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Relations between Japan and the U.S.

Encl. 122. New York City,
316 East 15th Str.
Feb. 5, 1907.

The President (Loeb)

Encl's letter, Feb. 4, 1907,
from Charles Sprague Smith, Manag-
ing Director of The People's In-
stitute, calling attention to cer-
tain alleged interviews given out
by Mr. Hobson, stating that he
would like to put over against the
sensational utterances of Mr. Hob-
son in regard to the probabilities
of a War With Japan, a public demon-
stration of the cordiality of feel-
ing between the U.S. and Japan,
such demonstration to be in the
form of a great mass Meeting.
N. (Rec'd Feb. 8, 1907)

*Am. Feb. 12/07
D. J. C.*

FILE-S. Y. S.

THE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE

316 EAST FIFTEENTH STREET
NEW YORK

CHARLES SPRAGUE SMITH, MANAGING DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE, 2411 STUYVESANT

HOWARD MANSFIELD, CHAIRMAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES
V. EVERIT MACY, TREASURER
MICHAEL M. DAVID, JR., SECRETARY

Feb. 4, 1907.

Mr. William Loeb,

My dear Mr. Loeb:-

I want to get your advice touching a plan that has suggested itself to me. Hobson, as you may have seen by the New York papers, was invited here to take part in a Peace Rally. His address from the platform was eloquent and fitting, but he was so unwise as both before and afterward to give out an interview on the subject of a war with Japan, declaring that he had seen some kind of ultimatum from Japan, which I believe Root was stated to have shown him, and that unless the United States built a whopping big navy, Japan would down us. I have no idea whatsoever that in case some kind of a paper was sent from Japan touching the recent California incident and that it did contain serious matter, Root showed it to such a man as Hobson, who seems to be either suffering from a swelled head, or else to be so unwise as to be unworthy to be trusted with important secrets.

The thought has come to me since that I would like to put over against that foolish, sensational utterance of Hobson's, to which wide circulation has been given through the press, a public demonstration of the cordiality of feeling between this country and Japan. In other words, the idea of a great mass meeting, with the hall decorated with the Japanese and American flags intertwined, prominent representatives of Japan and of America as speakers, clergy and leading public citizens as vice-presidents, and a great audience, with possible messages from Japan, and, if it seemed wise, from

Washington, to be read, to give, through the press, a fitting answer to the widespread assertion that war between two countries that should be bound together in the closest ties of mutual support is impending.

I do not want to do this thing if I am in any way going to put my foot in it in the sense of giving undue publicity to a matter of which as little should be said as possible now. I mean the momentarily strained relations between the two countries. Nor am I willing to take this step without tacit approval from your side. I do not mean by that that the President should be approached with the idea of saying Go ahead and do this, but rather that you, knowing his mind in this matter, should inform me as to whether the path ahead is clear and Washington in general approves. Of course if a more definite approval comes I shall not object, but I do not want to bother the President, in the great pressure of his occupations, with matters of this kind.

Let me have a line from you, please.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Pease Smith