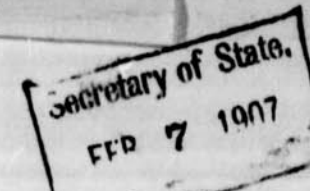


52 William Street,



New York, February 5th, 1907.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Last spring, while in Japan, among other Government officials I saw considerable of and received attentions from Marquis Saionji, the Prime Minister.

In view of the unwarranted talk and newspaper publications, which are being made, as to our present relations with Japan, I have deemed it well to send a personal message to the Marquis Saionji, and of this- together with his reply- I send you herein copy. These messages, being purely personal, have-I know-no particular value, but I thought it might interest you to read them. I do not even propose to make the messages public, for the many statements which are made in the public press are so ridiculous that they should not even be dignified by anything that looks like a belief that good offices are needed to maintain our friendly relations with Japan.

Believe me, dear Mr. Secretary, with assurances of esteem,

Yours most faithfully,

Hon. Elihu Root,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

1797/117-118.