

Encl. No. 5 with Mr. Wrights
No. 3477 July 26, 1907.

Translation.

Jiji Shimpō, July 14,
1907.

JAPANESE ARMY OFFICER ARRESTED.

(Special telegram from Washington,
July 12.)

A Japanese army officer is said to have been arrested at San Diego, California, for having sketched plans of the Rosencrans fort. His name will be withheld pending the decision of the U. S. Department of War.

GENERAL TERAUCHI INTERVIEWED.

WAR MINISTER SAYS "NONSENSE".

A member of our staff called on General Terauchi, Minister of War, in order to confirm the news from Washington of the arrest of a Japanese army officer at San Diego, California. The War Minister said, "A Japanese army officer arrested for having sketched a fort? Nonsense! It is a most absurd piece of news. The War Department has received no such telegram. Can anything be more absurd than this piece of news? A Japanese officer could not have been arrested since there was none in the United States. The report is false on the face of it. Except our military attaché to the Embassy at Washington, there is no representative of our army in the United States. Hence the utter impossibility of arresting any. Do me the favor of telling the people that the Imperial Japanese Army has never requested any officer or civilian to sketch any fort in the United States. What is the use, anyway, of sketching a fort in the United States?"

Do you think you can fool us that way? The report may be either absolutely unfounded or due to some mistake. At any rate this is a most nonsensical piece of news." The Minister ended his conversation by repeating such words as "absurd" and "nonsensical".

Our representative also called on another high army officer, whose views were found to be similar to General Terauchi's. He, too, emphasized the fact that there was no officer now in the United States except the attaché to the Embassy. Should Japan be preparing for a war with the United States, said the officer laughingly, her army would not be so stupid as to start sketching forts there. He denied the rumor in toto.