

No. 2288

Translated
By Defense Language Branch

TREATY OF ALLIANCE BETWEEN CHINA AND RUSSIA, MAY, 1896

concluded May, 1896

Note: This secret treaty was concluded in May 1896 at Saint Petersburg, Capital of Russia, between Prince Robabov (T.N. Phonetic) and Li Kuei-chang who attended the coronation ceremony of the Czar.

Later, after the expiration of its term of validity, it was published in the 'Daily Telegraph' in London by the then Chinese Minister to Britain Li Ching-mei, the son of Li Kuei-chang. As for the detailed circumstances, refer to notes attached to the foreign versions.

Art I. Any act of aggression on the part of Japan, whether it be contemplated against Russian territories in East Asia, China, or Korea, shall not fail to call forth a prompt application of this treaty.

In the above case, the two Signatory Powers have agreed to support one another with their whole military and naval forces available at that time and to afford to one another the greatest possible assistance in the way of supplying provisions for the above forces.

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Art II. After the two Powers have taken joint actions neither of them shall be permitted to conclude any peace treaty separately with the enemy without the consent of the other.

Art III. In the course of military actions, all the ports in China shall be, if necessary, open to Russian warships, which will be furnished there with all necessary assistance by the Chinese Government.

Art IV. The Chinese Government has agreed to construct a railway towards Vladivostok, traversing the two Chinese Districts of Amur (Heilungkiang) and Kilin, with a view to facilitating the approach of the Russian army to areas which are likely to be attacked and to securing the means by which to resist such attacks. The junction of the above railway to the Russian railway shall not be used as a pretext for infringing the integrity of the Chinese Empire or the dignity of the Chinese Emperor. The construction and administration of the above railway shall be entrusted to the Russo-Chinese Bank. The stipulations in contracts to be concluded for the above purposes shall be negotiated between the Chinese Minister to Russia and the Russo-Chinese Bank.

Art V. In time of war, Russia shall be entitled to utilize without restriction the railway prescribed in Art I., for the purpose of transporting her army forces and provision for the above forces in accordance to Art I. In time of peace, Russia shall possess the same right for the purpose of transporting her army forces and munitions, on condition that the trains do not stop on the way except for necessities of transportation business.

Art VI. This Treaty shall take effect from the day on which the Chinese Empire ratifies the contracts prescribed in Art IV, and shall be valid for 15 years beginning with the above date. More than 6 months prior to the expiration of the term the two Powers shall hold a negotiation regarding the revision of this Treaty.

C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, K. Hayashi, Keoru, Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in Japanese consisting of 5 pages and entitled "Treaty of Alliance between China and Russia, May, 1896." is an exact and true copy of an official translation of the Japanese Foreign Office

Certified at Tokyo,

on this 8th day of January, 1947.

K. Hayashi
Signature of Official

Witness: Nagahaur Odo

TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE

I, Charles D. Sheldon, Chief of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the above certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/s/ Charles D. Sheldon

Tokyo, Japan

Date: 17 January 1947