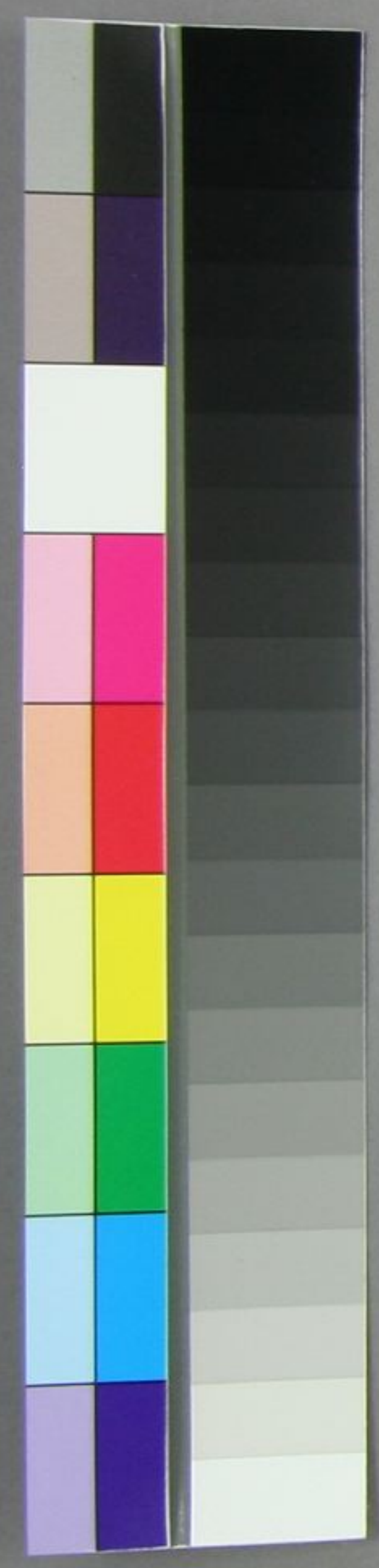


外務省  
事務  
第...  
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Translation of the instruction  
from the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
to Wooyeno Kagenori, Japanese Minister  
in London.

Sir,  
It is known to you and  
to the Government to which you  
are accredited that in the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Year of Meiji (1871) His Majesty's  
Government gave notice to the  
friendly Powers with which it  
had concluded treaties, of its  
desire to proceed to the revision  
of those treaties in the 5<sup>th</sup> Year  
of Meiji (1872).

When the Embassy of  
H.



H. C. Iwakura Tomomi was about to depart for Europe and America, information was given to the British Government and all the other Powers that the revision would be postponed until the return of that Embassy. Since its return various circumstances, both in the internal and Foreign Affairs of the Empire, have induced the Government to defer the revision. Now, however, all these difficulties have been removed and we decide to avail ourselves of the situation to

to obtain the revision of the Treaties.

By the revision, this Government expects to come into a fuller enjoyment of the sovereign rights inherent to this Empire and to this end there are — several clauses in the old treaties which ought to be amended and modified. Among the most important of these clauses are those which relate to the trade regulations and the Customs Revenue in the several subsisting treaties and especially in the convention of 1866. His Majesty's Government

is

is confident that the Government of Her Britannic Majesty will, upon a proper representation of the facts and after due consideration, see the necessity of a resumption by Japan of the right establishing its own Tariff and this is now the principal object of this Government—it is considered to be of the utmost importance—even of necessity.

From the beginning of our intercourse with the Western Powers the national expenditures have increased from year to year. As while the Treaties are in force it

it could not increase its—  
revenues from imports and exports, the consequence is that it—  
became necessary to exact increased internal taxes from the people.

It will thus be compelled to exhaust almost the fountains of national prosperity at their sources. There is something more than pecuniary loss because the people will begin to see that they are heavily taxed by reason of foreign interference with our revenue system. In course of time they shall thus naturally be led to exasperation against the policy

policy, which this Government would gladly pursue of extending more and more facilities to foreign intercourse.

It is therefore of vital importance to foreign trade and to the improvement of friendly relations that this Government should be free to resume its original sovereign right to adjust its Tariff and its trade regulations according to its own financial necessities and to the political necessity of maintaining internal satisfaction and peace.

Her Majesty's Government  
and

and the other friendly Powers may reasonably expect that no revision of the Tariff shall impose upon the merchandise of their respective countries any higher duties than are found necessary by some of them. They may also expect that this Government will in no case discriminate in the duties imposed upon the products of those nations unless that discrimination shall be made in recompense for some discrimination in favor of the products and commerce of Japan; in other words upon the

the principle of commercial reciprocity which prevails among enlightened nations when this Government may find it convenient to agree thereto by special convention.

Upon such principle of reciprocity His Majesty's Government would be willing to abolish its duties upon exports and would also, if it shall be found necessary to produce a satisfactory arrangement, be willing to open one or more new ports to foreign commerce. Upon this principle also this Government expects that the right of controlling the

the coasting trade of this Empire as inherent to the rights of an independent state should emphatically be recognized.

The Government of Japan at the time of its earlier intercourse with foreign nations, possessed a very imperfect knowledge of the treaty relations existing between the Western Powers and was especially ignorant regarding the commercial affairs of the world. Being wholly unacquainted with the methods adopted by the said powers in the regulation of their intercourse with one another the Government acceded to the suggestions

suggestions of the several powers with which it entered into treaty relations, to the limitations imposed by the several treaties, upon the power of Japan to regulate its foreign commerce in its own interests according to its own judgement.

Subsequent experiences however, taught the Government to comprehend the character of the obligations which it had unwisely imposed upon itself and to see the grave mistake it had made by limiting its essential sovereign powers.

In conclusion, I have to state  
that

that the principal object of this Government is to so revise the existing Treaties that all provisions therein which restricts the right of this Government to regulate the Custom Tariff may be abrogated.

His Majesty's Government—  
will be ready, if the above named propositions be consented by Her Britannic Majesty's Government, to open additional ports for residence and commerce and also to abolish all exports duties as to the British subjects.

You will read this instruction  
to

to the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
and give him a copy if he  
desires it.

Terashima Munenori  
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Terashima Munenori