



CANADIAN LEGATION
TOKYO

1st June, 1932.

Received

My dear General,

Thank you so much for your note of the 10th of May last which I have just received. I knew you would have no objections to my giving Dr. Nitobe a letter of introduction to you. I was fairly sure you had met him already.

Certainly, since I have returned to Japan the situation has been interesting but at the same time very perplexing. We have hardly known from week to week where we stood. Governments have changed, assassinations have taken place, the external political situation which commenced to be bad in September is now no better: so taking the situation all in all the best one can say is that it is most obscure.

It is most difficult for anybody to harmonise the actions of Japan with her obligations under the Covenant of the League of Nations, the Nine-Power Treaty of Washington, and the Kellogg-Briand Pact. Insofar as Manchuria was concerned there probably was a technical breaking of her obligations under those treaties, but there was certainly some justification therefor, and I for one am very much disposed to condone the actions of Japan in Manchuria. I do not disguise that what you say in your letter as to the setting up of a separate State is not quite true. On the other hand, conditions in Manchuria up to the 18th of September had been becoming steadily worse. The population was being plundered right and left, trade was being stifled, and
- life -

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