia," and "Germany" in edicts of declaration of war. In the announcement documents to enemy countries the government will use regular names of the countries involved, and there is no fear of arising misunderstanding.

Comm. member TAKEGOSHI expresses hope that there will be no lack of attention regarding food plans. Comm. member IZAWA expresses hope that they will do their best to try to bring about an effective unification of the national mind.

Comm. member IKEDA and Comm. member KUBOTA say that it will not be good to leave any doubtful point in the Imperial edict and so it will be better to avoid using the word, "America." To this Foreign Minister TOGO replies that it is known all over the world and it is clear that America means the United States of North America.

Chairman SUZUKI considers that questioning has been finished by the above discussion and he asks the Government Ministers and Explaining Members to leave.

(Ministers and Explaining Members leave.)

The as the result of conference among the committee members it was unanimously decided to approve this proposition as it is.

Thereupon Chairman SUZUKI declared the adjournment of the meeting.

(Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.)

General Outline of the privy Council
Attending to Business at the Time of
Declaration of War against America
and England

The international ~~xxxxx~~ situation surrounding the China Incident had become tense and diplomatic negotiations which England and ~~xxxxx~~ America had been driven close to the breaking point. The Cabinet anticipated that it might happen that war would be declared at the same time with the opening of hostilities. Concerning procedures to be taken at such a time MORIYAMA, Chief of Legislative Bureau privately had conferred with HORIE, Chief Secretary of privy Council. On Dec. 7 (Sunday) at 4 p.m. MORIYAMA phoned to HORIE saying that he wanted to have a talk with HORIE concerning an urgent treatment of affairs to face the tense situation at hand, and asked him to come and have a meeting in the official residence of premier at 7:30 p.m. HORIE at once notified Secretary MORCHASHI by phone and MORCHASHI notified Secretary TAKATSUJI accordingly. Further, procurator HOTTA and Commissioner NODA were notified ~~atx~~ of the meeting by a messenger. So at 7:30 p.m. everyone came to meet in the Premier's official residence. At 8 p.m. in the office room of Chief of the Legislative Bureau they were informed of details of the matter by MORIYAMA, Chief of the Legislative Bureau. Owing to the disruption of Japan-America conference a critical situation was brought about and Japanese Army and Navy were to begin action early in the morning, next day, and the government would present, during the next day, declaration of war against - American and England for Imperial sanction. Therefore they had procurator HOTTA, etc. go on to prepare a bill pertaining to this matter and at the same time Chief Secretary HORIE informed HARA, President of privy Council, and SUZUKI, Vice-President of privy Council, by phone of the above fact, receiving instructions from them, he made arrangements for holding a meeting of the privy Council, and then they went home at 11 p.m. After that the two Secretaries MORCHASHI and TAKATSUJI moved to the official residence of the Cabinet Chief Secretary and in a room there they set on preparing an inquiry and report draft on the matter of declaration of war

against America and Englan. They finished writing after 12 p.m. and had a nap.

It was a fairly cold day and was no clear either.

A little after a.m. Dec. 8 (Monday) Cabinet Secretary INADA informed the two secretaries of the fact that it had been decided to ask for Imperial sanction for declaration of war against America and England. The two Secretaries at once passed this information on to the Chief Secretary. Further they sent telephone message to the president, Vice-president and each Councillor asking them to come and meet in the East Third Hall of the Imperial palace to consider an urgent matter at 7:30 a.m. By the appointed time all the members of privy Council (except councillor KANEKO) and the Chief Secretary and others of privy Council got together there, when Navy Minister SHIMADA reported on the outbreak of war against America and England at Hawaii and Malay. While he was reporting they received a draft of the Imperial ratification pertaining to the declaration of war against America and England. president HARA announced the General Committee Meeting. At once the meeting opened. Since the bill was an extremely urgent one it was discussed in a hurry, the Committee Meeting adjourning at 9:55 a.m. Following is at 10:50 with the Emperor's presence once the resolution was presented to the Emperor. The time was exactly 11 a.m. The sun was shining brilliantly and the weather was very clear.

C E R T I F I C A T E

W. D. C. No. _____

I. P. S. No. 1078

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, M. Takatsuji hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Government in the ~~xxx~~ following capacity: Secretary of privy Council and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of 14 pages, dated 8 Dec. 1941, and described as follows: Records of the meeting of the Investigation Committee, privy Dated 8 December 1941.

I further certify that the attached record and document is an official document of the Japanese Government, and that it is part of the official archives and files of the following named ministry or department (specifying also the file number or citation, if any, or any other official designation of the regular location of the document in the archives or signed at Tokyo on this

17th day of Sept., 1946.

/s/ M. Takatsuji
Signature of Official

SEAL

Witness: s/ T. Suzuki

Official Capacity

Statement of Official procurement

I Edward P. Monaghan, hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied powers, and that the above certification was obtained by me from the above signed official of the Japanese Government in the conduct of my official business, signed at Tokyo on this 17th day of Sept., 1946

Witness: /s/ Eric W. Fleisher 2d Lt.

/s/ Edward P. Monaghan
NAME

Investigator, IFS
Official Capacity