

*The United States Ambassador at Tokyo (Mr. Castle) to the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs (Baron Shidehara).*

It is the understanding of the Government of the United States that the word "category" in Article 19 of the London Naval Treaty of 1930 means category or sub-category. The Government of the United States declares that it interprets the Treaty to mean that vessels becoming overage in either sub-category A or sub-category B of the cruiser categories (Article 16) shall be replaceable only in that sub-category.

The American Government will be most happy to have the confirmation of this understanding from the Japanese Government.

*Baron Shidehara to Mr. Castle.*

(Translation.)

Токуо, Мау 24, 1930.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your note dated the 21st May, 1930, relative to the interpretation of the word category appearing in Article 19 of the London Naval Treaty of 1930.

The Imperial Government understands the word "category" appearing in Article 19 of the above-mentioned Treaty to mean "category" or "sub-category"; thus it interprets this Treaty in the sense that ships belonging to either sub-category A or sub-category B of the cruiser category (Article 16) which shall become overage may be replaced only within that sub-category.