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AMERICAN CONSULATE
GENERAL,
Mukden, China, March 10, 1932.

APR - 6 32

SUBJECT: Certain Aspects of Japanese Political Control
in Manchuria.

Confidential.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THE HONORABLE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON
APR 23 1932
A-C
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

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Division of
FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
APR 7 1932
Department of State

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SIR:

I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of
my despatch No. 547 to the Legation at Peiping, China,
dated March 9, 1932, on the above subject.

Respectfully yours,

M. S. Myers
M. S. Myers
American Consul General.

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Enclosure:

Copy of despatch No. 547
to the Legation at Peiping.

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FK 893.01 MANCHURIA/110

APR 8 5 1932

No. 547

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Mukden, China.

March 9, 1932.

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Certain Aspects of Japanese
Political Control in Manchuria.

The Honorable

Nelson Trusler Johnson,

American Minister,

Peiping, China.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to my recent despatches regarding political developments in which the dominant role played by the Japanese was pointed out and to submit further evidence of the Japanese direction of the functions of government in Manchuria. In this connection reference is made to the serious efforts being made both by the Japanese military and a subservient Japanese press to place the onus of the creation of the new state on Chinese shoulders and to show it as the result of Chinese political ingenuity and endeavor.

As has been reported by this office, plans, according to reliable information, have been made for taking over the Chinese Post Office, or more specifically, of merging it with the existing Japanese Postal

Administration

Administration. These plans were made by Japanese, advisers and officials of the Kuantung Government. Chinese officials deny having any cognizance whatsoever of such plans and from information from other Chinese sources one is inclined to believe their statements.

Some time ago it was reported in the local press that an agreement had been reached between the Japanese and Chinese Telegraph Administrations over the matter of an identic schedule of rates for telegrams in Manchuria and between Manchuria and Japan and its dependencies. Thus far it has been impossible to obtain authentic information in regard to this arrangement but my investigations have disclosed the fact that the Japanese and Chinese services have been connected in many important places and that the Japanese control all Chinese telegraph offices between Mukden and Harbin and also the Kirin office. Of the four Chinese lines between Mukden and Harbin three have been taken over by the Japanese Administration, leaving only one for the Chinese. Furthermore, the Japanese are starting a direct telegraphic service between Harbin and Dairen over a new line. It would seem, therefore, that the amalgamation of the two systems is contemplated. In this connection, it may be added, that Mr. Sakurai, the Director of Communications of the Kuantung Government, is the chief adviser to the Chinese Telegraph Administration. This new arrangement

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was to have gone into effect on February 15 but has been postponed owing to a lack of men qualified to handle messages in Japanese characters.

Concerning the Feng-shan (Fengtien-shanhaikuan) Railway which was nominally taken over by the Fengtien Provincial Government early in January, it has been learned that thirty Japanese are now employed in the general offices of this line at Mukden and that, with the exception of the Works Department, Japanese are found in every department of the Railway Administration. The only Briton now employed on this line is the head of the Works Department. All orders for despatching trains, it may be added, emanate from the South Manchuria Railway station at Mukden. Although not pertinent, it may be mentioned that 150 white Russians have been engaged by the Railway as guards.

Reference is made to my despatches numbered 527 and 531, of January 28 and February 3, 1932, under the subject "Fengtien Provincial Government" in which the functions of the Self-Government Guiding Board were outlined. This board, it may be recalled, was formed under the direction of Military Headquarters and its main function under the guise of instituting self-government in the districts is to supervise and control the administration of the districts. According to recent information six Japanese are attached to the offices of many magistrates, ^{two} being representatives of the Guiding Board, two advisers to the magistrate and two councillors. A few weeks ago it was learned

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from official sources that Governor Tsang had nominated seven men as magistrates whose appointments the Guiding Board refused to sanction. Governor Tsang protested to General Honjo, the Japanese Commander-in-Chief, against this and against the interference of these Japanese with the proper functions of the magistrates. In fact, the magistrate's office is completely under the control of Japanese and the magistrate is merely a figurehead.

A few unimportant but significant details may be of interest in connection with this subject. Some days ago an American newspaper correspondent called at the residence of Chang Ching-hui by appointment but was informed by a responsible member of his Chinese staff that Mr. Chang would not be able to see him because of orders from Japanese Headquarters. He also stated that in regard to his official duties Mr. Chang was under the direction of Headquarters, a statement which confirms the impression gained on March 1 when Mr. Chang issued the proclamation concerning the establishment of the new state. As further evidence that this document as all others relating to the new state originated with the Japanese, the Man Chou Pao (Chinese), of March 3, 1952, contained the following notice in connection with the publication of a corrected copy of the proclamation:

"Owing to the compositor's errors there were many mistakes in the translation (from Japanese) of the declaration of the formation of the new state published in this paper yesterday."

A foreigner who called at Headquarters on March 7 states that he saw two large bales of new Chinese flags being opened, a matter which seemed to cause some embarrassment to the Japanese who received him. This morning the headquarters of the Japanese gendarmes which is near this office is displaying the flag of the new state together with the Japanese flag.

Although it is believed that sufficient evidence has been adduced in the reports of this office to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that this new state movement is the work of Japanese Headquarters, it is worth while pointing out the paucity of prominent Chinese associated with the provincial administrations and to the total absence of Chinese leadership or organization of any kind that could carry on the extensive preparations required for the success of such a movement. In this connection the manner of the organization of the provincial administrations may be recalled as well as the fact that the Chinese administrators are merely the puppets of their Japanese advisers whose assignments were made by Japanese Headquarters.

Except for a few incongruities, such as the Chinese Maritime Customs and Post Office which although offering more knotty problems to the new state builders than many other questions may be expected shortly to be satisfactorily adjusted, the status of Manchuria today resembles rather a full-fledged Japanese colony than even a protectorate. With Japanese permeating all branches of government and all government and semi-government enterprises in Manchuria, and by one means or

another

another directing their activities, the existence of an independent state is fictitious and incompatible and the possibility of reducing this control seems extremely remote. However, a report from a reliable source was heard yesterday that the Japanese had promised P'u Yi greatly to reduce the number of advisers.

In January there appeared a book entitled "Plans for Establishing a New Independent State in Manchuria and Mongolia" written in Japanese by one S. Takaki who describes himself as "Chief Secretary of the National Diplomatic Association, Mukden". The preface was written by K. Nakano, adviser of the Fengtien Self-Government Guiding Board and the Municipal Office, who commends the book to the Japanese public. The writer states that the new state should be so organized that Japan may annex it in the future and that Japan must monopolize all means of communication, such as railways, airways, motor transport, river transport, telegraphs, telephones, etc., and have the right to exploit the natural resources of Manchuria and Mongolia. Mr. Nakano expresses himself in this regard as follows:

"To speak candidly the most important point in the plan for establishing a new state in Manchuria and Mongolia is that Japan's indispensable demands in relation to Manchuria and Mongolia must be clearly recognized.

"For some of the necessities of a modern state Japan depends on Manchuria and Mongolia.

"Japan can form a self-sufficient economic unit when she takes practical control of the natural resources of Manchuria and Mongolia.

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"Without this (economic self-sufficiency) a nation, in the international competition of the future, not only will be unable to develop but will trace the course of destruction." (Translation by Mr. Hall).

A report from a reliable source was heard last evening which, if true, is interesting. It stated that instructions were received by General Honjo from Tokyo a few days ago to postpone the inauguration of the new state and that he replied that it was too late to do so.

Respectfully yours,

M. S. Myers.
American Consul General.

Original and one copy to Legation.
Five copies to Department.
One copy to Consulate General, Harbin.
One copy to Embassy, Tokyo.

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MSM:MHP

