

CHINA: EMBARGO ON ARMS

Joint note of Diplomatic Body, Peking, May 5, 1919

Entered into force May 5, 1919

*Terminated April 26, 1929*¹

1919 For. Rel. (I) 670

NOTE FROM DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC BODY TO CHINESE ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS²

[PEKING, *May 5, 1919.*]

SIR: The Diplomatic Body in considering the present state of disunion between North and South in China have been impressed by the fact that the continued possibility of importing military arms and ammunition into the country from abroad could not but exercise a disturbing influence, and as the friendly Powers here represented are firmly determined to discountenance any condition or action which might favour the reversion to hostilities, I am desired by my Colleagues to make the following communication to the Chinese Government.

The Governments of Great Britain, Spain, Portugal, the United States, Russia, Brazil, France and Japan have agreed effectively to restrain their subjects and citizens from exporting to or importing into China arms and munitions of war and material destined exclusively for their manufacture until the establishment of a government whose authority is recognized throughout the whole country and also to prohibit during the above period the delivery of arms and munitions for which contracts have already been made but not executed.

The Representatives of the Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium and Italy are also in full accord with the above policy, but await the instructions of their respective Governments before announcing the adherence of the latter.

The Foreign Representatives desire to express the earnest hope that the Chinese Government in keeping with this policy will on their part agree to suspend the issue of permits to import military arms, ammunition and munitions of war and will direct the Customs that the introduction of such articles is absolutely prohibited.

[I avail myself, etc.]

J. N. JORDAN]

¹ For text of a joint note from the Diplomatic Body at Peking informing the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs of the cancellation of the agreement, see 1929 For. Rel. (II) 529.

² The Chinese Acting Foreign Minister was Ch'en Lu.