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TRANSLATION

(Excerpt from article appearing in El Comercio of February 5, 1949)

"WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF PERU IN ITALY,
DOCTOR RICARDO RIVERA SCHREIBER"

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"Look, I am going to tell you how things happened," the Ambassador said to us when we asked him how his intervention in the announcement of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor came about. "I did not seek the information, lacking the means for that, and moreover it was completely outside the sphere of my activities. It came to me directly in a casual manner. In the Peruvian Consulate in Yokohama we had a Japanese interpreter who turned out to be a member of the Nipponese secret police. This man made frequent journeys to Tokyo and visited the Embassy on occasions in his capacity as translator. I never had a discussion with him, but my valet told me many times of his prophecies concerning international political incidents, and I finally became aware that they always came true. In these circumstances, on a certain day my valet came to me highly excited and told me "Powerful Japan--Japan is going to war and will destroy the American fleet". I paid no great attention to these words, but ten days afterward the valet again appeared very nervous and repeated the same thing, and upon questioning him as to whether the destruction of the United States fleet would be accomplished in San Diego (California) he said no, that it would be in the middle of the Pacific. As you understand, the middle of the Pacific was Pearl Harbor. A little more interested now, I asked if he had had one of his customary visits from the interpreter of the Consulate and I obtained an affirmative response. Upon ascertaining when the former visit had been made, I know that it was exactly ten days before, coinciding precisely with the previous statement of my valet. This worried me a little, although I considered the possibility that such a thing could occur very remote, but then something unusual occurred which decided me to act without further delay.

"I was in the Embassy when they announced a visitor, Professor Yoshuda of the University of Tokyo, who was giving courses on South American and often came to the Embassy to secure data, leaflets and books on Peru. Yoshuda was my friend and a decided antimilitarist. Upon receiving him and after completing the prolonged greetings required by Nipponese courtesy, the professor seized with great excitement, revealed to me that we were on the brink of a great misfortune which would bring everlasting ruin upon his country. He told me that Admiral Yamamoto had already outlined the plan to attack the American fleet in Pearl Harbor and that a sham battle of attack was at the very moment being brought to a conclusion in one of the islands to the south of Japan; he added that Yamamoto had prepared the suicide aviators and that the plan was ready to enter into action without the least doubt.

"Before a declaration of such magnitude, itemized in such significant details, I became apprehensive with dread and immediately proceeded to call Mr. Joseph Grew, the North American Ambassador, on the telephone, and requested an urgent interview. I developed a cordial friendship with Mr. Grew, who immediately told me to take

my car

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my car and go see him. In the interview which we had I explained to him clearly and faithfully all that I knew, without omitting the least detail. The gravity of my revelations were grasped by the United States diplomat who immediately sent a cable to President Roosevelt referring to him what I had just brought to his attention. My intervention went no farther because naturally I was able to go no farther. Then events happened rapidly and the seventh of December produced--at the amazement of the world--the attack on Pearl Harbor, as had been predicted by my valet and Professor Yoshuda.

"Then, in the course of time I know--through the investigation initiated in Washington--that the despatch of Ambassador Grew to President Roosevelt had been communicated to the Secretary of the Navy; from there to the General Staff and from there to the Admiral in charge of the base at Pearl Harbor, who finally, after nine days, replied that he discounted the information as only a rumor."

It is thus that Peru lent a great service to the Union, fulfilling with the precepts of a good neighbor, but which, unfortunately did not find the necessary echo. The story of Ambassador Rivera Schreiber unquestionably brings to mind what suffering and what losses could have been spared the North American people if the information of the Peruvian diplomat had been taken into account. How it might have been possible to cause Japan to fall into its own trap and eliminate its fleet and thus the war.

Various books have been written on Pearl Harbor, Ambassador Rivera Schreiber told us. "Look:" "This is Pearl Harbor!" by Walter Millis. "The Memories of Cordell Hull", and various others which he piled on the table. "All those," added our interviewer, "confirm the fact in writing. A few days ago, passing through New York, a multitude of reporters accosted me with questions and I told them what I have just finished telling, but they did not confirm it in writing--perhaps they forgot--the importance of the service which Peru, through a diplomatic official, gave to the United States of North America. However, upon passing through New York I received warm demonstrations of appreciation from distinguished persons of various North American circles which elicit my gratitude."

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