ABOLITION OF FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS
IN KOREA

Protocol signed at Seoul April 21, 1913
Approved on behalf of the United States, with an understanding, by
exchange of notes between the American Ambassador at Tokyo
and the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs dated October 2,
1913, and March 20, 1914
Terminated April 1, 1914

1914 For. Rel. 435

I. The Foreign Settlements in Chosen, namely: Chemulpo, Chinnampo,
Kunsan, Mokpo, Masampo, and Songchin shall be incorporated with the
respective newly organized Communes of Chosen to which they appropriately
belong.

II. When such incorporation takes place the competent local authorities
shall assume all the duties and obligations of local administration hitherto
performed and incurred by the Municipal Councils of the said Foreign Settle­
ments, including public works, sanitation, etc.

III. The common funds and property, if any, belonging to the Municipal
Councils of the said Foreign Settlements shall be transferred to the local
authorities concerned.

IV. The holders of leases in perpetuity of land within the circumscriptions
of the said Foreign Settlements shall be allowed the option of converting the
said leases in perpetuity to actual ownership. Such ownership shall be on the
same basis as that of Japanese subjects in Chosen.

V. When such conversions have been made and registered the owners of
the said land shall be accorded national and most favoured nation treatment
in all that concerns the use and enjoyment of such land and houses thereon,
as well as in the matter of imposts, taxes, and rates leviable on such land and
houses. The conversions and registrations aforesaid shall be made without any
taxes, fees, or charges whatever.

VI. In case such option is not availed of, the rights created by the said
leases in perpetuity, not inconsistent with the arrangements agreed to in the
present Protocol, shall continue to be duly respected. In the matter of im­

1 For text, see 1914 For. Rel. 437. The U.S. note contained the understanding that “in
the event of subsequent modifications of the terms . . . American citizens shall not be
placed in a less favorable position than the nationals of the other powers concerned.”
2 Date on which the Government General of Chosen put into force its ordinance for
carrying into effect the abolition of foreign settlements.
posts, taxes, and rates leviable in respect of the leased land and houses thereon under the second clause of the leases in perpetuity the following adjustment shall be made:

(a) A sufficient sum shall be appropriated out of, and not in excess of, the ground rent payable in respect of the leased land in question to cover national land and house taxes leviable on the said leased land and houses thereon were such land held by an actual owner;

(b) In case the remainder, if any, of the said ground rent equals the local and municipal taxes and rates leviable on the said leased land and houses thereon were such land held by an actual owner the said land and houses shall be exempt from all such local and municipal taxes and rates;

(c) In case the remainder of the said ground rent exceeds the local and municipal taxes and rates leviable on the said leased land and houses thereon were such land held by an actual owner the surplus shall be refunded;

(d) In case the local and municipal taxes and rates leviable on the said leased land and houses thereon were such land held by an actual owner exceed the remainder of the said ground rent the said land and houses shall be liable to taxes and rates to an extent sufficient to make the local and municipal taxes and rates on such land and houses equal to the local and municipal taxes and rates leviable on the leased land and houses thereon were such land held by an actual owner.

VII. The holders of leases in perpetuity aforesaid shall be accorded national and most favoured nation treatment in the matter of imposts, taxes, and rates of whatever kind and nature, whether national, local, or municipal, not otherwise provided for in the present Protocol.

VIII. The competent Registry Offices in Chosen shall undertake due registration of the leases in perpetuity aforesaid as well as subsidiary rights relating thereto. Such registration, consistently with the provisions of law, shall be available against third parties. Legalized copies of the existing Consular registrations relating to the said subsidiary rights shall be transferred to the competent Registry Offices. Registrations so transferred shall continue to have the same force and value as they had in the Consular Offices in which such registrations were effected.

With regard to the leases in perpetuity on which mortgages exist in the Consular Registers concerned at the time of the abolition of the system of Foreign Settlements no registration shall be made in respect of the transfer of such leases in perpetuity to a third party or their conversion to actual ownership, or the cancellation of subsidiary rights relating thereto, except upon the written application of the holders of the said leases in perpetuity or their duly authorized agents certified by their Consular Representatives. This arrangement, however, shall not affect cases where leases in perpetuity are disposed of in default of payment of rent, taxes or rates, or by virtue of legal process.
IX. The existing Public Gardens in the Foreign Settlements shall be main-
tained in good order and condition by the authorities concerned; and their
respective areas shall not be diminished except for public purposes.

X. The existing Foreign Cemeteries in the Foreign Settlements shall be
maintained by local foreign residents, in conformity with the laws and ordi-
nances governing cemeteries, crematories, burial, cremation, etc., free of all
taxes and rates. The sum of Twenty Thousand Yen (Y. 20,000) or so much
thereof as may be necessary shall be appropriated for this purpose out of the
property belonging to the Municipal Council of the General Foreign Settle-
ment at Chemulpo.

Done at Seoul (Keijo), Chosen, the 21st day of April, 1913.

GEO. H. SCIDMORE, Consul-General of the United States of America.
KEUGER, DR., German Consul-General.
J. BRIBOSIA, Consul-General for Belgium.
J. LUTSCHO, Consul-General for Russia.
A. M. CHALMERS, His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General for Corea.
R. ANDRÉ, Acting Consul for France.
A. M. CHALMERS, His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General for Corea, In Charge of Italian
Interests.
MIDORI KOMATZU, Director of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs of the Government General
of Chosen.