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From: Ankara (Kurahara)  
 To: Tokyo  
 3 February 1944  
 JAA

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Recently French Ambassador BERGERY returned to his post after a short visit to his homeland and the following are points in his conversation with me which deserve your attention:

1. The Vichy Government knows from American telegraphic messages that according to these as well as other materials, the internal condition of America is confused beyond what one would expect. That is, 25 per cent of the people oppose war, and another 25 per cent are opposed to participation in the war in Europe. Therefore, half of the people are opposed to becoming deeply involved in the European war. And in addition to that, since the war situation has become unfavorable various kinds of friction have developed within the country. The frequency of labor conflicts is just one illustration of this, and the hand of Russia is working in the background of all this. JOHN LEWIS has been opposing the National Service Act which had been previously suggested by Russia. It may be that Russia at this time would welcome even greater efforts on the part of America for the destruction of Japan and Germany, but if the situation develops to such an extent that America will send some millions of troops to Europe, this will throw a monkey wrench into Russia's plan for gaining control of Europe. And, therefore, so far as Russia is concerned she will try to prevent this with all her might.

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In addition to that, WILLKIE is opposed to ROOSEVELT's policy toward Russia and, as you know, he has been attacking him on the ground that his policy would not only hand over Europe to Russia but would betray America to Russia as well.

2. Next, the American Political General Staff Office in Europe is now in Switzerland, and in a report sent by this office to the home country it was stated that it is a matter, of course, that the French people are anti-German but that does not mean that they are at all pro-British, or pro-American. Therefore, in case landing operations are carried out in France it would be a great mistake to expect the cooperation of the people, and, in fact, considerable opposition would have to be anticipated. Therefore, it is a mistake again to ignore relations with Vichy.

I have sent this also to (?Berlin?).

a - Literal translation: The Vichy Government has been deciphering American telegraphic messages, and according...

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