



国家清史编纂委员会·编译丛刊影印系列

美国政府解密档案（中国关系）

美国驻中国广州领事馆领事报告 (1790—1906)

Despatches from U.S. Consuls in Canton, China,
1790-1906

广西师范大学出版社 组织整理

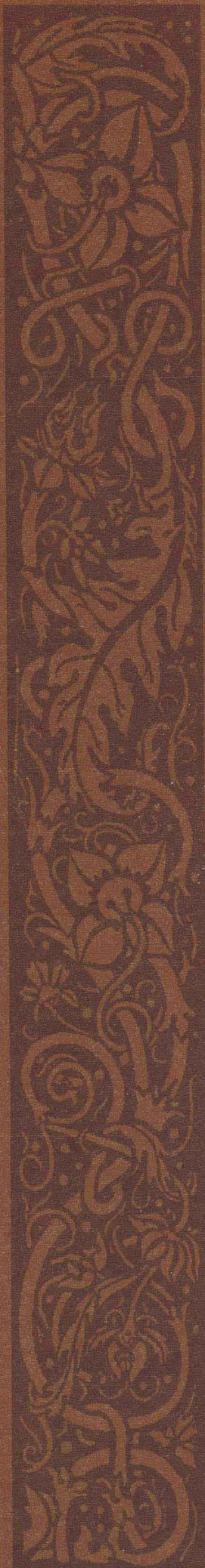
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GUANGXI NORMAL UNIVERSITY PRESS

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“十一五”国家重点图书出版规划项目

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Edict No. 3.

An edict from the imperial commissioner, addressed to the American Consul, Mr. Chou.

Chou, prefect of Canton, communicates this edict to the American Consul Chou, received from his excellency Lin, high imperial commissioner and Governor of Kwangtung; it is as follows.

[Here is quoted the Chou's address to the commissioner who then says]

"This coming before me, the high commissioner, I immediately reply. In his former report, the said foreigner stated, that 1540 chests had been delivered to Elliot, to be by him made over to government. I find in Elliot's address these words, 'What error is not under British rule, the said superintendent is unable to contest,' which is entirely at variance with your statement. To that former report a clear reply was given, with commands, which are on record.

"Now again it appears the said foreigner presents an address stating, that 'the opium in the care of Americans really was the property of British Subjects.' I find that the English, during a long period, have continued continually to send their opium hither for sale. Why should they employ your countrymen to sell it? You are not a tributary of the English. Why then listen to their suggestions? Moreover, Elliot's report was made first, yours afterwards. Granting then that the opium was made over to Elliot, it ought not to be included with the 20283 chests, it being impossible to take of the number first reported as English, and make of it what ought

ought to be given up as American Opium. Examining the spirit of your words, there manifestly is a heart to confuse and gloss over the business.

"Elliot has now sent Johnston to the receiving ships outside to take and deliver up all the opium. Now 1500 and odd chests are not a large quantity, and supposing it be concealed in the vessels, there will be no difficulty in searching it out and seizing it. How can this be so respectable as for you yourself to deliver it up? Hasten, then, and comply. Again, in due course, I give my commands, that a true and faithful statement be made and delivered up, and that there be no more contumacy and opposition, to occasion heavy guilt and grief."

"Wherefore this communication is despatched to the prefect, that he may immediately transmit the same to the hong merchants, to be by them conveyed to the said consul, Snow, for his implicit obedience."

Having received the above, I immediately transmit the same to the said Consul Snow, that he may hasten and obey, and according to the repeated commands make out a true and faithful statement and deliver up the same showing no more contumacy and opposition, to occasion heavy guilt and grief. Hasten! Hasten! A special Edict. Taoukwang 19th year, 2 month, 23 day.
April 5th 1839

Reply to Edict No. 3.

To His Excellency Sir, Imperial
Commissioner

I have respectfully to state that the 1540 Chests of Opium were delivered up by the Americans to the British Superintendent of Trade as British property. This was done before your Excellency called on me for a statement of what Opium the Americans held. The quotation you make from the Superintendent's address that whatever is not under British rule the said Superintendent is unable to controvert, he could not demand the surrender of British property in the hands of Americans, but circumstances might make it proper for them to ask the said Superintendent to receive the same and he would not refuse to do so. Now Excellency asks why the English should employ any countrymen to sell Opium for them as we are not tributary to the English. It is the practice in most parts of the world for the subjects or Citizens of one country to employ those of another in the transaction of Commercial Affairs - this very season several English Ships from England with British goods and from India with Cotton have come consigned to American houses here and it is sometimes the case that American Ships come here consigned to English houses, it can only repeat that all my former statements to your Excellency are true in every particular. And if your Excellency is pleased to inquire of the Chief Superintendent you will no doubt receive a confirmation of the same.

Given under my hand and Seal
of Office this sixth day of April 1840
Three and eight hundred and thirty nine
(Signed) P. W. Snow
U.S. Consul

Edict No. 4.

Edict.

Gen, high imperial commissioner and governor of Koo Kwang, Tang a president of the Board of War and Governor of the two provinces Kwangtung and Kwangle, and C. a vice president of the Board of War and lieutenant Governor of Kwangtung, issue this edict to the English Superintendent Elliot and the deputy superintendent Johnston, the American Consul Snow, the Dutch Consul Van Basel, and the foreigners of every country. Let them make themselves fully acquainted therewith.

Whereas we, the high imperial commissioner, the Governor, and the lieutenant Governor, did receive the great august Emperor's mandatory will, to interdict opium, and to cut off the sources whence it comes, accordingly we gave commands to the said Superintendents and Consuls, by them to be enjoined on all the foreigners, to take the opium accumulated in the store ships and make an entire surrender of it. Now it appears that, in obedience to these commands, the surrender is being made, winning respectful submission worthy of praise.

Henceforth foreign foreigners will never more be allowed to bring opium into this country. The decree is already passed; and if they do so, they shall be capitally punished, and their cargoes confiscated.

Now, the English Superintendent, Elliot, have desired that warning may be given before execution; and now again declare that you

you will act in obedience to the laws, the period being indulgently extended. This your statement seems reasonable. But as to the request that a period of five months be allowed to the Indian Ships, and ten months for those direct from England, these periods are indeed too long.

Further it appears that the American Consul Snow, also, has declared that while residing here he always felt obligated to conform to the laws of the empire, and that hereafter the merchants of this country, acting in obedience to the new regulations, will not presume to traffic in Opium. This likewise seems perfectly proper. But he adds, "if they bring any opium to Canton, I will communicate to them the prohibitory regulations, requiring them to return to their country, which does not at all agree with what is said about acting in conformity to the laws. For if he announces to them the prohibitory regulations, how can he stop with merely ordering them to return to their own country?"

The Dutch Consul Van Bazel, also, states that he has received the commands to give bonds, in terms like these— "After the autumn of this year, if any ships come to Canton, and on examination are found to have opium on board, both ship and cargo, shall be confiscated, and the parties left to suffer death by the laws of the country." On this occasion he is ready to obligate himself that hereafter he will never trade in opium, and that according to the tenor of the edict he will report to the great officers of his Government.

Government, that they may submit the case to their sovereign. This is nearly in accordance with what is required in the bond. But, then, in his address he speaks about the lives of his countrymen being involved, which is still inconsistent with what is reasonable. It should be known that this severity of the celestial empire's laws extending even to capital punishment, is only in reference to the traffic in opium. If therefore, all the foreigners, in compliance with this, now bring any more opium, then there can be no more violation of the laws; and how in that case, can there be any involving of life?

With reference to Elliot's request the period ought to be changed and fixed at four months for the Indian Ships, and at eight for the dust ships, at the expiration of which periods they must conform to the new regulations. If within these periods, they presume to bring opium, they shall according to the existing law surrender it all to the Government, but the parties shall be freed from punishment and their other cargo from confiscation. This will be equitable and just.

Again special and earnest commands are given in general to all the foreigners, that, in accordance with the prescribed form, they all present bonds duly signed and attested, thereby insuring on the part of every one a mind respectfully submissive. Then an honorable commerce will be lastingly continued. Let there be no obstinacy cherished to their own injury. A Special Edict.

April 19th 1839. / Thursday 19th Apr, 3rd Mo. 6th day

Reply to Edict No. 4.

Copy

To their Excellencies the high Imperial
Commissioner, the Governor and Lieutenant
Governor

The undersigned respectfully states that
he has had the honor to receive this communica-
-tion of yesterday's date, and in reply can only
say that, it being really impracticable for this
Countryman to give the Bond required by the
New Regulations, he accordingly on the 16th inst.,
sent in his address saying it was thus impossi-
-ble. This was all he could reasonably do, and
the only alternative that now remains for him,
if conformity to the new regulations be insisted
on is to return to his own Country.

Given under my hand and
Seal of Office this twentieth day
of April One thousand eight hun-
-dred and thirty nine.

(Signed) P. M. Snow
U.S. Consul

Duplicate No 19 Original p. Grande
Rec^d 28 Sept

Canlon April 19. 1839

Dear

Since I last had the
honour to address you events of
great moment have been passing
here, and being highly important
as connected with the trade of this
country, with the Western Nations
I will endeavour to give you a con-
cise account of what has trans-
pired in the last month, confin-
ing myself to facts which the Govern-
ment will feel a deep interest in as
a continuance of the trade under
existing circumstances is doubtful
indeed, for the principle which
this Government is at present endea-
vouring to act upon that the blood
of the innocent shall flow for the
crimes of the guilty is too monstrous
for any civilized Government to
submit to, and unless the action