

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.



From Tokio,

Received Nov. 3, 1907, 11:55 a. m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.



Confidential. At interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs 31st he spoke of a message from Japanese Ambassador Washington, D. C., detailing at length his conversation with the President on 25th. No answer had gone, but he wished to state the points and reasons to me for transmission to you. At further interview today he gave me his answer in writing and at length, but I will cover substance by wire. He gave me also copy of telegram from Japanese Ambassador and of proposed reply. All will go to you by mail.

Japanese Ambassador says he advised the President of the importance of taking some positive step that would forcibly counteract trend of public sentiment: that he had no authority from his Government to enter into exchange of views and whatever he might say must be taken purely as personal and in no way reflecting sentiment of his Government. He suggested three points:

First. As to the control of the Pacific as an international highway of commerce;

Second. Respect for territorial rights of each and maintenance of existing order of things on the Pacific;

Third; Territorial integrity and open door in China.

The President suggested incorporating Hawaiian Islands, Philippine

Deciphered by

1797/350-352.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

(2)

From

Islands and Formosa.

Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs says topics suggested are in complete accord with the views of his Government, that the existing order of things on the Pacific has always formed a most prominent feature of settled foreign policy of Japan, and the absolute absence of any aggressive design upon her part upon Philippine Islands has been reiterated on so many occasions that the United States is fully assured of intention to respect their territorial rights.

As to China, enough to say that the same has been embodied as a basic principle in no less than three of the international compacts of Japan.

Imperial Government gives its adherence to the topics referred to, but it is of opinion that the proposed understanding is wholly uncalled for and ill-advised. When situation reviewed with candor and discretion nothing will be found beyond the creation of yellow press chicaneries. At least on this side the public have such implicit confidence in wisdom and good judgment of the United States Government and people that they have no idea of the two traditionally friendly nations drifting to inevitable conflict in consequence of the present situation. Under the circumstances, while every effort should be made to disabuse the public of imaginary ill conditions, much may be safely left to natural tendency of time for rectification. Accordingly Imperial Government fear that proposed convention would admit by implication the existence of a situation of grave nature, producing and aggravating rather than to mollify effect upon the public, especially when formulated solely on

Deciphered by

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

(3)

From

the basis of self-evident topic, leaving emigration question wholly untouched. "For it is evident that rightly or wrongly this particular question is regarded in general as the real source of all the trouble, if there is any at all, and consequently any international compact that has the appearance of glossing over this fact will doubtless be regarded more or less in the light of a white-washing and will just to that extent prove disappointing rather than reassuring.

At the same time it must be observed in this connection that a definite settlement of the emigration question in a manner satisfactory to the two nations is in the opinion of the Japanese Government entirely out of the question, at least under existing circumstances. Undue importance appears to be placed on the emigration question on both sides of the Pacific, and while the existing state of the public temper continues it will be extremely unadvisable and even dangerous to make any attempt at a settlement of the question."

The answer then proceeding makes reference to opinion of Taft when here not advisable at present to take any step in that direction. He thinks it wise to await the result of President's executive order of last March. In the meantime he will give full assurance that Japanese Government will in good faith pursue their adopted policy of stringently restricting Japanese laborers to the United States. He appreciates solicitude of the President to strengthen good relations and has full confidence that his influence will be effectively exerted for averting any embarrassing situation in consequence

0013

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

(4) *From*



of some premature action in Congress. I pointed out that whole emigration question might be discussed in Congress, and that in such discussion Japan would be greatest sufferer, in view of which her wisest course would be to seek an elimination by proposing treaty effective for such reasonable time as would enable Congress and people to create policy free from heat and prejudice. He replied that no agreement could be made discriminating against Japan. He promised to prevent labor emigration to the United States, and to keep emigration to Hawaii somewhat below labor demands. Suggested that he give public interview covering in broadest way his plan for limiting emigration. He agreed. He asked that his views be treated as confidential.

O'BRIEN.