

I have drawn as requested what might be used as a form for a Declaration of war in case such a step was contemplated by this Empire. It is a mere skeleton without the vitals which ^{it} might be thought advisable to insert of the cause of events which made the act necessary; and which would be the real essential and important part of the instrument.

The form of such a Declaration is unessential; and as a matter of fact was more frequently than otherwise occur without any such proclamation. An armed collision of the national forces of two states constitutes an act of war and ~~should~~ should it occur ^{would} ~~any~~ probably be a proper occasion for a state to announce for the information of the world and in respect for those nations with whom it is on terms of amity ^{authoritatively} the cause which had impelled it to the step.

Understand clearly that I see nothing in the information which I have gathered ^{from} the several documents placed in my hands that calls at this time for such an act by this Government. The steps hitherto taken as gathered from those documents seem to have been well considered ^{and discreet} and doubtless this Government will continue the same wise and cautious policy. Should an attempt be made

by China to expel the forces of this Empire which now occupy a portion of Formosa it would be an act of actual war. Doubtless the General Commanding has explicit orders for such a contingency and the consequence would be that a state of war existed between the two states without any formal declaration.

The memorandum furnished me though too lengthy to be made a part of such a declaration furnishes the necessary facts from which it could be prepared and which if such a collision as mentioned should occur would together with a recital of ~~such~~ ^{the same} ~~a collision~~ furnish a rational cause for the prosecution of war and of appeal for the sympathy of friendly states. Such events occurring many consequences would follow which I may go into more fully in future. The subjects of the enemy state may be driven from the limits of the Empire but this although an undoubted right of war is not always exercised and very many considerations would have their weight in shaping the nation's policy. Trade between the subjects of the belligerent states would be of course prohibited this and more could be included in a proclamation of war but would be perhaps more conveniently if not more properly announced in distinct decrees. The questions which might arise in the

relation of this Empire with other states touching private and neutral rights and Commercial Privileges - under the peculiar and existing treaties would be multifarious and must be met as they arise.

We. Muts 'hito

By the grace
of God Tennō of the Empire of
Japan and Established upon the Imperial
Throne of our Eternal and uninterrupted
dynasty; being ever anxious to preserve
untarnished the imperial honor and
glory, and to uphold and continue
the good works of our ancestors; do
make and publish this our imperial
proclamation to all whom it may concern;
and do enjoin the same on all our
good subjects:

Our imperial troops
having been dispatched to Formosa
to avenge the wrong and insult to
our nation, the wicked tribes there were
punished, the more peaceable ones
conciliated, and we were able after a
few days to settle all difficulties, and
secure the complete success of the imperial
mission.

mission.

But then upon the Chinese Government manifested a disposition to interfere, and took occasion to offer most unjust and insulting objections to our most rightful Enterprise; and repeating to us many falsehoods, rejected the proposals offered by our special Imperial Ambassador, refused an audience to our Minister Resident, and have thus inflicted upon us the utmost indignity and insult.

We have by our military prowess and our patriotism maintained our national independence during the one hundred and twenty-five Imperial reigns, and for more than twenty-five centuries, and have never yet suffered unavenged national wrong and insult from any foreign State, since the Establishment of our national

Capital

Capital at Kashwa bara; and if we should now endure the affront put upon us in our own reign without avenging it how can we uphold the national Sovereignty of Great Japan or preserve undiminished the Imperial glory of our ancestors without dishonor?

This has determined us to vindicate our right and dignity towards China by appealing to God, and by the force of arms.

You therefore our good and loyal subjects will perceive the necessity of our act, ^{and} ~~will~~ do honor to the military prowess of our Empire by your united and patriotic zeal for our country; sparing no effort of intelligence or courage - and disregarding your lives, to compel the enemy to offer a peace honorable to us, by turning their hearts from the arrogance and injustice which now govern their Councils.

Translation

^{we}
~~we~~, Muts-hito, the Tenno of
 the Empire of Japan, by the
 grace of God ascending the Imperial
 throne of our eternal and unin-
 terrupted dynasty, being always
 very anxious to continue the great
 works of our ancestors do hereby
 proclaim and enjoin to all whom
 the present may concern: Our
 troops being despatched to Formosa
 to avenge our national insult, the
 wicked tribes were punished, the
 good ones were conciliated and in
 a few days we were enabled to
 settle the affairs. But^x then, the
 Chinese government made some
 unjust objections to oppose our
 rightful enterprise and they pretending
 several falsehoods, rejected the proposals

of our Special Ambassador and refused the Audience to our resident Minister; they thus inflicted, upon us, the utmost insult and dishonour. We have maintained our national independence by our military prowess, during the hundred and twenty four Imperial reigns and for more than twenty-five centuries and we have never suffered the national insult from ~~any~~ foreign state, since the first establishment of our national Capital at ~~Kashima~~ ^{Kashima}-bara. But, if we would now endure the affront done to us in our reign, without taking the satisfaction for it, how could we hold up the national Sovereignty of our Great Japan and how could we stand in the face of our Ancestors with any honour? This has determined us to vindicate our rights and dignity towards China by swearing to God

and by the employment of force. You, the loyal Subjects, shall perceive the necessity of our actions, display the military prowess of our Empire by your united ~~Leal~~ and patriotic Leal for your Country, not sparing any effort of your intelligence ~~and~~ ^{and} courage and regardless of your lives, and to make the enemies apply for peace honourable for us, by turning their hearts from the arrogance and injustice now swaying their Councils. Respect this.

(the imperial)
Leal

Tennō's name

By order

Daijō-dai-jin.