FOREIGN RADIO STATIONS IN CHINA

Resolution adopted by the Conference on the Limitation of Armament at Washington February 1, 1922, with accompanying declarations


RESOLUTION REGARDING RADIO STATIONS IN CHINA, AND ACCOMPANYING DECLARATIONS

The representatives of the Powers hereinafter named participating in the discussion of Pacific and Far Eastern questions in the Conference on the Limitation of Armament, to wit, the United States of America, Belgium, the British Empire, China, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and Portugal,

Have resolved

1. That all radio stations in China, whether maintained under the provisions of the International Protocol of September 7, 1901,† or in fact maintained in the grounds of any of the foreign Legations in China, shall be limited in their use to sending and receiving government messages and shall not receive or send commercial or personal or unofficial messages, including press matter: Provided, however, that in case all other telegraphic communication is interrupted, then, upon official notification accompanied by proof of such interruption to the Chinese Ministry of Communications, such stations may afford temporary facilities for commercial, personal or unofficial messages, including press matter, until the Chinese Government has given notice of the termination of the interruption;

2. All radio stations operated within the territory of China by a foreign Government or the citizens or subjects thereof under treaties or concessions of the Government of China, shall limit the messages sent and received by the terms of the treaties or concessions under which the respective stations are maintained;

† TS 397, ante, vol. 1, p. 302.
3. In case there be any radio station maintained in the territory of China by a foreign Government or citizens or subjects thereof without the authority of the Chinese Government, such station and all the plant, apparatus and material thereof shall be transferred to and taken over by the Government of China, to be operated under the direction of the Chinese Ministry of Communications under fair and full compensation to the owners for the value of the installation, as soon as the Chinese Ministry of Communications is prepared to operate the same effectively for the general public benefit;

4. If any questions shall arise as to the radio stations in leased territories, in the South Manchurian Railway Zone or in the French Concession at Shanghai, they shall be regarded as matters for discussion between the Chinese Government and the Government concerned;

5. The owners or managers of all radio stations maintained in the territory of China by foreign Powers or citizens or subjects thereof shall confer with the Chinese Ministry of Communications for the purpose of seeking a common arrangement to avoid interference in the use of wave lengths by wireless stations in China, subject to such general arrangements as may be made by an international conference convened for the revision of the rules established by the International Radio Telegraph Convention, signed at London, July 5, 1912.²

[For parties, see bracketed note p. 331.]

Declaration Concerning the Resolution Regarding Radio Stations in China ³

The Powers other than China declare that nothing in paragraphs 3 or 4 of the Resolution of December 7th, 1921,⁴ is to be deemed to be an expression of opinion by the Conference as to whether the stations referred to therein are or are not authorized by China.

They further give notice that the result of any discussion arising under paragraph 4 must, if it is not to be subject to objection by them, conform with the principle of the open door or equality of opportunity approved by the Conference.

Declaration by the Chinese Delegation Concerning Radio Stations in China ³

The Chinese Delegation takes this occasion formally to declare that the Chinese Government does not recognize or concede the right of any foreign Power or of the nationals thereof to install or operate, without its express consent, radio stations in Legation grounds, settlements, concessions, leased territories, railway areas or other similar areas.

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² TS 581, ante, vol. 1, p. 883.
³ Recorded in the minutes of the plenary session of Feb. 1, 1922.
⁴ Dec. 7, 1921, was the date on which the resolution regarding radio stations in China was first submitted to the Committee on Pacific and Far Eastern Questions.