

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

December 9, 1941

PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL

Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Berle:

According to information received by this Bureau from an outside highly confidential and reliable source, Hidenari Terasaki, Secretary of the Japanese Embassy, while contacting his wife on December 7, 1941, stated he was "one hundred per cent disgusted and terribly disappointed" over the situation. He further asserted that "they" knew nothing about it, whereupon his wife commented she did not understand how "they could do it to you three men", meaning Ambassador Kichisaburo Nomura, Special Envoy Saburo Kurusu and her husband.

Terasaki subsequently advised his wife that he had sent a telegram to Tokyo stating how well they were being treated by the people here. Mrs. Terasaki agreed with her husband that the United States was "wonderful about things considering what had been done." She told him to try to make sure that "it was done likewise in Tokyo."

During subsequent conversations had by Mrs. Terasaki with various friends, she mentioned that the Japanese attack was "like a bolt out of the blue." She also mentioned that her husband had on December 7, 1941, "gone into the woods and prayed for peace." She also remarked that her husband had told her all along that President Roosevelt was for peace all the time.

It is believed that the above information may be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,
Hand-signed: J. Edgar Hoover

BY SPECIAL
MESSENGER