March 9  Excerpt from JM interviews

Conference to discuss available personnel competent in
Chinese, Japanese, and Russian

Discussion of the plan for a national school of East European
and Oriental languages and literature in Washington showed this group
to be unanimously dubious of its possibilities. The Oriental Society
has set up a committee to further the plan composed of Edgerton of Yale,
Speiser of Pennsylvania, and Ware of Harvard - in the view of this group
all three scholars who would ordinarily be expected to have little interest
in practical training in these fields. In other words, to this group
the auspices seemed anything but favorable. Furthermore, even taking into
account the probable availability of emigrees for teachers, the group
doubted that adequate teaching personnel could be secured without drawing
men off from university teaching elsewhere. In addition, there was some
doubt that recent emigrees could give practical courses suited to American
needs. Finally, the group doubted that part-time study such as would be
necessary for men in government posts in Washington could be adequate.
Rather it favored the assignment of students to the various universities
now offering such courses as the proposed school would offer, citing by
analogy President Conant's plan for chemical research in this war in
existing university laboratories as opposed to the plan followed in the
last war in which there was an attempt to centralize research in Washington.