OPENING OF NEW AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IN CHINA.

593.00/14380 : Telegram

The Ambassador in China (Gauss) to the Secretary of State

[Extract]

Chungking, February 8, 1943—1 p. m.
[Received February 10—7: 18 p. m.]

208. An experienced American journalist, recently returned from a several weeks' trip to South China, in the course of which he made stops at Kweilin, Changsha, Hengyang, and Kukong, has made the following observations to the Embassy in confidence: (1) Both American missionaries and Chinese commented on the absence of American representation and activity in the area, indicated the fact that the British were relatively quite active. At Kweilin the British have four or five men, including a consular officer and a military mission. At Changsha, the British Red Cross have opened a hospital which now has about 100 patients and will eventually accommodate 150 when full equipment arrives. Only charity cases are accepted. Seven British doctors and 14 nurses with China experience are on the staff. At Kukong there are among other[s], a British naval observer, a Secretary of the British Embassy, and a British officer of the Chinese Customs. Observer commented that these British representatives were working to recover lost British prestige; that they were not, however, being conspicuously successful; but that a greater evidence of American activity in the area would serve a useful purpose.

Gauss

301. Your 208, February 8, 1 p. m. In the light of the information contained in your reference telegram, the Department would

1 Continued from Foreign Relations, 1942, China, pp. 683–696.
2 Chuchiang, Shaokwan, or Shiuchow, on the Canton-Hankow Railway.
appreciate receiving your opinion as to the advisability, when personnel is available in China, of assigning two Chinese language officers to the new Consulate at Kweilin, one officer to remain at Kweilin and the other to be available for frequent visits to Kukong, Hengyang, Changsha, Nanning, and perhaps other points in that general area. In this connection, consideration might be given to the question of stationing one officer more or less permanently at Kukong, provisional capital of Kwangtung Province, and reportedly a good listening post for the general Canton–Hong Kong area.

It is suggested that you discuss with the military and naval attachés, as well as with General Stilwell, the question of having military and naval observers stationed in or of their making periodic visits to the south China area.

The Department believes that it would be generally advantageous that we maintain adequate official representation in the general area in question. Furthermore, it would of course be most useful to have reliable and current reports on developments in that part of China from which hitherto but little information has been forthcoming.

WELLES

893.00/14964: Telegram

The Chargé in China (Vincent) to the Secretary of State

CHUNGKING, March 16, 1943—9 a. m.
[Received 12:03 p. m.]

372. The matter raised in Department’s 301, March 5, 8 p. m., has been discussed with the Military and Naval Attachés who are both desirous of increasing Embassy’s contact with South China area. Military Attaché is sending one of his assistants on a trip to Yunnan–Indochina border from whence he will travel to Kweilin and Kukong for general observation of conditions in the area. Naval Attaché plans to send to Kukong an assistant who will if practicable travel up to Foochow. He expects to keep one officer more or less continuously in the coastal area.

General Stilwell is not in Chungking. I shall discuss the matter with him soon but am sure that he will welcome increased Embassy representation in the area.

It has been Embassy’s intention to assign two officers to Kweilin with instructions that one of them should spend most of his time traveling in the area. A language officer and Richard Service would be a good combination.

* Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell, Commanding General, United States Army Forces in China, Burma, and India.
* Vice Consul at Kunming.
With regard to officers in the northwest it may develop that inasmuch as the work within the cities where they are detailed in [is] not exacting or voluminous one officer might divide his time between Chengtu and Sian, traveling also to adjacent areas, and the consular officer at Tihua might make periodic trips to Lanchow. This arrangement suggests itself because of delayed arrival of officers assigned here. I plan to send Clubb on to Tihua soon and I may send Drumright on to Sian for a period.

On its staff in Chungking the Embassy needs two more officers experienced in China, preferably with language training, in order to function effectively (Commercial and Agricultural Attachés and staffs are excluded from this calculation). When these officers now on assignment assume their duties this need and needs in outlying places will be met and it is hoped therefore that the Department will be able to arrange for their early arrival and arrival also of a Consul General for Kunming.

VINCENT

125.0061/270: Telegram

The Chargé in the Soviet Union (Dooman) to the Secretary of State

Moscow, April 1, 1943—noon.

[Received 3:28 p.m.]

227. The following telegram has been received from Kuibyshev and repeated to Chungking.

136, March 29, 4 p.m. If you approve please forward to Department (and repeat to Chungking) as Kuibyshev’s 282, March 29, 6 p.m.

“Kuibyshev’s 287, March 26, 8 p.m. In conversation yesterday Mr. Wu,7 representative at Urumchi of the Chinese Foreign Office, who accompanied to Moscow the new Chinese Ambassador8 and who is returning today to his post, replied in terms of unqualified assent to my query whether it would be of advantage to the United States to assign to the Consulate at Urumchi a subordinate officer with knowledge of Russian. Mr. Wu added that it would be most helpful to the Chinese Government if our Government could see its way clear to stationing at Urumchi officer well grounded in agriculture and mining technology. The Chinese Ambassador made some interesting observations which he requested that I communicate orally to the Secretary upon my return to Washington.”

DOOMAN

* O. Edmund Clubb, Second Secretary of Embassy in China on detail at Lanchow.
* Everett F. Drumright, Second Secretary of Embassy in China and Consul at Kunming.
* Chaucer H. Wu.
* Foo Ping-sheung.
The Chargé in China (Atcheson) to the Secretary of State

CHUNGKING, July 21, 1943—10 a.m.
[Received July 22—12:35 p.m.]

1241. The Embassy has received a letter dated June 16, 1943 (a duplicate of which addressed to the Secretary is being forwarded by pouch) from a committee representing American residents of the Foochow district urgently requesting that the Consulate be reopened there or at Nanping or some other inland point. The writers point out that there are 90 Americans residing in the district plus a number in the adjacent Amoy district who could be served by the office; that the Foochow British Consulate is still being maintained; that the new situations arising from the abolition of extraterritoriality make[s] the advice and assistance of a consular officer most important; and that communications with the rest of Free China are very poor (they state for example that to make application for a passport and to receive a new one takes about 3 months).

Among others the following considerations also occur to us: (1) Foochow, as the only important Chinese port still in the hands of the Chinese, is a center of information which should tend to increase in importance as times goes on; (2) the Naval Attaché hopes to station an observer there and it is probable that there will be other American or Allied military and civilian activity in that area in future; (3) the Department is now maintaining furnished quarters and office equipment at Foochow; and (4) the city is far enough from the sea so that an officer stationed there would in all probability have ample time to evacuate in case of Jap landing.

We accordingly recommend that the Consulate be reopened and suggest that a China Service officer now serving outside China be assigned there and that decision whether the Consulate should function in Foochow itself or at some nearby place be withheld pending the officer’s arrival and making of recommendations in the premises.

We suggest that if this proposal is approved, the Department select for the assignment from the China officers now serving in other foreign countries one who has not previously been stationed in Foochow and who may possibly come to Free China with a fresh point of view. Alternatively, an additional officer might be assigned to the Embassy, thus enabling the post to be filled by detail of an officer from here.

Atcheson
The Secretary of State to the Chargé in China (Atcheson)

WASHINGTON, July 31, 1943—11 p. m.

1003. Regret not practicable to reopen Consulate at or near Foochow now. Please so inform committee mentioned your 1241 of July 21.

HULL