

AMERICAN LEGATION,
TOKIO.

October 22, 1906.

No. 81
CONFIDENTIAL.



Mr. Wright to Mr. Root.

SUBJECT: Confirms telegram of October 21, to the Department,
on the subject of the present agitation in Japan
evoked by recent reports of unfriendly action in the
United States directed against the Japanese:
Encloses translations and clippings from the local
press.

AMERICAN EMBASSY,
TOKIO.

October 22, 1906.

No. 81

CONFIDENTIAL.

To the Honorable Elihu Root,
Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm, as enclosed herewith, my telegram of the 21 instant to the Department, on the subject of the present agitation here evoked by recent reports of unfriendly action in the United States directed against the Japanese, and to enclose also translations and clippings from the local press.

The facts, as set forth in my telegram, form a conservative view of the situation. There can be no question that there has developed in the popular mind here a marked feeling of irritation against the United States, growing out of the publication of the alleged hostile acts and speeches in San Francisco, together with the recommendation of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor therein referred to.

As shedding some light upon existing conditions, I may mention that since the recent raid of seal-poachers on the Island of St. Paul, which resulted in the killing of several Japanese, telegrams have from time to time been published in the local papers calculated to offend the sensibilities of the Japanese people. Some of these telegrams came from London, through Reuter's news agency, and others from Washington and San Francisco. These were not of a character, taken singly and of themselves, to

be

INDEX BUREAU

NOV 14 1906
1797
40-46
DEPT. OF STATE

U

Treatment of Japanese in California.

Encls. 40-46.

Japan.

Am. Embassy, (Trinit) #61 Conf.

Confirms tel. of Oct. 21. Sent
further on the feeling created
by press dispatches antagonistic
to the U.S. and encloses articles
of the Japanese press reflecting
the various shades of opinion.
(Rec'd. Nov. 13, 1906.)
B.S.D.



ASSISTANT SECRETARY

NOV 15 1906

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.



Second Assistant Secretary's Room.

MEMORANDUM.

Nov. 15, 1906

FILE-S. Y. S.]

Okada Nov. 24/06

2-7 c.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Nov. 15, 1906
I think you should
see this full paper. It
contains a number of the
anti-American articles
in Japan.
FILE-S. Y. S. 003

be esteemed of any especial moment, but together they tended to indicate a belief that the United States was suspicious of Japan's intentions in Manchuria and Korea, suspected her of stirring up trouble against American trade in China, and regarded her as a dangerous commercial rival who would bear watching. There have also been published several telegrams indicating that the United States was largely reinforcing its fleet in Oriental waters.

The idea has frequently suggested itself to me that it was quite possible the coincidence and general tenor of these telegrams was not wholly accidental, that they were, in fact, intended to generate suspicion if not ill-will in the Japanese mind, whether for commercial or political reasons can only be surmised. It may be proper to add, in this connection, that the entire foreign press of the Orient (with one possible exception) is under inspiration and control which is politically and commercially critical of the United States.

However this may be, the Japanese authorities and the people generally, have apparently not been seriously disturbed by these publications, and the more responsible newspapers have made them the basis of editorial comment expressive, as a rule, of friendship and regard for the American people and of confidence in their good intentions.

My personal conviction is that whilst the Japanese have a formal alliance with England, they in reality have a more disinterested regard for Americans than for any other foreigners, and that this sentiment is sincere, genuine and general. Such publications, however, cannot but have their effect, and when coupled with positive acts of hostility by Americans against Japanese, such as are reported here from San Francisco, may be considered

considered largely responsible for the many evidences of annoyance and irritation now in the Japanese mind. I do not mean to convey the idea that this feeling is general, or that as matters stand, there is probability of serious trouble, certainly so far as the Japanese authorities are concerned; but a few more such incidents as those which are alleged to have occurred are not incapable of causing a total change of sentiment which might result in a boycott or some other form of retaliation. It should not be forgotten that the Japanese are an emotional, proud people, who just at this time have a very considerable opinion of themselves, and who are neither as phlegmatic nor as long-suffering as the Chinese.

As stated in my telegram, the reported seclusion or segregation of Japanese children in the public schools of San Francisco provokes the most criticism and indignation: first, because it appears to be the deliberate action of responsible Government officials, and, not the, result of a mere labor dispute, and, second, because it is taken to indicate racial hostility. I am inclined to think, from a remark made to me by Viscount Hayashi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, that there is especial sensitiveness upon this latter point.

I have been endeavoring to explain and minimize these incidents, wherever possible, by confidential talks with prominent men, including several newspaper editors who are inclined to be friendly toward us. The Foreign Office is, I think, also exerting its influence with the press friendly to it, in the same direction. There is, however, a strong opposition party in Japan, who control newspapers of wide circulation and who are no more dis-

i nolined

inclined to embarrass the administration here than in the United States; and from the tone of their editorials, it is evident they are quite willing to put the Government in the position of submitting tamely to indignity, if they can do so.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Wm E. Wright

- ENCLOSURES: 1. Confirms Mr. Wright's telegram of October 21 to the Department.
2. Translations and clippings from the local press.