

AMERICAN EMBASSY,
TOKIO.

Despatch No. 153.

January 23rd, 1907.



MR. WRIGHT to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

SUBJECT:- The exclusion of Japanese children from
San Francisco schools - Abandonment of the visit
of the Japanese Training Squadron - Text of tele-
grams.

Despatch No. 153.

AMERICAN EMBASSY,
TOKIO.

January 23rd, 1907.

Honorable Elihu Root,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

I have the honor to confirm on the overleaf my telegrams in cipher of the 5th and 11th instants, as well as your telegrams also in cipher in reply received on the 10th, 16th and 19th instants, the first three in regard to the abandonment of the proposed visit of the Japanese Training Squadron to our Pacific Coast, and the last two in regard to the emigration of Japanese laborers and the San Francisco school question.

In communicating your telegram of the 10th instant to Viscount Hayashi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, I did not fail to impress upon him the pleasure with which the visit of the Training Squadron would be received by our Government, at the same time, however, suggesting to him the reasons given by you which might hamper our authorities in offering the cordial hospitality they would wish to extend to the officers and men of the Squadron. Viscount Hayashi appeared to be entirely pleased with the attitude of our Government and to understand the situation, but he stated that he thought it best that the Squadron should not go, as some irresponsible person might cause trouble and further complicate matters. It has accordingly now been decided to send the Squadron, which sailed on the 15th Instant, to Honolulu and from there to Australia. This change in its cruise has caused a certain amount of comment in the Japanese press, various causes being assigned for it. I annex some newspaper clippings which give an idea of their general tenor and also a number of other clip-

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Treatment of Japanese in California;
Anti-Japanese agitation.

Encl. 127-140.

Japan.

Jan. 23, 1907.

American Embassy (Wright) #153.

Confirms telegrams to and from the Department relative to the visit of the Japanese Squadron to San Francisco and the checking of Coolie emigration to the Pacific Coast. Reports interviews with Minister for Foreign Affairs on both subjects. Encloses newspaper articles and comments.
(WES) (Rec'd Feb. 12-07.)

omitted
pings from the newspapers which appeared on the 4th instant and which are probably some of the press articles referred to by the Viscount Hayashi, as mentioned in my telegram of the 5th instant.

At the usual weekly Foreign Office reception on the 17th instant Viscount Hayashi mentioned having just received a telegram from the Viscount Aoki, Japanese Ambassador at Washington, stating that he had been informed by you that I had reported to you that the Viscount Hayashi had expressed to me a willingness to enter into an agreement forbidding, reciprocally, the emigration of laborers from one country to the other. Viscount Hayashi added that he thought I was in error in having made this statement of his willingness to conclude such an agreement, to which I replied that I had not understood him to make any statement of the character just indicated, - what I had understood Viscount Hayashi to say was that the Japanese Government was not desirous of Japanese laborers entering into any country where they were not wanted, and that, with the rescinding of the offensive order or regulation made by the San Francisco School Board, which in terms segregated Japanese from the American schools, his Government could and would decline to issue passports to coolie laborers desiring to go to the United States, and thereby prevent their emigration from Japan; that, as to those laborers who desired to emigrate to Hawaii, the passports had invariably authorized emigration to Hawaii only and not to the mainland of the United States. I furthermore stated that, as I recalled our conversations, the Viscount had said that his Government had entered into similar arrangements with the British Government as to Japanese coolie emigrants to Australia and British Columbia. I had the honor to report the tenor of this

statement of Viscount Hayashi to you in the last paragraph of my telegram of the 11th instant. Viscount Hayashi replied that my understanding of what he had said was entirely correct.

I then suggested to Viscount Hayashi that while I did not understand he had expressed his willingness to enter into a formal treaty forbidding the emigration of laborers from one country to another, I thought it was well worth considering whether such an agreement was not for many reasons desirable both to the United States and Japan, and furthermore stated that I quite understood negotiations along this line could only be entered into after the objectionable order of the San Francisco School Board had been rescinded. He replied he feared that formally entering into such a convention would be so obviously one-sided that it would subject his administration to severe criticism by the Japanese for the reason that no American laborers were likely to come to Japan to find employment and that practically the treaty when entered into would apply ^{only} to Japanese laborers. To this I replied that whilst it was doubtless true that at this time the treaty would simply bar Japanese laborers from entering the United States, still it potentially applied to American laborers desiring to enter Japan as well.

I then stated to him that in a note written by you to Viscount Aoki you had discussed the whole subject in a broad and friendly way and had pointed out that the real underlying cause of the disagreeable San Francisco incident which had been justly the cause of offense to the Japanese people as well as mortification to us, was the apprehension of the laboring people of the Pacific slope that Japanese coolie laborers, attracted by higher wages, would flock to California and other Pacific Coast

states in such numbers as materially to lower wages and affect the standard of living to which the native laborers had been accustomed, and that whilst our Government would use every effort to protect Japanese laborers thus coming, in their persons and all their treaty rights, yet the fact remained that, with the best intentions and every endeavor, many disagreeable clashes would necessarily occur between American and Japanese laborers thus coming into competition, and would be more and more, as their numbers increased, the cause of irritation between the people of the two countries, however anxious their governments were to prevent it; and that, therefore, I hoped he would find it to the interest of his Government to take up the question of restricting or preventing emigration along the lines suggested by you. I at the same time stated to him that you had suggested in your note to Viscount Aoki that this need not affect emigration of Japanese laborers to Hawaii.

He said to me in reply that he had received a cable from Viscount Aoki saying that you had written an extremely frank and friendly note which he appreciated very much, but that he did not give him the contents of the note in his cable communication. In reply I said to him that I should be very glad to give him a paraphrase of your note to Viscount Aoki which would put him in possession of your views on the subject. He stated that he should be very glad to have it and that he appreciated the importance of the subject, and should at once confer with his colleagues of the Cabinet as to whether such a convention as you proposed could be entered into by Japan, and in the meantime requested that I furnish him the substance of your note and withhold my answer until he had had the opportunity of conferring with the Cabinet. In accordance with Viscount

Hayashi's request I subsequently sent him a paraphrase of your note to Viscount Aoki, the text of which was given in your telegram received on the 16th instant.

I also have the honor to enclose to you herewith in this connection two editorial articles clipped from "The Japan Times" of the 27th ultimo and "The Japan Daily Mail" of the 5th instant, and a very sensible article which I have had translated from the "Jiji Shimpō" of the 16th instant entitled "The Rumor of War between Japan and the United States". I further enclose a clipping from "The Japan Times" of the 22nd instant giving the text of a telegram from the Japanese Consul at San Francisco in regard to the suits at law which have been instituted in California to test the school question. This telegram has been made public by the Foreign Office.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Sam E. Wright

Enclosures as above. *(omitted)*