

Translated by  
Defense Language Branch

Strictly confidential No. 93

Tokyo, June 17, 1927

To : Consul General Kato at Tientsin  
From : Foreign Minister Baron TANAKA, Giichi  
Subject: Trip of the Emperor Hsüantung to Japan, Port  
Arthur, and Dairen

A gist of the above mentioned matter has already been communicated to you by telegram. For your reference we are forwarding the protocol, "Trip of the Emperor Hsüantung to Japan, Port Arthur, and Dairen attached hereto." Please keep yourself fully informed on the subject.

Copy sent to: The Minister in China

Trip of the Emperor Hsüantung to Japan,  
Port Arthur, and Dairen

I. Circumstances concerning this matter to date

- (1) In November 1924 when the Emperor Hsüantung took refuge in our Legation in China, we communicated by telegram to Minister YOSHIZAWA in China as follows:

"If the Emperor comes to Japan or goes to the Kwantung Province, he may be utilized by the Tsungshe Party, or it may give rise to various

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movements around him. This may cause a situation disadvantageous not only to us but also to the Emperor himself. Such a matter, therefore, must be avoided."

In December of the same year, while staying in our Legation, the Emperor told Minister YOSHIZAWA that he wished to visit Japan.

The Minister, considering it proper for Japan to agree to the Emperor's visit to Japan for the following reasons, requested instructions for reply to the Emperor's proposal, taking the following factors into consideration:

(a) The Emperor Hsüantung, to whom our Imperial House is dear, holds an ardent desire to pay respects to our Imperial House.

(b) While there is a prospect in future of many Chinese political refugees visiting Japan, it will not be reasonable if we give permission to these people and not to the Emperor.

(c) If the Emperor takes refuge in another country as a result of our not permitting him to come to Japan, it may affect our prestige.

To this request instructions were dispatched by the Foreign Minister that the Emperor's taking refuge in Japan should be avoided, in view of our policy heretofore pursued, particularly for three reasons:

(a) Although our government deeply sympathizes with the Emperor's situation, it is difficult for us to arrange



for his visit to our Imperial House at this time.

(b) Being different from a visit to Japan by other ordinary political refugees, the Emperor's visit to Japan requires very delicate considerations in view of his status and his connection with the Tsungsho Party.

(c) Even if the Emperor does take refuge in another country, there is no need of considering it as a question of our prestige.

(2) In February 1925 the Emperor Hsüantung moved to Tientsin and has been staying there ever since. We, however, have followed a consistent policy as pursued heretofore in regard to the Emperor's visit to Japan or his moving to Kwantung Province. Recently, however, those close to the Emperor, driven by apprehensions for the safety of the Emperor as ever, fear that he will not be safe considering the present situation, and are plotting a movement secretly to remove the Emperor to Japan or the Port Arthur-Dairen area.

*Insert page 4*  
However, at the same time as far as, the time seems to have been reached when a sympathetic consideration should be given to the desire of those close to the Emperor mentioned previously; Councillor ARITA; former Consul General in Tientsin who returned recently, is of the same opinion. Minister YOSHIZAWA in China, however, forwarded his view by telegram stating that the Emperor's removal to Japan is more advantageous both to Japan and to the Emperor himself for

two reasons:



(a) Under the present political situation in China, especially today when Tuan Chi-Jui and many other Chinese political leaders are taking refuge in the Port Arthur-Dairen district, the moving of the Emperor in that direction will not attract the attention of the people so much, nor will it give rise to evil propaganda about the Emperor's relationship with Japan.

(b) From the standpoint of the Emperor's finance also, it will be advantageous for him to plan for his future living by investing money in real estate today while prices in the Port Arthur-Dairen area are not yet raised.

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last lines* (a) The removal of Emperor Hsüantung to Kwantung Province will add data anew to the question of China's claim for recovering Port Arthur and Dairen which will perhaps arise when the southern influence reaches the whole North China area.

(b) It will be natural even if the Emperor moves to Kwantung Province that it will more or less attract the people's attention.

The telegram also stated that Minister YOSHIZAWA had no special objection to the Emperor's removal to Kwantung Province, and that in any event the Emperor's residence in the Tientsin concession would become dangerous judging from recent conditions.

II. Plan for the steps to be taken concerning this case.

It is recalled in this connection that, when the question of the Emperor Hsüantung's visit to Japan came up some years



ago, those related to the Imperial Household stressed the argument that the presentation of the miserable appearance of an abdicated emperor to the general public of Japan would result in showing a living example to some people who have dangerous ideas and the effect would not be good. As it was considered necessary to know the opinion of the Imperial Household Department previously concerning the Emperor Hsüantung's intended visit to Japan at this time, Foreign Minister TANAKA scouted the view of the said Department. It was found that no objection would be raised if the Emperor comes to Japan as a political refugee, but it would be difficult for Japan to extend him special treatment as an abdicated Emperor of a large neighboring nation, as those close to the Emperor expected. It was mentioned, for instance, that, even if the Emperor wished to visit our Imperial Family or come to take refuge in Japan on board our warship, such a request would not be acceptable.

In short, if the Emperor Hsüantung would be satisfied with the same treatment as that given to ordinary political refugees of China, without requesting special treatment as an abdicated Emperor, we have no objection to his coming to Japan or to the Port Arthur-Dairen region. It is considered desirable to instruct the Consul General in Tientsin at this time that the above consideration shall be explained to those close to the Emperor at an appropriate time.



C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in Japanese consisting of 5 pages and entitled "EMPEROR SHUAN TUNG'S VISIT TO JAPAN, PORT ARTHUR AND DAIREN" is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,

on this 27th day of December 1946.

(Signed) K. HAYASHI  
Signature of Official

Witness: (Signed) T. SATO

TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE

I, Yukio Kawamoto, 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/ Yukio Kawamoto

Tokyo, Japan  
Date 3 Feb. 1947

Emperor Hsuan Tung's Visit to Japan, Port Arthur,  
and Dairen.