Document 1

The Tozama Times

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Monday, February 1, 1875 5 Yen

TRIAL FOR THE TOKUGAWA BARBARIANS?

By Toyotomi Yutaka

This reporter has learned that our new government is deciding whether or not to place leading members of the Tokugawa Family on trial for misrule. While it is not a journalist’s place to comment on such issues it is clear that should the government punish the Tokugawa all Japan will benefit. For over 250 years the Tokugawa clan plundered Japan with little or no thought for their people’s welfare. Alternate attendance impoverished us and isolation left us defenseless. Worse still, these despoilers of the nation turned their back on native traditions--even our own emperor--in favor of Chinese ideas and beliefs. A trial would avenge centuries of humiliation and offer some measure of satisfaction for our ancestors who were vanquished at Sekigahara.

A properly conducted trial would also demonstrate to the West that our program of westernization and modernization has increased to the point where they can relieve us of the burden of extraterritoriality whereby foreign subjects are not bound by Japanese law.

If Keiki’s blood must be spilled to right past wrongs and free us from unequal treaties so be it.

**Document 2**

The Hokkaido College of Agriculture

Sapporo, Japan

Dr. Henry Wallace, Chancellor

Table 1

Ainu Population in Hokkaido by year

1600 3.0 million

1650 2.5 million

1700 2.1 million

1750 1.7 million

1800 1.5 million

1850 1.2 million

Table 2

Rice Production by bushel in Hokkaido by year

1600 0 bushels

1650 0 bushels

1700 100 bushels

1750 1700 bushels

1800 1500 bushels

1850 2200 bushels

**Document 3**

Legation of the United States of America

Tokyo

The Honorable Ulysses S. Grant

President of the United States

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Washington, DC

January 15, 1875

Dear Mr. President:

The Legation has learned today from a confidential source that the Oligarchs have decided to place the former Shogun and members of his immediate family on trial for their lives. While we do not have a humanitarian interest in blocking such a trial we do have a national interest in preventing such a spectacle. From our source, a close and long time supporter of the deposed Shogun, the Legation has learned the following:

1 Prosecutors representing the Oligarchs’ plan to indict the Tokugawa for bringing about the conditions that led to the nationwide famines of the 1830s. This does not concern the Legation even though the contention is a dubious one at best.

2 Prosecutors plan to indict the Tokugawa for weakening national defense. They will present data that compares British, French and United States military spending and pre-1870 Japanese military spending. The Legation fears that this may ignite latent Japanese xenophobia and contribute to a general feeling of hostility toward the West.

3 After the conclusion of a successful trial the Oligarchs will immediately press for an end to extraterritoriality. While this may be permitted we are convinced that the Meiji government will then press for an immediate end to international control over the Japanese tariff. The Legation staff fears that such a move could divide the international powers and lead to a war either over or against Japan.

4 The Oligarchs also plan to execute the Shogun if he is found guilty. Our source indicates that while many daimyo allowed the Shogun to fall they will not stand by and allow his execution. In short, if the Oligarchs are allowed to put their plans into motion it very well could lead to a prolonged civil war that may draw in outside powers.

It is the considered opinion of the Legation staff that a trial of the Shogun and his family must be avoided and that vigorous steps are warranted to convince the new government to drop all charges.

Eli T Williams

**Document 4**

**Ministry of Economic Affairs**

**Internal Study Memorandum 97**

**October 21, 1873**

**Average Peasant Holdings by Year 1780-1850**

**1780 1.9 hectares**

**1790 1.9 hectares**

**1800 1.8 hectares**

**1810 1.8 hectares**

**1820 1.7 hectares**

**1830 1.8 hectares**

**1840 1.8 hectares**

**1850 1.7 hectares**

**Average Peasant Income by Year 1780-1850(measured in 1870 Yen)**

**1780 90 Yen**

**1790 97 Yen**

**1800 105 Yen**

**1810 115 Yen**

**1820 110 Yen**

**1830 105 Yen**

**1840 98 Yen**

**1850 117 Yen**

**Average Samurai Stipends by Year 1800-1840, All Domains (measured in 1870 Yen)**

**1800 100 Yen**

**1810 93 Yen**

**1820 90 Yen**

**1830 87 Yen**

**1840 80 Yen**

**Conclusions**

**Samurai income fell far more during the late Tokugawa period then did peasant income. The MEA recognizes therefore that in the interests of equity samurai stipends should be raised. The MEA opposes increased stipends however for several reasons. Initially funds do not exist to raise stipends. Secondly, while samurai income may have declined after 1800 it is unclear if the samurai class experienced undue hardship. Peasant income on the other hand did increase but the peasant class also suffered from overpopulation and famines brought on by sub par harvests.**

**Document 5**

**August 11, 1874**

**To: Yamagata Aritomo, Commander, HIM Army**

**From: General Klaus von Grunewald, Advisor to HIM Army**

**In Re: Requests for 1875 Military Budget**

**Military Expenditures by Country 1825-1865(in millions of Yen 1870 value)**

**UK France USA Japan**

**1825 1.7 1.5 .7 .17**

**1835 2.1 2.1** .9 .35

**1845 2.5 2.3 1.1 .70**

**1855 4.2 4.5 1.0 1.2**

**1865 4.3 4.2 6.7 2.1**

**Document 6**

**March 31, 1854**

**The USS Susquehanna**

**Today they signed at last and I am filled with both great joy and a lingering suspicion that I could have gained more. They are an interesting people and I believe that Ii Naosuke is the most interesting of all! He waited me out and now I have only two ports to show for my efforts. It is certainly not Japanese military power that saved the country. They were defenseless when I arrived last year and today they are no better off. That we could have laid waste to their coast is a given. My men would have reduced their shore batteries to smoldering ruins by sunset had I given the order. Their men are brave but they cannot compete against our arms. How could the Shogun have allowed his nation to grow so weak?**

**Perhaps what I feel today is dread. Dread for these people. Others will follow and they surely will swallow these islands and the Japanese cannot stop them. In a generation they will have lost their freedom and will have been reduced to the status of the Filipino, the Anamese and the Indian. As a free man I pity them and curse their leaders.**

**MP**

**Document 7**

**October 11, 1874.**

**From: Ito Kichisaburo, Professor of History, Kochi Prefectural University**

**To: Nagano Oboku**

**In Re: Capital Punishment’s Salutary Effect on Government**

**Dear Sir:**

**As requested I have scoured history for examples that support the position that when capital punishment is meted out to officials as a penalty for misrule this tends to encourage good government in subsequent administrations. Please consider the following:**

**1 After the assassination of Julius Caesar and the rise to power of Caesar Augustus Rome enjoyed the Pax Romana or Roman Peace, a period of calm that lasted for 200 years.**

**2 After the assassination of Oda Nobunaga our own nation quickly ended the Warring States period which ushered in some 250 years of peace.**

**3 The execution of Charles I in 1649 brought Oliver Cromwell to power in England.**

**4 The execution of King Louis XVI encouraged good rule under the Jacobins who, like our own government, were committed to modernizing the country.**

**In short, I see ample historical precedent to support the government’s position. Should you require my services during or after trial I stand prepared to serve.**

**Ito**

**P. S. At your earliest convenience you may forward my remittance to the address that you have on file.**

**Document 8**

**July 1 1858**

**Admiralty London**

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**Subject: Russian Intervention in Japan**

**Status of Report and Recommendations: Preliminary**

**This memorandum will serve to clarify BUT NOT RECOMMEND possible military responses should the Russian government intervene in Japan**

**Reports confirm that Russian military forces in Vladivostok have doubled since the Shogun signed the Harris Treaty. The Admiralty concurs with our civilian colleagues that this buildup is most likely underway to support Russian intervention in Japan. Such intervention would imperil our strategic position in Asia and cannot be tolerated.**

**Under the Shogunate, Japan lost the ability to defend against a Russian invasion sometime during the last century. Their ability to defend against an assault by this country or France ended much earlier. In short, Edo cannot defend itself even with the vigorous support of all Daimyo. The Royal Navy and nearby British forces can, however, prevent a Russian assault and preserve both the Tokugawa Shogunate and—far more importantly—British dominance in the region.**

**Should HMG elect to intervene in order to preempt Russia the Admiralty recommends the use of the Royal Navy’s Far Eastern squadron augmented by ground troops from Hong Kong and Singapore. Given the state of Japanese defenses additional forces from India or the British Isles are unnecessary.**

**Should, for diplomatic reasons, HMG seek to create a multinational force to send to Japan the Admiralty has no objections. From a military standpoint, however, a coalition is not needed. The Shogunate, and Japan, are powerless to prevent our quick military occupation of all vital ports and cities.**

**Adm. Richie**