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EXCHANGE OF NOTES

BETWEEN THE

UNITED KINGDOM AND RUSSIA

WITH REGARD TO THEIR

RESPECTIVE RAILWAY INTERESTS IN
CHINA.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
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EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE UNITED
KINGDOM AND RUSSIA WITH REGARD TO
THEIR RESPECTIVE RAILWAY INTERESTS
IN CHINA.

No. 1.

Sir C. Scott to Count Mouravieff.

THE Undersigned, British Ambassador, duly authorized to that effect, has the honour to make the following declaration to his Excellency Count Mouravieff, Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs:—

Great Britain and Russia, animated by a sincere desire to avoid in China all cause of conflict on questions where their interests meet, and taking into consideration the economic and geographical gravitation of certain parts of that Empire, have agreed as follows:—

1. Great Britain engages not to seek for her own account, or on behalf of British subjects or of others, any railway Concessions to the north of the Great Wall of China, and not to obstruct, directly or indirectly, applications for railway Concessions in that region supported by the Russian Government.

2. Russia, on her part, engages not to seek for her own account, or on behalf of Russian subjects or of others, any railway Concessions in the basin of the Yang-tsze, and not to obstruct, directly or indirectly, applications for railway Concessions in that region supported by the British Government.

The two Contracting Parties, having nowise in view to infringe in any way the sovereign rights of China or existing Treaties, will not fail to communicate to the Chinese Government the present arrangement, which, by averting all cause of complications between them, is of a nature to consolidate peace in the Far East, and to serve the primordial interests of China herself.

(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

St. Petersburg, April 28, 1899.

Count Mouravieff to Sir C. Scott.

LE Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de Russie, dûment autorisé à cet effet, a l'honneur de faire à son Excellence Sir Charles Scott, Ambassadeur Britannique, la déclaration suivante :—

La Russie et la Grande-Bretagne, animées du sincère désir d'éviter en Chine toute cause de conflits dans les questions où leurs intérêts se rencontrent et prenant en considération la gravitation économique et géographique de certaines parties de cet Empire, sont convenues de ce qui suit :—

1. La Russie s'engage à ne pas réclamer pour son compte et en faveur de sujets Russes ou autres des Concessions quelconques de chemins de fer dans le bassin du Yang-tzé et à ne pas contrecarrer directement ou indirectement dans cette région les demandes de Concessions de chemin de fer, appuyées par le Gouvernement Britannique.

2. La Grande-Bretagne, de son côté, s'engage à ne pas réclamer pour son compte et en faveur de sujets Britanniques ou autres des Concessions quelconques de chemins de fer au nord du Grand Mur de Chine et à ne pas contrecarrer directement ou indirectement dans cette région les demandes de Concessions de chemins de fer, appuyées par le Gouvernement Russe.

Les deux Parties Contractantes, n'ayant nullement en vue de porter une atteinte quelconque aux droits souverains de la Chine, ainsi qu'aux Traités existants, ne manqueront pas de faire part au Gouvernement Chinois du présent arrangement qui, en écartant toute cause de complication entre elles, est de nature à consolider la paix dans l'Extrême-Orient et à servir aux intérêts primordiaux de la Chine elle-même.

Le Soussigné, &c.

(Signé) Comte MOURAVIEFF.

Saint-Petersbourg, le 16 (28) Avril, 1899.

(Translation.)

THE Undersigned, Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, duly authorized to that effect, has the honour to make the following declaration to his Excellency Sir Charles Scott, British Ambassador :—

Russia and Great Britain, animated by the sincere desire to avoid in China all cause of conflict on questions where their interests meet, and taking into consideration the economic and geographical gravitation of certain parts of that Empire, have agreed as follows :—

1. Russia engages not to seek for her own account, or on behalf of Russian subjects or of others, any railway Concessions in the basin of the Yang-tsze, and not to obstruct, directly or

indirectly, applications for railway Concessions in that region supported by the British Government.

2. Great Britain, on her part, engages not to seek for her own account, and on behalf of British subjects or of others, any railway Concessions to the north of the Great Wall of China, and not to obstruct, directly or indirectly, applications for railway Concessions in that region supported by the Russian Government.

The two Contracting Parties, having nowise in view to infringe in any way the sovereign rights of China or of existing Treaties, will not fail to communicate to the Chinese Government the present arrangement, which, by averting all cause of complication between them, is of a nature to consolidate peace in the Far East, and to serve the primordial interests of China herself.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

Count MOURAVIEFF.

St. Petersburg, April 16 (28), 1899.

No. 3.

Sir C. Scott to Count Mouravieff.

IN order to complete the notes exchanged this day respecting the partition of spheres for Concessions for the construction and working of railways in China, it has been agreed to record in the present additional note the arrangement arrived at with regard to the line Shanghaikuan-Newchwang, for the construction of which a loan has been already contracted by the Chinese Government with the Shanghae-Hong Kong Bank, acting on behalf of the British and Chinese Corporation.

The general arrangement established by the above-mentioned notes is not to infringe in any way the rights acquired under the said Loan Contract, and the Chinese Government may appoint both an English engineer and an European accountant to supervise the construction of the line in question, and the expenditure of the money appropriated to it.

But it remains understood that this fact cannot be taken as constituting a right of property or foreign control, and that the line in question is to remain a Chinese line, under the control of the Chinese Government, and cannot be mortgaged or alienated to a non-Chinese Company.

As regards the branch line from Siaoheichan to Sinminting, in addition to the aforesaid restrictions, it has been agreed that it is to be constructed by China herself, who may permit European—not necessarily British—engineers to periodically inspect it, and to verify and certify that the work is being properly executed.

The present special Agreement is naturally not to interfere in any way with the right of the Russian Government to support, if it thinks fit, applications of Russian subjects or establishments for Concessions for railways, which, starting from the main Manchurian

line in a south-westerly direction, would traverse the region in which the Chinese line terminating at Sinminting and Newchwang is to be constructed.

(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

St. Petersburg, April 23, 1899.

No. 4.

Count Mouravieff to Sir C. Scott.

POUR compléter les notes échangées aujourd'hui concernant la répartition des sphères de Concessions et l'exploitation des chemins de fer en Chine, il a été convenu de consigner dans la présente note additionnelle l'Accord survenu au sujet de la ligne Shanghai-kuan-Newchwang, pour la construction de laquelle un emprunt a déjà été contracté par le Gouvernement Chinois à la Banque de Shanghai-Hong Kong, agissant au nom de la "British and Chinese Corporation."

L'arrangement général, établi par les notes précitées, ne portera aucune atteinte aux droits acquis en vertu du Contrat de l'emprunt susdit, et il sera loisible au Gouvernement Chinois de nommer tant un ingénieur Anglais qu'un comptable Européen pour surveiller la construction de la ligne de chemin de fer en question et la dépense des sommes y affectées. Mais il reste bien entendu que ce fait ne saurait constituer un droit de propriété ou de contrôle étranger et que la ligne en question doit rester Chinoise, soumise au contrôle du Gouvernement Chinois, et ne pourra être engagée ou aliénée à une Compagnie non Chinoise.

Pour ce qui est de l'embranchement, se dirigeant de Siaoheichan à Sinminting, outre les restrictions susdites, il a été convenu qu'il sera construit par la Chine elle-même, qui pourra admettre des ingénieurs Européens—pas nécessairement Anglais—pour l'inspecter périodiquement, vérifier et certifier que les travaux sont dûment exécutés.

Le présent Accord spécial ne saurait, naturellement, entraver d'aucune façon le droit du Gouvernement Russe d'appuyer, s'il le juge opportun, des demandes de sujets ou établissements Russes, relatives à des Concessions de chemins de fer qui, partant de la ligne principale de Mandchourie et se dirigeant au sud-ouest, traverseraient la région où sera construite la ligne Chinoise aboutissant à Sinminting et Newchwang.

Le Soussigné, &c.

(Signé) Comte MOURAVIEFF.

Saint-Petersbourg, le 16 (28) Avril, 1899.

(Translation.)

In order to complete the notes exchanged this day respecting the partition of spheres for Concessions for the construction and

working of railways in China, it has been agreed to record in the present additional note the Agreement arrived at with regard to the line Shanghai-Kuan-Newchwang, for the construction of which a loan has been already contracted by the Chinese Government with the Shanghai-Hong Kong Bank, acting on behalf of the British and Chinese Corporation.

The general arrangement established by the above-mentioned notes is not to infringe in any way the rights acquired under the said Loan Contract, and the Chinese Government is at liberty to appoint both an English engineer and a European accountant to supervise the construction of the line in question and the expenditure of the money appropriated to it. But it remains well understood that this fact cannot be taken as constituting a right of property or foreign control, and that the line in question is to remain a Chinese line, subject to the control of the Chinese Government, and cannot be mortgaged or alienated to a non-Chinese Company.

As regards the branch line from Siaoheichan to Sinminting, in addition to the aforesaid restrictions, it has been agreed that it is to be constructed by China herself, who may permit European—not necessarily British—engineers to periodically inspect it, and to verify and certify that the works are being properly executed.

The present special Agreement is naturally not to interfere in any way with the right of the Russian Government to support, if it think fit, applications of Russian subjects or establishments for Concessions for railways, which, starting from the main Manchurian line in a south-westerly direction, would traverse the region in which the Chinese line terminating at Sinminting and Newchwang is to be constructed.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed)

Count MOURAVIEFF.

St. Petersburg, April 16 (28), 1899.
