

Tokio, Nov. 8th 1874.

Sir

I have received your two secret notes, respectively dated the 18th September and the 21st October and am very much obliged for your constant goodwill, in remembering your engagement and our mutual friendship, at so great a distance. I think, that you have every reason in explaining minutely both the condition of China since 1860 and the future state of Asia.

I have also to thank you for your information of the circumstances

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stances of the present nego-
tiation at Peking and for
your opinion, concerning the
state of things, if the war should
be declared between the two
governments. Our government,
you will understand, do not
desire the war, and it shall
be with great regret, if we should
ever be obliged to break the friend-
ly relation now existing with
China. But, if the necessity
should drive us to this extreme
measure, I shall endeavour to
do our actions, keeping your plans
always in my mind. I take
~~this opportunity of~~

I have the honor to be,
Sir

your obedient servant
Suwara Tomomi

Fochow 11th Novemb: 1874.

Sir,

I had the honor of addressing your Excellency on the 21st Oct^r.

As the affairs of this government - Fokien and Chekiang - are interesting to your Excellency I will recount facts, and leave your Excellency to make your own deductions.

During the last three or four weeks the war - or what the Chinese call national - party has evidently gained an ascendancy. The conviction had been fixed upon many or most of the higher officials that organic change was necessary to preserve the existence of China. It is certain that some high mandarins accepted the opinion ascribed to Li Hung Chang that a war with Japan, probably involving defeat and humiliation at the outset was not necessary to effect the overturn the obstructive and stupid officialdom, which will not be displaced without a very serious and prolonged struggle which might even jeopardise the stability of the present dynasty. From the Chinese point

To His Excellency
Tomonori Suwakura.

Yedo.