

EXTRACT FROM MR. GREWS TESTIMONY
IN THE PEARL HARBOR COMMITTEE

Witness Grew

Questions by: Mr. Murphy
Senator Brewster

Mr. Murphy: Finally I direct your attention to page 415 of your book. You were asked whether or not you knew of these Japanese intercepts. You were also asked the question, at least the question has been raised here, whether the Japanese knew of our messages. You make a statement on page 415 which would seem to indicate that the Japanese knew of some of our messages, except "one confidential code"; is that correct?

Mr. Grew: That is true. I can tell you how that came about. One of the high officials of the Japanese Government wanted to send a secret message to our Government which they did not want the Japanese military to see and in passing this message on they asked me to please put it in our most secret code. I said of course I would do so. Then after a little hemming-and-hawing this official said to me, "We understand that you have one code which is unbreakable".

Mr. Murphy: I have no other questions.

The Chairman: Senator Brewster.

Senator Brewster: Mr. Ambassador, in connection with the basing of the Fleet at Hawaii, stationing it there, when did you first have knowledge of that?

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Mr. Grew: I beg your pardon, I didn't understand.

Senator Brewster: When did you first have knowledge of the Fleet being retained at Honolulu?

Mr. Grew: Retained at Honolulu?

Senator Brewster: Retained, yes.

Mr. Grew: Well, I can't remember the precise date.

Senator Brewster: I inquire with particular relation to whether or not you were advised in advance or whether you learned of it after the event; that is what I am concerned with.

Mr. Grew: Frankly, Senator, I couldn't answer that question without consulting the record. I have no recollection of having been specifically advised of it.

Senator Brewster: Could you say whether or not you were asked for an opinion or whether you were consulted in advance, before that action was taken?

Mr. Grew: I have no recollection of that, Senator. I would have to look at the record.

Senator Brewster: You have no recollection that you were, but if you find that you were you will advise us?

Mr. Grew: Right.

Senator Brewster: So that if we have no further record we will understand that you were not consulted before the event.

Mr. Grew: That is correct.

Senator Brewster: You understand that the Fleet went out to Pearl Harbor for maneuvers in March or April 1940 and

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subsequently on May 7 I believe the decision was notified to Pearl Harbor that the Fleet would be retained there and so far as the evidence now shows it remained there from then on based at Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Grew: Yes.

Senator Brewster: You have just spoken about the code. Did you ever have any reason to think that the Japs had knowledge of our codes or were getting any of our messages?

Mr. Grew: Well, I think that, from that which the official mentioned, to the effect that he understood that we had one code that was unbreakable, I think that implied that they were able to break our other codes, but I have no concrete evidence on that, Senator.

Senator Brewster: Did you ever have reason to think that they knew we were breaking some or all of their codes?

Mr. Grew: I have no evidence to that effect, Senator.

Senator Brewster: Nothing ever came to your attention which would indicate that they even had a suspicion of that?

Mr. Grew: No, sir, did not.

Senator Brewster: Did you receive copies of any of these intercepts at any time, of the diplomatic communications?

Mr. Grew: No, sir, I received no copies of such intercepts.

Senator Brewster: Were you ever apprised of the information which they contained?

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Mr. Grew: No, sir.

Senator Brewster: So you proceeded all through this period without whatever benefit there may have been to that knowledge in appraising the situation?

Mr. Grew: Yes, sir.