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 By GA NARA Date 11/2/2008

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(cc 5B)

June 9, 1951

If further questions are asked with regard to any knowledge the United States Government officials had of Japanese peace feelers at the time of Yalta, it is suggested that you reply along the following lines:

It is my understanding that there was no information whatever from any source on which the Government could rely or take action prior to Yalta to indicate that there was any possibility that the Japanese were seeking a peace settlement of any kind.

If the line of questioning asks specifically about possible peace feelers involving the Russians, as was previously mentioned by Senator Hickenlooper, it is suggested that you reply along the following lines:

It is my understanding that at Potsdam Stalin mentioned to the President that he had received some word from the Japanese that they wanted to discuss a settlement of some kind but that there was no indication of any willingness to surrender unconditionally. Stalin had thought the offer, too vague to require any definite reply and the President had agreed with him. In so far as I know the records of the Department show, the account given by Mr. Byrnes, who was present at the conference, in his book, Speaking Frankly, page 205 is full and accurate. I might note that even as late as July 28 the Japanese Premier Suzuki issued a public statement rejecting even the Potsdam Declaration as "unworthy of public notice."

I am entirely convinced that it is not a fact that Japan had reached any decision to surrender prior to August 6.

Note: On July 10, 1945, Acting Secretary of State Grew issued the following statement:

"We have received no peace offer from the Japanese Government, either through official or unofficial channels. Conversations relating to peace have been reported to the Department from various parts of the world, but in no case has an approach been made to this Government, directly or indirectly, by a person who could establish his authority to speak for the Japanese Government and in no case has an offer of surrender been made. In no case has this Government been presented with a statement purporting to define the basis upon which the Japanese Government would be prepared to conclude peace." (Department of State Bulletin, volume XIII, page 84).