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Colonial Secretary's Office,
Singapore, 1st April 1878.

Sir,

I am directed by Governor Sir Mon
Robinson to acknowledge the receipt of
your letter of 29th Ultimo, relative to the
Japanese Trade Dollar.

The Japanese Yen being a legal tender
here, His Excellency is at present aware of
no valid reason why the new Trade Dollar,
which is stated to be a coin of greater
intrinsic value and perhaps more perfect
design, should not be substituted for
the Yen, but His Excellency is precluded,
by his instructions, from legalizing any
new coin, without the previous approval
of Her Majesty's Government, whose decision
must not, in such a matter, be in
any way fettered by the action or promises
of the Government here.

Under these circumstances, and
apart from all other considerations, it
would be impossible for His Excellency to
recognize the new dollar, even provision-
ally.

His Excellency will, however, lose no
time in consulting the Banks and the
Chamber of Commerce on the subject, and
will then submit the proposal to the
Secretary of State for the Colonies, for the
consideration of Her Majesty's Government,
with as little delay as possible. —

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant.

Signed

J. Douglas.
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.