

PROTOCOL No. 1.

MEETING OF 25TH JANUARY, 1882.

The Government of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and those of the European Treaty Powers, unanimously recognizing the desirability of endeavouring to arrive at an understanding with a view to the revision of the stipulations of the existing Treaties, have resolved as follows:

The Delegates of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and the European Powers shall meet at Tokio in Preliminary Conference for the purpose of concerting in a conciliatory and friendly spirit, a basis, subject to the sanction of their respective Governments, for the introduction into the existing Treaties of such modifications as may be found necessary and desirable.

The Conference met for the first time at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Tokio, on January 25th, 1882, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

Present:

For Japan,

His Excellency Inouye Kaoru, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Shioda Saburo, Assistant Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs;

For Austro-Hungary,

Mr. Hoffer von Hoffenfels, Minister Resident;

For France,

His Excellency Guillaume de Roquette, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary;

For Germany and the Swiss Confederation,

His Excellency von Eisendecker, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, and as Second Delegate for Germany Mr. Zappe, Consul;

For Great Britain,

Mr. Kennedy, Chargé d'Affaires;

For the Netherlands, for Sweden and Norway, and for Denmark,

Mr. van der Pot, Minister Resident;

For Russia,

His Excellency de Struve, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary;

For Spain,

The Chevalier Don Luis del Castillo y Trigueros, Chargé d'Affaires;

Mr. E. Martin Lanciarez, Chargé d'Affaires of the King of Italy, *ad informandum*.

The Presidency of the Conference having been offered to His Excellency Inouye, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the latter, in signifying his acceptance, expressed the hope that all the Representatives of the Powers would bring to the negotiations about to take place the same spirit of conciliation as animated himself. All questions affecting the relations between, Japan and the Treaty Powers should be the subject of free, impartial and thorough consideration.

The observations of Mr. Inouye were cordially assented to by the members of the Conference.

The Chargé d'Affaires of Italy not having up to the present received any instructions from his Government, and feeling assured that his Government would act in concert, desired permission to attend the meetings *ad informandum* until he should be officially authorized by his Government to take part. The wish expressed by Mr. Lanciarez was acceded to by the Conference.

The President asked whether the members of the Conference entertained any objections to Mr. Bingham, the Representative of the United States of America, being invited to take part in their labours, adding that he had not yet learnt the views of Mr. Bingham on this point.

Mr. von Eisendecker, in the name of his colleagues, replied that they left to Mr. Inouye complete freedom to act in this matter as he might consider most convenient.

The President then announced that he intended to request the Belgian Government by telegraph to designate a Delegate to represent them at the Conference.

It was proposed by the President and agreed to unanimously that the Austro-Hungarian Treaty should be taken as a basis for the negotiations preliminary to the proposed revision.

It was also unanimously agreed:

That eight Secretaries should form a bureau for the preparation of the protocols, with power to add to their number if the Conference should find it necessary.

The following names were approved of:

Mr. Yoshida Masaharu, an Assistant Secretary of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs;

Mr. Kurino Shin-ichi-ro, Attaché of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs;

Baron A. von Siebold, Secretary of Legation and Private Secretary to the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs;

Mr. Ernest Satow, Second Secretary and Japanese Secretary of Her Britannic Majesty's Legation;

Mr. H. von Siebold, Secretary to the Austro-Hungarian Legation;

Mr. Krien, Interpreter to His Imperial German Majesty's Legation;

The Abbé Evrard, Acting Interpreter to the French Legation;

Mr. P. Larrouy, Chancellor of the French Consulate.

That the minutes of the Conference should be drawn up in Japanese, English and French.

That the meetings of the Conference should take place at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Tokio every Wednesday and Thursday at three in the afternoon.

That members of the Cabinet of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan might be present at the meetings of the Conference *ad informandum* whenever they might desire it.

That absolute secrecy should be observed with regard to the discussions.

Mr. Kennedy, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, having pointed out that Sir Harry Parkes, Her Majesty's Minister was shortly expected to arrive in Tokio, believed that he simply anticipated the wishes of the members of the Conference in proposing that the consideration of all important questions should be postponed to the following week.

This proposition being adopted the Conference was adjourned to the Wednesday following, February 1st.

The meeting separated at half past four o'clock.