

[Page 11, Upper Left]

Volume 63

Telegraph from Li Hongzhang, Viceroy of Zhili¹, to Forward to Central Foreign Office Minister Plenipotentiary Zheng's² Telegraph regarding the Persecution of Chinese Immigrant Laborers in the US

On the 11th,³ Minister Plenipotentiary Zheng sent the following telegraph from America:

Following the **Rock Spring** Riot, murder befell three Chinese laborers in Seattle. In Buzengwen Coal Mine⁴, Chinese miners' properties were damaged. Many other regions see cases of expelling Chinese laborers. In Alumei Coal Mine⁵, [Chinese laborers'] clothing and other properties were searched and plundered. The criminals were arrested but not yet brought to trial. Attempts to burn the mountain and bomb [people] were made, but [those attempts] ended up abortive.⁶ Other regions also had plans of driving out Chinese immigrants. [But the plans] were stopped. Such were the riots and developments before the 12th Month. As for the matters about which I communicated with the [US] Department of State, I have provided detailed accounts of them in my confidential letters of the 13th and 14th Days of the 6th Month.⁷ Recently, Chinese immigrants in Seattle were once again expelled and urged to move out. The [US] Department State managed to have troops deployed. One white gangster was resultantly killed and four were injured. The president also [took action by] issuing an official notice. The Chinese immigrants have not completely moved out. Frightening rumors are running particularly wild around Western America. Unemployed Chinese immigrants are numerous. The attitude of the president and the Department of State is still constructive, but the local officials [in western states] do not perform their duties conscientiously.

[Page 11, Lower Right]

¹ Now Hebei Province.

² i.e. Zheng Zaoru (born 1824, died 1894), then Minister Plenipotentiary in America.

³ There lacks information regarding the year in which this communication was made. But the present translator judges this date to be February 14th, 1886.

⁴ The exact identity of "Buzengwen" in the US is unclear. The "Buzengwen" is only a Mandarin transliteration. The Cantonese pronunciation of the word, however, inclines the present translator to suspect that it refers to either Pacific or Pierce on Clearwater River, WA.

⁵ The "Alumei" is a Mandarin transliteration. The identity of this mine is unclear. The present translator wonders whether it refers to Olympia, WA.

⁶ The text is unclear here as regards exactly which mountain was burned and who the intended target of the bombing was.

⁷ i.e. the 24th and 25th of July, 1885

It would be of little use to urge them inside America. Moreover, [urging them inside America] may prove to be something done at the risk of causing bad disasters. I wondered if I could appeal to Central Foreign Office for [diplomatic action] based on bilateral agreements. [By that I mean] issuing a note to American ambassador in Beijing to ask him to telegraph [American] president a request for immediate measures taken to protect the Chinese immigrants in those regions, to relieve the victims from the current disasters, and, in doing so, to ensure long-term peace and safety [in the US]. By the way, please keep what I said about their bad habits in my earlier letter confidential. One more thing, there may have been unknown complicated factors behind the murder of five Chinese immigrants that took place last autumn. So, I am considering delaying my mention of it for the time being. [The word] “Sidilu” refers to none other than Seattle.

[Li Hongzhang’s comment:] Your review and consideration of [Zheng’s suggestion] would be appreciated. [Date:] the 13th of the 1st Month.⁸

Telegraph from Board of Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of San Francisco to Central Foreign Office regarding Massacre of Chinese and Requesting [the Office’s Action] to Demand Protection from US Government

Now there has been another riotous conflict between natives of San Francisco and Chinese [immigrants]. Common people in America and businessmen both suffered from it.

[Page 11, Lower Left]

Their properties of about 500,000-cash money worth were ruined. About 40 common people in America were killed. And there has been no compensation made. Therefore, many common people are horrified by the gangsters and are fleeing. Many Chinese and Western businessmen are suffering badly from this riot, a riot that has put the life and properties of common people and all laborers in great danger. It is to be pointed out that this is obviously a violation of the treatise of 1880 and it is something that we must report to your office. Please be sure to demand the US government to take measures to protect Chinese and Western businessmen and to restore peace for common people in America. That would be most desirable and most appreciated.

Yours,

Board of Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of San Francisco

The 14th Day of the 1st Month⁹

Telegraph from Li Hongzhang, Viceroy of Zhili, to Forward to the Central Foreign Office Minister Plenipotentiary Zheng’s Telegraph regarding the [US] Submission of the Rock Spring

⁸ i.e. February 16, 1886.

⁹ i.e. February 17, 1886.

Case to the Congress for Discussion of Compensation

Minister Plenipotentiary Zheng has sent the following telegraph,

A reply was received on the 16th from American [government] to notify [me] of [their] submission of the Rock Spring Case to the Congress for discussion of compensation. [I will] wait for the [outcome] of the discussion. If [the outcome] turns out to be unfair, then [I] will refute it. Moreover, [the US] Department of State indicates [a proposal] of sending back [the Chinese immigrant laborers] with severance pay. I am afraid that what hides behind this so-called sending back with severance pay was possibly a real intention to expel [the laborers] so as to shirk any future responsibilities of protecting Chinese immigrants from persecutions. That would lead to a lot of trouble in the future. I therefore did not agree. Your honor's forwarding this message to the Foreign Office would be appreciated.

[Date:] the 20th Day of the 1st Month.¹⁰

Telegraph from Zhang Zhidong¹¹, Viceroy of Two-Guang Prefecture, to Ask Council of State to Have Minister Plenipotentiary Zheng Negotiate with American [Government] about Protection of Chinese Immigrant Laborers

Chinese businessmen in Hong Kong jointly telegraphed [me] to report [their] receipt of a telegraph from Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of San Francisco regarding Americans' attack on Chinese immigrants, a calamity that caused arson and vandalism of properties as well as numerous injuries and deaths among over 500,000 people. Because Chinese immigrants can find no peace in life, they ask [the businessmen in Hong Kong] to submit a report to viceroy of Two-Guang Prefecture and notify the I-yu Tang¹². Since the I-yu Tang is a public organization for Cantonese gentry and businessmen, [notifying the organization] would certainly stir up public indignation and possibly bring about riot in Guangdong¹³. Recently English and American consuls

[Page 15, Lower Left]

wrote to express [to me] their worries and concerns. [I] have issued a notice to I-yu Tang and Tung Wah Hospital of Hong Kong, cautioning them against spreading news [about the calamity] at this time when the Imperial Court is doing its best to negotiate [with US government] about protecting [Chinese immigrants]. [And I have] requested that they¹⁴ send telegraphs to their countries to request enforcement of

¹⁰ i.e. February 23, 1886.

¹¹ Zhang Zhidong (born 1837, died 1909), viceroy of Two-Guang Prefecture from 1884 to 1889. Two-Guang refers to Guangdong and Guangxi.

¹² I-yu Tang, name of a charity organization in Guangdong at that time.

¹³ Guangdong is also known as Canton in English.

¹⁴ Examined in the context, this "they" seems more likely to mean the consuls rather than to refer to I-yu Tang and Tung Wah Hospital, though no specification or implication is made in the original text.

security regulations, restoration of peace and order, and prevention against future riots. In my humble opinion, to pacify a commotion, one needs to trace its source first. [In the present case,] I would take liberty to earnestly appeal to you for your precept issued to order the Central Foreign Office to telegraph Minister Plenipotentiary Zheng immediately so as to have the minister communicate with US president and request the president's utmost effort to pacify the worries of the Westerners in China by ensuring both the safety of [Chinese immigrants in the US] and the punishment [of the criminals in the riot]. Public anger will dissolve by itself once there is a positive turn in the case summarized in that telegraph from **San Francisco**. Your forwarding this message as a memorial to the throne would be appreciated. [Date:] the 20th Day of the 1st Month¹⁵

[Page 51, Lower Right]

Volume 66

Telegraph from Two-Guang Viceroy Zhang Zhidong to Inform the Central Foreign Office of [Both] American Ambassador's Visit to Guangdong to Discuss the **Rock Spring Riot and the Ambassador's Promise to Telegraph the US Government with imperial edict enclosed**

[Page 51, Lower Left]

Recently I received another letter from **San Francisco**, which was jointly written by 167 business firms including Guanglianxing, and in which [the businessmen] mournfully and earnestly asked me to forward their message. According to Minister Plenipotentiary Zheng's telegraph yesterday, full compensation for the **Rock Spring** and other cases could be expected, but there had been no final agreement reached about other issues. [Minister Plenipotentiary Zheng also said in the telegraph that] since peace had been temporary restored, the Chinese immigrants had not written to him [these days], and that he was gradually recovering from his illness. [I think the final agreement] is a matter of great importance. A proper way of handling this matter would be good to the overall situation. I would hence humbly and earnestly appeal for your Majesty's consideration of suspending Minister Plenipotentiary Zheng's return [to China], so he and Zhang Yinhuan¹⁶ could jointly handle the aftermaths of various earlier cases and discuss plans for future negotiations. The presence of an original negotiator would make it hard for their Department of State to make any twists [in what has been discussed and decided before]. Should I be honored with your Majesty's acceptance of this suggestion, I would be looking forward to your Majesty's telegraphing an Imperial Edict to Zhang Yinhuan and Zheng Zaoru. I have met with American ambassador Denby¹⁷ and treated him with much politeness and courtesy. [I] said to him that his part [of our cooperation] was to ensure the safety of Chinese immigrant laborers [in the US] while mine was to pacify the people in Guangdong. Denby looked pleased and somewhat ashamed. I asked him to telegraph their Department of State to [firstly,] enumerate the cases where

¹⁵ See Footnote No. 10.

¹⁶ Zhang Yinhuan (born in 1837, died in 1900), Chinese diplomat, known as Chang Yen Hoon in Cantonese. He succeeded Zheng Zaoru to act as Chinese Minister Plenipotentiary in the US as of 1886

¹⁷ Charles Denby (1830-1904), American diplomat.

Cantonese people treated American businessmen with kindness, and [secondly,] to urge [American government] to make compensation and to protect [Chinese immigrants]. He agreed [to send the telegraph]. His purpose of coming was to find out whether Chinese people of various regions were harboring any hatred toward America. Now [he] has left for Shantou and asked [me] to inform your Majesty of [his trip there]. On the 28th Day of the 3rd Month¹⁸, [the following] edict was telegraphed for Zheng Zaoru per the Imperial Instruction,

There has been no final decision made regarding the riot in **Rock Spring**. Once Zhang Yinhuan arrives, he must have Zheng Zaoru suspend [his] return to China until a proper plan to handle the aftermaths comes out of [your] joint review and discussion of various earlier cases.

[Page 63, Lower Left]

Volume 67

Memorial regarding Viceroy Zhang Zhidong's Report about the Case of Persecution of Chinese Immigrants in **San Francisco and Petition for Urging American [Government] to Punish Culprits¹⁹**

Two-Guang Viceroy Zhang Zhidong's memorial has both reported [his] handling of the aftermaths in Guangdong caused by the persecution of Chinese immigrants in **San Francisco** and, upon [his] receipt of a report from the businessmen in [his] prefecture, petitioned for a prefect to have a process initiated to urge American [government] to punish the culprits [in the said tragedy]. On the 4th Day of the 2nd Month,²⁰ I ratified a telegraph of Central Foreign Office that states in the name of the Imperial Edict received today that, according to a telegraph from London, there were Chinese immigrants killed and China was demanding compensation...²¹

[Page 90, Upper Right]

Volume 68

Communication from Li Hongzhang, Viceroy of Zhili, to Forward to Central Foreign Office a Telegraphy from Zhang Yinhuan regarding the Lack of Agreement on the Establishment of Embassy in Minor Luzon²²

On the 10th Day²³, Minister Zhang sent the following telegraph in reply:

Your honor's telegraph received. Department of Foreign Affairs of Spain has sent their formal reply regarding [our] sending officials to Minor Luzon. As of the matter of establishing an embassy in Minor Luzon, there has been no agreement reached. The case of Cuba is special. [The

¹⁸ i.e. May 1st, 1886.

¹⁹ The source or submitter of this memorial seems to be head of Council of State.

²⁰ i.e. March 9th, 1886

²¹ Translation discontinues here because this is the end of Page 63 while Page 64 is unavailable.

²² Now Luzon Island. Some say this term referred to Philippine at that time.

²³ i.e. August 9th, 1886

question] whether that [Cuban] case can be treated as precedence to follow is to be resolved in a proper negotiation after [my] arrival in Spain. Rashly sending a warship would only make it hard to reach any [bilateral] agreement. Your honor's communication with the Foreign Office via telegraph would be appreciated.

[Date:] the 11th Day of the 7th Month²⁴

Two Edicts Instructing Liu Bingzhang²⁵ and You Zhikai²⁶ to Impartially Investigate and Settle the Case of Riotous Conflict between Religious and Lay Residents of Sichuan Prefecture

Imperial Edict: [I] have completed [my] review of [your] submitted communications, [which include, firstly,] a memorial from the Foreign Office that reports their review and discussion of an official account by You Zhikai regarding the destruction of churches in Yu²⁷, and [secondly,] Luo Jinshen's report about this riotous event with [his] petition for monarchical instruction to have various relevant memorials and reports verified and reviewed. [What I see in the said communications] is a case of truly outrages and unruly conduct, in which a local examinee of military-service examination paid no heed to regulations and, riding on a wave of massive followers and taking advantage of Americans' publicly controversial act of establishing churches at Exiangjing and other places [in Yu], tore down those churches by force. [Moreover, such riotous attack] was extended to the [local] churches of several other countries. One must never allow such practice and trend to continue. In an earlier edict, [I] have instructed Liu Bingzhang to closely

[Page 90, Upper Left]

investigate this case and settle it in a timely manner. The said viceroy [Liu Bingzhang] must have – by [my] estimation – reached [his] official post [in Sichuan Prefecture] by now. I hereby order [Liu Bingzhang] to conduct detailed investigation and justly settle this case with absolutely no partiality harbored in either party's favor. The person who initially stirred up this riot must be brought to severe trial in order to warn [others against following his example] in the future. As for the situations detected and reported by Supreme Military Commander Luo Jinshen in Yichang, they seem to be at vast variance with what is presented in You Zhikai's account with regard to the seriousness of the matter. It is reported that the militias at Qijiang in eastern Sichuan inflicted injuries on civilians in a conflict, and that there were over 400 houses and shops in the North-of-the-Yangtze-River Magistracy [in Yu] burned down by local Christians.²⁸ [Wondering] whether on earth all this is true, [I] hereby order Liu Bingzhang to send [me] a telegraph report. [Date:] The 14th Day of the 7th Month²⁹

²⁴ August 10th, 1886

²⁵ Liu Bingzhang (born 1826, died 1905), then viceroy of Sichuan Prefecture.

²⁶ You Zhikai (born 1816, died 1899), then governor-general of Sichuan Prefecture

²⁷ Yu: roughly today's City of Chongqing.

²⁸ The text is ambiguous as regards whether these were reported in You Kaizhi's account or in Luo Jinshen's

²⁹ i.e. August 13, 1886

Imperial Edict: [I] have completed [my] review of the memorial submitted by You Zhikai regarding [, firstly, his] mission of ascertaining the number of injured religious and lay residents [in Yu and secondly,] how the handling of the case currently proceeds. The religious leader in this event, Luo Yuanyi, admittedly deserves a punishment; because he anticipated those Yu residents' resentful visit [to him] by gathering in advance a group of ruffians to gang up on [those residents] and eventually caused 22 injuries and 11 deaths among them. But, reviews of investigations point to the conclusion that this event was initiated by those [lay] residents, who took advantage of the public outrage then and began to make trouble that ended up in physical conflict between two sides. Luo Yuanyi's household suffered eight injuries as well during this conflict. Moreover, people around the area responded to the event immediately by following suit. In Tongliang County and Dazu County, there began to be cases of attacking Christians. Whether the principal culprits are subjected to arrestment and severe punishment

[Page 90, Lower Right]

is not just a matter of convincing Luo Yuanyi of the judicial fairness [of the administration]. [It] has a lot to do with the matter of [redressing] the local custom and convention as well. [I] hereby order Liu Bingzhang to ensure with utmost certainty that the [two] criminals, Wang Mingtang and Shi Kaiyang, be arrested. The [said criminals'] identities are to be subject to Luo Yuanyi's unequivocal confirmation. This case must be settled in an impartial manner without imputing the entire conflict to Luo Yuanyi alone and thereby giving those local culprits the freedom to make trouble and arouse international disputes. Such is a matter of immense importance. [Date:] the 24th Day of the 7th Month.³⁰

**Memorial from Zhang Yinhuan, Chinese Minister Plenipotentiary
in the US, to Summarize the Case of Persecuting Chinese Laborers
in San Francisco and Report the Developments of Negotiation**

Zhang Yinhuan's Memorial: Your majesty's telegraphed Imperial Ordinance, which is dated the 28th Day of the 3rd Month³¹ [and quoted in full below]

There has been no final decision made regarding the riot in **Rock Spring**. Once Zhang Yinhuan arrives, he must have Zheng Zaoru suspend [his] return to China until a proper plan to handle the aftermaths comes out of [your] joint review and discussion of various earlier cases. With that, [I] conclude this Imperial Ordinance.

happened to [reach me] when Zheng Zaoru was about to embark on [his] journey back. I reverentially forwarded [to him] the telegraph and thereupon acted in obedience. It is found out through investigation that the land of various western states of America is vast but sparsely populated. Metropolises gradually grew out of decades of mining, land-reclaiming, and railway-constructing there. [Among them] **San Francisco** is particularly gross and thriving. In those [early] days, those projects [of regional development] relied entirely upon the enlisted Chinese immigrant laborers, who made a living by selling their labors, and whose number grew with time. That was a time

³⁰ i.e. August 23, 1886

³¹ See Footnote No. 18.

when there was the chaos in Guangdong caused by Cantonese and Hakka bandits. As regards the number of people who went overseas to make a living then, Xinning County alone claimed over 60,000.

[Page 90, Lower Left]

Elsewhere [in Guangdong], the numbers varied from county to county. Altogether, they amounted to over 100,000 people. These overseas Chinese in the US would support their families [back in Guangdong] with their monthly income. They were not content to see their grocery supplies and other daily supplies confined to what was available in Western communities. As a result, there began to be Chinese merchants who shipped goods for the Chinese laborers, hence the emergence of Chinese businesses and markets there. Because Chinese people are accustomed to working hard and the rate of [those laborers'] labor fee is low, many wealthy American businesspersons like to hire them. That has made [those immigrant laborers] the envy of the Irish community, who, for that reason, have long harbored resentful feelings against Chinese laborers. Those overseas Chinese are unwilling to be naturalized in the US. The rice they eat all year long is shipped all the way from Guangdong. The bodies and temporary graves [of deceased laborers] are shipped back to Guangdong within one or two years [of the laborers' deaths]. Those among Americans who are circumspect and far-sighted know that the Chinese laborers just rely on the US for making a living instead of regarding America as their land of bliss. The tens of millions of silver taels that has been sent back to China brings invisible benefit to China but a hidden worry of [financial] loss to the US. What the US collects is only the several million cash tariff and annual tax. However, although the levies are collected from Chinese merchants, [their] fundamental source is the Chinese laborers. So, it is the Chinese laborers' money that the US levies after all. Nowadays, those who resent the arrival of Chinese laborers are no longer limited to the Irish. Speaking of the reasons for which they despise the Chinese laborers, gambling and smoking are reasons that are particularly superficial. In the past, there was a message from the US Department of State about sending back the laborers with severance pay.³²

[Regarding this plan,] Zheng Zao-

[Page 91, Upper Right]

ru replied negatively, for this sending-back-with-severance-pay in name could be a kind of deportation in deed. Besides, America's deployment of armed forces to escort [Chinese immigrant laborers] could have been a measure taken under the pressure of public sense of righteousness. Those armed forces have now withdrawn in gradual succession. Regarding the **Rock Spring** case, what [the US] Congress talks mostly about is compensation; and the Department of State has been reacting rather evasively to the issue of bringing the culprits to trial. The five [similar] cases that currently remain unsettled are the riots that variously took place in Guli Coal Mine³³, Wulu Company³⁴ at Gilman³⁵, in Alumei Coal Mine³⁶, in Aolufei³⁷, in Liujinkeng³⁸, and in

³² What the exact message was is to be verified and ascertained by checking relevant historical documents issued by the US Department of State at that time, to which, the present translator currently has no access.

³³ The present translator suspects this to refer to Coal Creek.

³⁴ The identity of the company is unclear. In the present translator's judgment, however, the Chinese transliteration "Wulu" is very likely to refer to the Wolds.

Diqinbahua³⁹. Zheng Zaoru has presented a diplomatic note to their State Department. After [my] arrival [at my] post [in the US, I] will naturally supervise [Zheng Zaoru] to ensure a proper handling of the case. Riots such as these are emerging endlessly. My worry is that the US may eventually consider the presence of Chinese immigrants intolerable. Should all these several hundred thousands of people be deported one day and sent back to their places of origin, that would increase the burden of the local administration. For the time being, what can be done is to stop Chinese laborers from going [to the US]. Hopefully, that may contribute to neutralizing the jealousy [against Chinese immigrants]. Such is [an idea] that Zhang Zhidong and I spoke of during [our] discussion in Guangdong. [He and I,] in addition, communicated with the merchants and gentry in Hong Kong, asking them to persuade and advise local Cantonese [with this line of thought]. In recent couple of months, people who go [to America] have gradually become fewer and fewer in number. But the American restriction acts against Chinese immigrant laborers are increasing without stopping. Chinese merchants' business is restricted as if in suffocation. Facing a moment like this, what is of critical importance is to protect the Chinese immigrants' means of making living, to ensure the redressing of the [social] wrongs that have been accumulatively done [to them], to ensure the proper operation of Chinese merchants' [international] business, and to strengthen the ties of friendship between the two countries. Suddenly charged with this mission of immense importance, more than ever do I feel like a cautious person who is stepping on the thin ice of a river or someone standing on the very verge of a cliff. Please allow me to discuss with Zheng Zao-

[Page 91, Upper Left]

ru about the plans of properly dealing with the aftermaths before I can proceed to submit more memorials. The situation at the current stage of [our] negotiation with the US [government] is detailed in the enclosed file. [Date:] the 14th Day of the 7th Month in the 12th year under the reign of Emperor Guangxu.⁴⁰

The Imperial Edict [in Reply]: I see.

[Page 92, Lower Right]

Minister Plenipotentiary Zhang Yinhuan's Communication to the Foreign Office as [Both] a Reminder regarding [US] Prolonged Delay of Compensation for Rock Spring Tragedy and a Request to Urge Ambassador Denby's Inquiry into the Matter

The [US] Department of State firmly assured that compensations for the Rock Spring Case would be made before the Congress was dismissed. The matter has since been

³⁵ Today's Issaquah, WA.

³⁶ See Footnote No. 5.

³⁷ The "Aolufei" is a transliteration. The present translator wonders whether it refers to Oro Grande.

³⁸ The "Liujiengkeng" is a transliteration. What it refers to in the US is unclear.

³⁹ The "Diqinbahua" is a transliteration. The present translator wonders whether it refers to Deception Pass.

⁴⁰ i.e. August 13, 1886.

suspended for a long time with no follow-up news. Please ask Ambassador Denby to inquire into the matter to make certain that the promise does not lapse into a mere lip-service. [Date:] the 15th Day of the 7th Month⁴¹

[Page 134, Lower Right]

Volume 70

Minister Plenipotentiary Zhang Yinhuan's Telegraph to Central Foreign Office regarding Forwarding Rock Spring Compensation Received in Full and Signing Treaties (two pieces)

Yesterday, US president approved the payment of Rock Spring compensation in the amount of 147,000 cash. [Date:] the 4th Day of the 2nd Month⁴²

The 147,000 cash of Rock Spring compensation received in full shall be transferred to San Francisco. [Allocations of the compensation] shall be distributed per victims' [seriousness] of injury. The drafted treaty declares self-refrainment and stipulates for protection of [Chinese immigrants], thorough settlement of all accumulated cases, handing-over of convicts, and reduction of taxation on rice. Once [the American version of the] treaty is ready, the signing will take place and it will then be sent to the Central Foreign Office. The ship to Dan is scheduled to set off on the 1st Day of the 4th Month.⁴³ Forwarding of the message as a memorial to the throne would be appreciated. [Date:] the 8th of the 2nd Month⁴⁴

[Page 361, Upper Right]

Volume 83

Minister Plenipotentiary Cui Guoyin's⁴⁵ Report about US Abolishment of New Act of Expelling Chinese Immigrants in San Francisco

Cui Guoyin's Report: Regarding the San Francisco new act of detaining Chinese immigrants and compelling them to a designated place, I submitted a detailed report in an earlier

[Page 361, Upper Left]

memorial. According to recent report from the consul-general in San Francisco, this act was abolished on the 11th Day of the 7th Month⁴⁶, [which means Chinese immigrants] no longer have to move out. Since the time when I heard the news and

⁴¹ i.e. August 14, 1886.

⁴² i.e. February 26, 1887.

⁴³ The geographical identity of "Dan" is unclear. The 1st Day of the 4th Month in Chinese Lunar Calendar fell on April 23, 1887.

⁴⁴ i.e. March 2, 1887.

⁴⁵ Cui Guoyin (born in 1831, died in 1909), Chinese diplomat. He was Minister Plenipotentiary Zhang Yinhuan's successor after Zhang returned to China in 1889.

⁴⁶ i.e. August 26, 1890.

returned from Spain, I have never felt relieved until now. [That is because] Americans were so crafty in heart that they abolished a past agreement when [former] Minister Plenipotentiary Zhang Yinhuan was in Peru. And, during the job transfer between the old and new [Chinese] Ministers Plenipotentiary, they established a [new] act to impose monetary pledge/lien on the Chinese people who entered the US. This also happened during my visit to Spain. Fortunately, their legislature reviewed the act and quickly responded to the notes that [our] councilor in charge of the ministry repeatedly issued to [their] Department of State before my return to the US. Throughout the negotiation, [our] consul-general in **San Francisco** followed instructions and had never had a moment of slacking off. During the hearing, the lawyer put off his appearance in order to brew other schemes. Later they came up with a new excuse [for the act, saying that] the residential area of Chinese laborers was unclean and unsanitary. Such was a practice of post-event making-up and elaboration, because this accusation [against Chinese residential area] had not been [their] originally claimed reason for proposing that act. Obviously, they had run out of the means [to defend that act]. Now, the court's judgment has come out and it is found to be very fair; only there is part in it that states that the new act does not speak ill of Chinese immigrants. [A statement like this] would be enough to provide those who are jealous of Chinese laborers with new reasons to make troubles [against Chinese immigrants]. So, although the judgment to abolish the new act won thunderous applause and bystanders' cheers the day it came out, [we] should still reinforce self-control and be sure not to do anything that may give rise to new gossips and rebukes. In so doing, [we] can hopefully maintain peace in [Chinese immigrants'] life and ensure your

[Page 361, Lower Left]

majesty's peace of mind. This is the end of my report.

[The following] red-inked remark was received from the Throne on the 17th Day of the 10th Month in the 16th Year under the reign of Emperor Guangxu,⁴⁷ "The [Central Foreign] Office knows this."

⁴⁷ i.e. November 28, 1890.