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PROTOCOL.

In the course of the conversations between the Japanese Special Ambassador and the Secretary of State of the United States which have led to the exchange of notes between them dated this day, declaring the policy of the two Governments with regard to China, the question of embodying the following clause in such declaration came up for discussion: "they [the Governments of Japan and the United States] will not take advantage of the present conditions to seek special rights or privileges in China which would stridge the rights of the subjects or citizens of other friendly states."

Upon careful examination of the question, it was agreed that the clause above quoted being superfluous in the relations of the two governments and liable to create erroneous impression in the minds of the public, should be eliminated from the declaration.

It was, however, well understood that the principle enunciated in the clause which was thus suppressed was in full accord with the declared policy of the two Governments.

In Witness

In regard to China.

K. Ishii

Robert Lansing

Done in duplicate at

WASHINGTON,

November 2, 1917.