

793.94/3430 : Telegram

The Consul General at Tientsin (Lockhart) to the Secretary of State

TIENTSIN, January 7, 1932—2 p.m.

[Received January 7—5:30 a.m.]

The following telegram has been sent to the Legation today :

“January 7, 1 p.m. According to information received by the Kailan Mining Administration, the Japanese troops that have been advancing toward Shanhaikwan for several days have now reached that place without resistance from Chinese forces and have taken over telephone and telegraph lines eastward from there.

Local Japanese military authorities will hold a review tomorrow morning in the Japanese concession of Japanese troops at Tientsin now numbering approximately 3,000. Repeated to Department.”

LOCKHART

793.94/3437 : Telegram

The Minister in China (Johnson) to the Secretary of State

PEIPING, January 7, 1932—6 p.m.

[Received January 7—10:20 a.m.]

33. Following from American Consul General at Harbin :

“January 6, noon. 1. General Ma is now at Sungpuchen, southern terminus of the Hu-Hai Railway, opposite Harbin on the left bank of the Sungari River, ostensibly to consult with General Chang Ching-hui, who the local press reports will proceed today to Tsitsihar to inspect conditions there. It is possible but not probable that General Ma will accompany him to Tsitsihar.

2. Now that the Chinese forces have been eliminated from Chinchow, General Ma and his troops are the only so-called regular forces in Manchuria stations opposed to the Japanese. Unless Ma receives support from Soviet Russia which appears unlikely he will not be in a position to resist Japanese demands.”

JOHNSON

793.94/3437b : Telegram

*The Secretary of State to the Consul General at Nanking (Peck)*⁹

WASHINGTON, January 7, 1932—noon.

2. Please deliver to the Foreign Office, as through the Legation, on behalf of your Government as soon as possible the following note :

⁹ The same, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Ambassador in Japan as telegram No. 7, *Foreign Relations, Japan, 1931-1941*, vol. I, p. 76; text of note repeated to the Consul at Geneva in telegram No. 4, January 7, 1 p.m., with instructions to transmit the note to the Secretary General of the League of Nations.

“With the recent military operations about Chinchow, the last remaining administrative authority of the Government of the Chinese Republic in South Manchuria, as it existed prior to September 18th, 1931, has been destroyed. The American Government continues confident that the work of the neutral commission recently authorized by the Council of the League of Nations will facilitate an ultimate solution of the difficulties now existing between China and Japan. But in view of the present situation and of its own rights and obligations therein, the American Government deems it to be its duty to notify both the Government of the Chinese Republic and the Imperial Japanese Government that it cannot admit the legality of any situation *de facto* nor does it intend to recognize any treaty or agreement entered into between those Governments, or agents thereof, which may impair the treaty rights of the United States or its citizens in China, including those which relate to the sovereignty, the independence, or the territorial and administrative integrity of the Republic of China, or to the international policy relative to China, commonly known as the open door policy; and that it does not intend to recognize any situation, treaty or agreement which may be brought about by means contrary to the covenants and obligations of the Pact of Paris of August 27, 1928, to which Treaty both China and Japan, as well as the United States, are parties.”

State that an identical note is being sent to the Japanese Government.

Repeat whole of above to Legation.

STIMSON

793.94/3450

Memorandum by the Secretary of State

[WASHINGTON,] January 7, 1932.

I called in the Japanese Ambassador and told him I had decided to send a note to Japan and China, to set out the position of the United States Government at this situation. I then repeated to him verbally the substance of the note, called his attention to the fact that a similar note was sent in 1915 at the time of the twenty-one demands, and gave him a copy of this note. He told me that he very well recollected the sending of the note at the time of the twenty-one demands. I then said that when I was asked by the press about this note I would give the following background: (1) that we had no quarrel with any of Japan's rights in Manchuria, (2) that we had no desire to intrude into the terms of any settlement which might be made in the future between China and Japan except (a) such settlement should not impair our own rights in China and (b) there should not be any violation of the Kellogg Pact.