

a more comprehensive instrument implementing in detail the Allied policy towards Japan, including the terms of the Potsdam Declaration. The Australian Government would, therefore, propose the addition to paragraph 5 of a sentence along the following lines—"This act of military surrender is without prejudice to and will be superseded by any subsequent general instrument of surrender imposed by or on behalf of the United Nations at war with Japan and applicable to the Japanese Empire and armed forces as a whole."

In addition, there should be a specific requirement for the handing over of war criminals without dispute. Ships, aircraft, industrial equipment, commodity stocks, etc., should be put specifically at the disposal of the Allied Powers. The complete safety and well-being of prisoners of war and internees in Japanese hands should be ensured. In this connection it is also essential to make specific provision for the full responsibility not only of the Japanese Government and Imperial Headquarters but of individual Japanese Commanders.

740.00119 PW/8-1445

The Swiss Chargé (Grässli) to the Secretary of State

WASHINGTON, August 14, 1945.

SIR: I have the honor to refer to your note of August 11, in which you requested me to transmit to my Government the reply of the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and China to the message from the Japanese Government which was communicated in my note of August 10.

At 20.10 today (Swiss Time) the Japanese Minister to Switzerland conveyed the following written statement to the Swiss Government for transmission to the four Allied governments:⁹²

"Communication of the Japanese Government of August 14, 1945, addressed to the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and China:

"With reference to the Japanese Government's note of August 10 regarding their acceptance of the provisions of the Potsdam declaration and the reply of the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and China sent by American Secretary of State Byrnes under the date of August 11, the Japanese Government have the honor to communicate to the Governments of the four powers as follows:

"1. His Majesty the Emperor has issued an Imperial rescript regarding Japan's acceptance of the provisions of the Potsdam declaration.⁹³

⁹² Text was reported also by the Minister in Switzerland in his telegram 3891, August 14 (740.00119 P.W./8-1445).

⁹³ For text of rescript broadcast at noon, August 15 (Japan time), see the *New York Times*, August 15, 1945.

"2. His Majesty the Emperor is prepared to authorize and ensure the signature by his Government and the Imperial General Headquarters of the necessary terms for carrying out the provisions of the Potsdam declaration. His Majesty is also prepared to issue his commands to all the military, naval, and air authorities of Japan and all the forces under their control wherever located to cease active operations, to surrender arms and to issue such other orders as may be required by the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces for the execution of the above-mentioned terms."

Accept [etc.]

GRÄSSLI

740.00119 PW/8-1445

The Secretary of State to the Swiss Chargé (Grässli)

WASHINGTON, August 14, 1945.

SIR: With reference to your communication of today's date, transmitting the reply of the Japanese Government to the communication which I sent through you to the Japanese Government on August 11, on behalf of the Governments of the United States, China, the United Kingdom, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which I regard as full acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration and of my statement of August 11, 1945, I have the honor to inform you that the President of the United States has directed that the following message be sent to you for transmission to the Japanese Government:

"You are to proceed as follows:

"(1) Direct prompt cessation of hostilities by Japanese forces, informing the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers of the effective date and hour of such cessation.

"(2) Send emissaries at once to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers with information of the disposition of the Japanese forces and commanders, and fully empowered to make any arrangements directed by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to enable him and his accompanying forces to arrive at the place designated by him to receive the formal surrender.

"(3) For the purpose of receiving such surrender and carrying it into effect, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur has been designated as the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and he will notify the Japanese Government of the time, place and other details of the formal surrender."

Accept [etc.]

[JAMES F. BYRNES]

701.9400/8-1445: Circular telegram

The Secretary of State to All Diplomatic Missions

WASHINGTON, August 14, 1945—8 p. m.

Immediately upon announcement of Japanese surrender you should, on behalf of United States, Great Britain, Soviet Union and China,