

## POLICY IN THE FAR EAST (ROOT-TAKAHIRA AGREEMENT)

*Exchange of notes at Washington November 30, 1908*  
*Entered into force November 30, 1908*  
*Not revived after World War II*<sup>1</sup>

Treaty Series 511½

*The Japanese Ambassador to the Secretary of State*

IMPERIAL JAPANESE EMBASSY  
*Washington, November 30, 1908*

SIR:

The exchange of views between us, which has taken place at the several interviews which I have recently had the honor of holding with you, has shown that Japan and the United States holding important outlying insular possessions in the region of the Pacific Ocean, the Governments of the two countries are animated by a common aim, policy, and intention in that region.

Believing that a frank avowal of that aim, policy, and intention would not only tend to strengthen the relations of friendship and good neighborhood, which have immemorially existed between Japan and the United States, but would materially contribute to the preservation of the general peace, the Imperial Government have authorized me to present to you an outline of their understanding of that common aim, policy, and intention:

1. It is the wish of the two Governments to encourage the free and peaceful development of their commerce on the Pacific Ocean.
2. The policy of both Governments, uninfluenced by any aggressive tendencies, is directed to the maintenance of the existing status quo in the region above mentioned and to the defense of the principle of equal opportunity for commerce and industry in China.
3. They are accordingly firmly resolved reciprocally to respect the territorial possessions belonging to each other in said region.
4. They are also determined to preserve the common interest of all powers in China by supporting by all pacific means at their disposal the

<sup>1</sup> Not included among treaties and other agreements continued in force or revived by U.S. note of Apr. 22, 1953, pursuant to art. 7 of treaty of peace signed at San Francisco Sept. 8, 1951 (3 UST 3175; TIAS 2490).

independence and integrity of China and the principle of equal opportunity for commerce and industry of all nations in that Empire.

5. Should any event occur threatening the status quo as above described or the principle of equal opportunity as above defined, it remains for the two Governments to communicate with each other in order to arrive at an understanding as to what measures they may consider it useful to take.

If the foregoing outline accords with the view of the Government of the United States, I shall be gratified to receive your confirmation.

I take this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

K. TAKAHIRA

Honorable ELIHU ROOT,  
*Secretary of State.*

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*The Secretary of State to the Japanese Ambassador*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
*Washington, November 30, 1908*

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of to-day setting forth the result of the exchange of views between us in our recent interviews defining the understanding of the two Governments in regard to their policy in the region of the Pacific Ocean.

It is a pleasure to inform you that this expression of mutual understanding is welcome to the Government of the United States as appropriate to the happy relations of the two countries and as the occasion for a concise mutual affirmation of that accordant policy respecting the Far East which the two Governments have so frequently declared in the past.

I am happy to be able to confirm to Your Excellency, on behalf of the United States, the declaration of the two Governments embodied in the following words:

[For text of declaration, see numbered paragraphs in Japanese note, above.]

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurance of my highest consideration.

ELIHU ROOT

His Excellency  
Baron KOGORO TAKAHIRA,  
*Japanese Ambassador.*