

DEF. DOC. #1807

Showa 6 (1931)

Cipher process

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From Shanghai.
Received by the Foreign
Office, in the forenoon,
August 26.

To Foreign Minister Shidehara

Minister Shigemitsu.

No. 794.

With reference to my telegram No. 723,

1. At my interview with T. V. Seong, I asked him whether he had fully studied the Japanese memorandum on the question of double levying of customs duties, and stated that, as a matter of fact, since the inauguration of Count Uchida as President of the South Manchuria Railway Company, he had been entirely relying upon an understanding with the Chinese Authorities on this matter, and had rejected any idea to such measures as to pass goods forceably through custom-houses, even if such measures were warranted. But the President and Directors of the aforesaid Company had been driven into an embarrassing situation, as inland-destined goods, for which customs duties had once been paid at Shanghai or other ports, have gradually congested Dairen Port without any possibility of being transported farther. I stated that in my opinion, the present question was that of customs clearance constituting no such fundamental question as affecting (The original

telegram has been mutilated and a few words are missing), and it was desirable that, through the settlement of this case, contribution be made in improving the general situation. Soong had no objection to what I said, and replied that he would straighten the matter out as soon as possible, and would make a reply to the Japanese memorandum.

Further I requested him to make efforts to solve the matter somehow in that line, as the circumstances accompanying the matter were, in my opinion, very clearly described in our memorandum, and I urged him to take up the matter, in any case, as promptly as possible, adding that I would let Secretary of Embassy Horiuchi explain it in detail to Chang Fu-yun, if necessary, and that I had no objection to their studying the memorandum together. (Horiuchi has already met Chang and explained the matter to him.)

2. In continuation of our talk reported in Paragraph 2 of my telegram above referred to, Soong stated his idea that he wished to travel to Dairen, Mukden and other places when his ^{duty permits,} pretending that he had no particular purpose for his trip, that he would exchange opinions with such people as Count Uchida on what we might call easier questions concerning Manchuria, such as customs and other matters, and thereby try

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to clear up differences, letting fundamental questions wait for the time being. He had heard of Count Uchida's intention to make a trip to the Shanghai area, and if so, it would be more convenient for him, as he would have an opportunity to see the Count here. In this case, he said he would, exchange opinions on these questions with me beforehand. He was endeavoring, by all possible means, to prevent the relations between both nations from deteriorating unnecessarily and added that he was satisfied to think that Chang Hsueh-liang had a fairly good mind to render a listening ear to his words.

I said thereto that, as his idea coincided with our wish, I would submit in a form of memorandum for his study various questions in need of adjustment, except fundamental ones; that I had heard nothing about Count Uchida's visit to Shanghai, which, I presume, he did not intend now to make if Soong travelled north as he had planned, that it would be beneficial for us both, as he would have opportunity for forthright exchange of opinions with Count Uchida and other persons. If circumstances permitted, I would also travel north on a suitable occasion, and would render proper assistance to such interviews. I further expressed my opinion that taking everything into consideration, efforts on his part and on the part of Count Uchida and others, who were influential personages but not

parties directly concerned with diplomacy, to endeavor to adjust various questions concerning Manchuria would be very effective. Seong stated that he was also eager to realize his plan by all means.

Repeated by telegram to Mukden, and Nanking; Shanghai is informed.

C I R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Government in the following capacity.

Chief, Archives Section, Foreign Office, and that, as such official, I have custody of the original document of the document hereto attached, consisting of 3 pages, in the Japanese language, dated August 26, 1931, and described as follows:

Telegram No. 794 of Minister Shigemitsu addressed to Foreign Minister Shidehara

I further certify that the attached document is a true and exact copy of the official document of the Japanese Government, which is part of the official archives of the following Ministry:

Japanese Foreign Office.

Signed at Tokyo on this
4th day of February, 1947

/s/ K. Hayashi
Signature

Seal

Chief, Archives Section
Official Capacity

Witness /s/ Nagaharu Odo

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CERTIFICATE

I, MIURA, Kazuichi, hereby declare that I can read, write and speak the Japanese and the English languages, and that I have done the English translation of

Telegram No. 794 of Minister Shigemitsu addressed to Foreign Minister Shidehara accurately and faithfully.

K. MIURA

Tokyo, January 10th, 1947.

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