

Copy No 33

U. S. Legation Japan
Tokio 19 April 1874.

Your Excellency

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency despatch of this date in reply to mine of the 18th inst relative to the employment of American ships and American citizens in an expedition to Formosa.

Your Excellency reiterates in this despatch the assurance given to me verbally by your Excellency in our interview of yesterday that the Government of Japan is "far from entertaining even the slightest intention" of performing any hostile act against China and that the officers and ships of the United States engaged by Japan *à l'Étranger* in the proposed expedition are employed in a quiet and amicable undertaking and without any hostile intent.

Upon careful consideration of your despatch of this date and its enclosure, I am constrained to say that I deem it my duty to again protest against any ship or citizen of the United States of America being sent to Formosa by your Excellency's



government in connection with a military and naval force as proposed until the written consent of China be first obtained in approval of the proposed expedition to that Island.

Your Excellency's government may intend no hostile act by sending out a High Commissioner to aborigines of Formosa under the protection of an armed force, yet China may decide that such act is hostile to her government within the territory of Formosa and may accordingly meet and resist it with force of arms. To avoid such result which would be most unfortunate for Japan, I can not but say that Japan before approaching Formosa should obtain the written and authenticated consent of the Chinese government to the expedition proposed and its objects. This is surely in accordance with the custom and usage of nations and I have heretofore understood that the consent of China had been obtained, but am pained to say that I find no evidence of the fact in the dispatch received by me.

I have further to request that the United States vessel "New York" and the three citizens of the United States to wit; General Legendre Sieut-Commander Cassel and Mr. Mason employed as I am verbally informed by your Excellency's government ^{be detained by your Excellency's government} from proceeding-

to Formosa with expedition until
the written consent of China
thereto shall have been obtained
by the Government of Japan

I am with great respect
your Excellency's obedt. servant
M. A. Bingham