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October, 1874, Tokio.

Sir,

I have the honor to communicate you, that as you have consented to be employed as a pilot for our government, you are desired to act according to the orders given by our office or its agent.

During your engagement, the sum of five hundred fifty yens (550 yens) in Japanese currency shall be given you as your salary on the last of every month. If you should ever be employed in the war-like operations, a special contract should be concluded with you to that effect. Should you consent to these propositions, you are desired

to

Alfred Koper Esq^{re}

to return a speedy answer.
I take this opportunity to
express my regard toward
you.

Okuma Shigenobu
Chief of
Banchi-jimukoku