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Diplomatic Cables

Numerous telegrams were sent between the Mexican, Chinese and U.S. governments regarding the massacre. When read together, they paint a picture of the internal discussions that the various governments were having as they tried to respond to and wrestle with the repercussions of what had been done. The Mexican and Chinese cables were compiled by Dr. Rodolfo Esparza Cárdenas in his book [Los Archivos de la Desolación](#) and appear here for the first time (to my knowledge) in English translation. The U.S. cables are from the *Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States, With the Annual Message of the President Transmitted to Congress Series*' volumes for [1911](#) and [1912](#).

From: The American Ambassador to Mexico
To: The U.S. Secretary of State

File No. 704.9312/5.

[Telegram—Paraphrase.]

American Embassy,

Mexico, May 24, 1911.

According to advice received from the Chinese chargé d'affaires in this city some 300 Chinese subjects have been murdered at Torreón by the revolutionists. He requests that the American consular agent at Torreón extend his good offices in aid of Mr. Woo Lam Po, who has been asked to make an investigation of the massacre.

[Henry Lane] Wilson.¹

From: The Imperial Chinese Legation in Mexico
To: The Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs

May 22, 1911

I have received a message from my representative, Torreón, Coahuila, informing me that two hundred and twenty-four of our countrymen were killed in the recent disturbance there

¹ There are some additional diplomatic cables from U.S. government representatives referring to anti-Chinese persecution in Mexico [here](#).

Wong Chan Kin.

From: The Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs
To: The Imperial Chinese Legation, delivered in person.

May 23, 1911

Chargé d'Affaires,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your note, dated yesterday, the 22nd of this month, regarding the death of several Chinese citizens in Torreón.

In response, I am pleased to inform you that although the news transmitted by Mr. Wong Chan Kin is considered exaggerated, steps are being taken to ascertain any truth.

I take this opportunity to renew my assurances to you of my careful consideration of this matter.

F.L. DE LA BARRA.

Sir, this letter is respectfully presented to you.

From: The Mexican Ministry Of Foreign Affairs
To: J. De Valle, Governor of Coahuila.²

TELEGRAM.

No. 150. From Mexico on May 22, 1911
Received in Saltillo, 47 of 470, 2, 820 p.m.

Sir, Governor of the State.

Chargé d'Affaires, China, informs me that two hundred and twenty-four of your nationals were killed in recent disturbances in Torreón. Since we lack internal communications here, I beg you to please inform me of what you know about the event, since the exaggerated number of foreign deaths truly alarms me.

F. L. de la Barra.

From: J. De Valle, Governor of Coahuila
To: The Mexican Ministry Of Foreign Affairs

TELEGRAM

² Seal in the margin: Federal Telegraphs May 22, 1911, Saltillo, Coahuila

Saltillo, May 23, 1911
Mr. Francisco L. de la Barra,
Minister of Foreign Affairs.
Mexico City.

Acknowledged your message yesterday. Although there are no communications yet with Torreón, which is occupied by rebels, I know through a private person who came here yesterday that, unfortunately, there is certain news concerning the death of two hundred twenty-four Chinese children and adults, causing serious damage to their property.

The Governor.
J. De Valle
Signed

From: The Mexican Ministry Of Foreign Affairs
To: J. De Valle, Governor of Coahuila.³

Federal Telegraphs
Telegram
No. 72 from Mexico, May 23, 1911
Received in Saltillo, Office 66 6,60. 1:55pm.

Mr. Governor of Coahuila

I am replying to your telegram dated the 22nd. Truly horrified by the tremendous event you have reported. I beg you to please, by all possible means, conduct a thorough investigation into the massacre, using all means at your disposal, and to the extent possible within your jurisdiction, ensure that those responsible for the horrific attack against the Chinese and Japanese are apprehended so that they may be punished.

De la Barra.

From: J. De Valle, Governor of Coahuila
To: The Mexican Ministry Of Foreign Affairs

TELEGRAM
Saltillo, May 24, 1911
Mr. Francisco L. de la Barra, Esq.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mexico City.

³ Seal in the margin: Federal Telegraphs May 23, 1911, Saltillo, Coahuila

Acknowledged yesterday's message. I will see to it that an investigation is conducted as you indicate, as soon as authorities are in Torreón, since it is still in the hands of the rebels. The Governor, J. De Valle
Signed.

From: The Mexican Ministry Of Foreign Affairs
To: The Mexican Consul, Eagle Pass, Texas.

Telegram
Mexico, May 24, 1911 Mexican Consul
Eagle Pass, Texas

I know that there is a telegraph line from that city of Torreón through which news can be received. If you have a correspondent there, tell him to report it to you so that you can inform me about the massacre that allegedly took place there, as well as any damage that may have been caused in any way to foreigners. I am told that two Germans, two Spaniards, and one American were killed. I would greatly appreciate any information in that regard.

De la Barra.

Forward This,
V. Salado Álvarez

From: The Mexican Ministry Of Foreign Affairs
To: J. De Valle, Governor of Coahuila.⁴

Telegram
No. 3 from Mexico on May 23, 1911
Received in Saltillo office 50, 500⁵ 3:50 p.m.

Mr. Governor of Coahuila

⁴ Stamped with the seal in the margin: [Federal Telegraphs May 23, 1911, Saltillo Coahuila]

There is one aspect that is unclear to me regarding this telegram. At the top it states:

Secretary of the Interior
Emilio Vásquez.
Federal Telegraphs

This letter apparently had a letterhead for the Office of the Secretary of the Interior but was from de la Barra, who was the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Perhaps it was sent in conjunction between the two offices because they were not sure who would (or should) be responsible for this situation. It had aspects that would seem to fall under the purview of both offices.

⁵ This would be the telegraph office, cost of the telegraph and time it was received.

The Chargé d'Affaires of Japan has made special representations to me to assure me that seven of its nationals have been killed in Torreón. I once again request a careful investigation of the matter in order to provide accurate information and calm the anxiety of these diplomats and the public.

F. L. de la Barra.

From: The Mexican Secretariat of State and the Office of the Interior

To: J. De Valle, Governor of Coahuila.⁶

Section Four Number 3632.

June 5, 1911

The Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, dated the 5th of this month, in letter number 38607, tells me the following:

The Acting Chargé d'Affaires of Japan in Mexico, in note number 14 of the 2nd of this month, tells me the following:

A few days ago, I took the liberty of asking Your Excellency to deign to order an investigation into the Japanese subjects living in Torreón. According to the newspapers, at the time of the massacre of 224 Chinese, several Japanese were sacrificed by the revolutionaries as they attempted to take the city.

As Your Excellency will understand, my government is extremely anxious to know the results of this investigation, as a week has passed without me receiving a single word from that Secretariat. Therefore, I have been ordered to address Your Excellency, in the most respectful manner, begging you to inform me of these investigations and asking you, as always, to continue protecting the interests and lives of Japanese subjects scattered throughout the Republic.

Allow me to add, Mr. Undersecretary, that if my government did not have confidence in the Mexican Administration, it would have ordered me to conduct this investigation myself. But I repeat, inspired by the utmost confidence, I hope that within a few days you will be kind enough to let me know your result.

⁶ Stamped with the seal: [Secretariat of State and the Office of the Interior]. This telegram is a bit confusing but the office of the Secretary of State and the Interior are sending a message to the Governor of Coahuila, which is forwarding a message that originally came from the office of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs which itself was forwarding a message that it received from the Chargé d'Affaires of Japan in Mexico. So, the Chargé d'Affaires of Japan in Mexico sent a telegram to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, which was then sent to the office of the Secretary of State and the Interior who then sent it to the Governor of Coahuila.

I have the honor of transcribing it for your information and so that whoever is in charge of conducting the investigation into the Chinese who died in Torreón may also investigate the Japanese residing there.

I hereby express my sincere consideration.
Liberty and Constitution, Mexico, June 5, 1911.
Matías Chávez

From: The Mexican Consulate, Eagle Pass, Texas
To: The Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Margin note: Consulate of Mexico – Confidential

Eagle Pass, Texas, May 26, 1911

Yesterday I received the following message:

“I know that there is a telegraph line from that city of Torreón through which news can be received. If you have a correspondent there, tell him to report it to you so that you can inform me about the massacre that allegedly took place there, as well as any damage that may have been caused in any way to foreigners. I am told that two Germans, two Spaniards, and one American were killed.⁷ I would greatly appreciate any information in that regard.”

To which I replied:

⁷ The telegram operator apparently made an error in transcription and instead of writing “I am told that two Germans, two Spaniards, and one American were killed” he instead wrote “I am told that two bodgonereses, two gamos, and one bansolero were collected.” I have corrected this above but the text of this paragraph as I have it is as follows:

Sé que de esa ciudad de Torreón existe hilo telegráfico por el cual pueden recibirse noticias si tiene ahí corresponsal, dígame le dé parte, para que usted me trasmita acerca de la matanza que dícese se efectuó allí, así como también de los perjuicios que puedan haberse causado en cualquier sentido a los extranjeros, me dicen que fueron cobrados dos bodgonereses, dos gamos y un bansolero, cualquier informe en ese sentido lo haga decir, a los que contesto:

Enterado telegrama practicó averiguación de las damas caja de cobrados no hubo ni bansolero ninguno.

This would also explain the odd answer in the Spanish original of his reply above where he states, “Enterado telegrama practicó averiguación de las damas caja de cobrados no hubo ni bansolero ninguno” (“Noted. I sent a telegram and conducted inquiries; regarding the ladies and the cash collected, there were none, nor was there any bansolero.”). We can assume that what was originally intended was “Noted. I sent a telegram and conducted inquiries; regarding the Germans and the Spanish killed, there were none, nor was there any American.”

"Noted. I sent a telegram and conducted inquiries; regarding the Germans and the Spaniards killed, there were none, nor was there any American."⁸

I now have the honor to inform you that the reports I have been able to obtain indicate that the federal forces that garrisoned Torreón withdrew without notifying the authorities. When the Maderista forces entered, it was believed that the federal forces were still there; however, seeing no resistance, they entered with greater confidence, without firing a shot, and headed for the bank. Suddenly, gunfire was opened on them from the bank, which at first repelled them. They returned fire and charged, taking over the building, which was entirely defended by Chinese.

This enraged the attackers, who began the massacre without pause, moving on to the Chinese hotel, where they also killed every Chinese person there, both there and throughout the city.

In two locations, there were Spanish flags, and it appears they attacked and destroyed everything, but did not kill or injure anyone. Americans were not bothered in the slightest; on the contrary, they were treated with the utmost courtesy and consideration. This was reported by all who came from the location and witnessed the attack.

From all accounts, responsibility is placed on the Chinese themselves, since the federal forces had abandoned the city without firing a shot, and the Chinese should not have provoked the conflict by firing on the Maderistas as they did.

The reports I have received up to noon indicate that complete tranquility reigns in the city, which is under the control of the insurgents. I do not have a correspondent in Torreón. There is a direct line from the International Railroad, but it is not for public use.

I hope this report is useful to you and I renew the assurances of my highest consideration.

Francisco de P. Villasana
Consul of Mexico

From: The Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs
To: The Japanese Chargé d'Affaires in Mexico⁹

In the margin: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, No. 38400
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mexico, June 2, 1911

⁸ See the previous note.

⁹ As best I can tell, this was the Mexican government's response to the inquiry made by the Japanese government as to Japanese citizens being murdered during the massacre.

Chargé d'Affaires:

Since telegraph communication with the City of Torreón had been interrupted for several days, this Ministry reported to the Mexican Consul in Eagle Pass, Texas, requesting that he communicate with the aforementioned city through the International Railway telegraph line, requesting the necessary information regarding the murder of Chinese subjects there.

The aforementioned Consul has submitted the corresponding report, from which the following facts emerge:

First: That the federal forces garrisoning the city of Torreón were forced to evacuate said Plaza.

Second: That the revolutionaries entered said city without firing a single shot, until they reached the Bank building; and

Third: That upon approaching the establishment, they were met with heavy fire from the building; for this reason, the revolutionaries were forced to fire, attacking the Bank, resulting in the deaths of the said Chinese, who were the only defenders of the establishment.

Notwithstanding the statements made by the Mexican Consul, and now that communications have been reestablished with Torreón, a thorough investigation has been ordered, expressly sending, by agreement of the Interim President of the Republic, a special delegate who will be responsible for conducting the investigation with complete impartiality.

Once the Government of Mexico is in possession of the information provided by the special envoy, the case will be resolved in accordance with the principles of international law and on the basis of that same information.

Furthermore, the Mexican Chargé d'Affaires ad interim in China has already been ordered to convey to the Government of that country the condolences of the Government of Mexico for the events in Torreón, which are all the more regrettable given that Mexican labor and industry are deprived of the valuable contingent of hard-working foreigners.

Please convey these same condolences to your Government and accept the assurances of my consideration.

The Undersecretary, Mr. Salado Álvarez

From: The Mexican Secretariat of State and the Office of the Interior¹⁰

To: Mr. Shung Ai-Sune, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of China in Mexico

¹⁰ Stamped with the seal: [Secretariat of State and the Office of the Interior]

For your attention.

Mexico.

Section Four Number 3615

The Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, in note number 38401 dated the 2nd of this month, states the following to this office under my authority:

Today I am sending the following to the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of China in Mexico:

Since telegraph communication with the city of Torreón had been interrupted for several days, this Secretariat addressed the Mexican Consul in Eagle Pass, Texas, requesting that he communicate with the aforementioned city via the International Railway telegraph line, requesting the necessary information regarding the murder of Chinese subjects there.

The aforementioned Consul has submitted the corresponding report, from which the following facts emerge:

FIRST, That the federal forces garrisoning Torreón were forced to evacuate said city;

SECOND, That the revolutionaries entered said city without firing a single shot until they reached the Bank building; and

THIRD, That upon approaching the establishment, they were met with heavy fire from said building; for this reason, the revolutionaries were forced to fire upon the Bank, which resulted in the death of the aforementioned Chinese, who were the sole defenders of the establishment.

Notwithstanding the statements made by the Mexican Consul, and now that communications have been reestablished with Torreón, a thorough investigation has been ordered, expressly sending, by agreement of the Interim President of the Republic, a Special Delegate who will be responsible for conducting it with complete impartiality.

Once the Mexican Government has the information provided by the Special Envoy, the case will be resolved in accordance with the principles of international law and based on that same information.

Furthermore, the Mexican Chargé d'Affaires ad interim in China has been ordered to convey to the government of that country the condolences of the Mexican Government for the events in Torreón, which are all the more regrettable given that Mexican labor and industry are deprived of the valuable contingent of hard-working foreigners.

Please convey these same condolences to your Government.

The following telegram was also sent to the Mexican Chargé d'Affaires in China:

This Government expresses:

Condolences to the Mexican people¹¹ for the attack of which Chinese subjects were victims in Torreón, and convey to them that a thorough investigation of the case is already being carried out, in order to judge it according to the precepts of International Law, taking into account the circumstances of the event and the traditional friendship that exists between the Chinese Government and that of Mexico.

I have the honor to convey all of this to you by agreement of the Interim President of the Republic, so that you may issue the corresponding orders for the aforementioned investigation to be carried out.

I have the honor to transmit this to you, so that you may issue the measures you deem necessary for the investigation in question to be carried out.

I reiterate my respectful consideration. Liberty and Constitution.

Mexico City, June 6, 1911.

By order of the Secretary

Matías Chávez (signature)

A copy sent to the Governor of the State of Coahuila. Saltillo, Coahuila.

From: The Mexican Ministry Of Foreign Affairs

To: J. De Valle, Governor of Coahuila.

Federal Telegraphs

May 31, 1911

Telegram

No. 413 from Mexico on May 31, 1911

Received in Saltillo, Office 49, 4.90, 12 p.m.

Mr. Governor of the State.

At the request of the Japanese Legation, please inform if it is true that during the fighting in Torreón, five Japanese were killed and three others wounded, who are feared missing. I request that you respond this way, as the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires has been contacted by his government and needs to respond urgently.

Salado Álvarez.

¹¹ This part can be a bit confusing but here the Mexican government appears to be referring to the Chinese who were killed as “Mexican people”, indicating that it views the Chinese immigrants who were attacked as equal and full parts of its nation.

From: The Mayor Of Torreón
To: J. De Valle, Governor of Coahuila.

Federal Telegraphs
June 8, 1911
Saltillo, Coahuila
Telegram
No. 18 from Torreón, June 2, 1911

Received Saltillo, Office 26, 156, 4 p.m.

To the Governor of the State.

I have gathered information on the Japanese matter, and it is not certain that any of them have been killed or wounded. I am replying to your telegram of today.

The Mayor.

From: The Mayor of Torreón¹²
To: The Governor Of Coahuila

Federal Telegraphs
June 1, 1911

Effective Suffrage, No Reelection

Provisional Government of the National Anti-Reelection Party

In accordance with your kind note dated the 13th of this month and issued under number 6439, I have already contacted the Military Investigating Judge in this city, informing him that, in carrying out the investigation ordered regarding the Chinese incident, he should also investigate the Japanese incident as instructed by this Secretariat at your esteemed direction. I will remain attentive to providing you with due notice once the results are known.

Effective Suffrage, No Reelection
Torreón, Coahuila
E.P.M
Manuel N. Oviedo

From: The Mayor of Torreón¹³
To: The Governor of Coahuila

¹² Stamped with the seal: [Municipal Presidency, Torreón, Coahuila]

¹³ Stamped with the seal: [Municipal Presidency, Torreón, Coahuila]

Effective Suffrage, No Reelection

Provisional Government of the National Anti-Reelection Party

In due response to letter No. 6348 of the Third Section of this Secretariat, issued on the 9th of this month, in which you are pleased to transcribe the order of the Ministry of the Interior regarding the Chinese incident in this town, I have the honor to inform you that I have been conducting an investigation for several days to acquire the necessary information and will promptly inform your Higher Authority of the results. I assure you of my consideration and respect.

Effective Suffrage, No Reelection

Torreón, Coahuila. June 13, 1911

E.P.M.

Manuel N. Oviedo.

From: The Mayor of Torreón¹⁴

To: The Governor of Coahuila

Effective Suffrage, No Reelection

National Anti-Reelection Party.

I have the honor of bringing to the attention of Your Excellency that, according to reports received by this office, the Military Investigating Judge in this area is conducting inquiries regarding the Chinese incident. Once these inquiries are completed, they will be forwarded to you so that, in view of them, you may take whatever measures you deem appropriate.

I am pleased to reiterate my assurances of subordination and personal esteem.

Effective Suffrage, No Reelection.

Manuel N. Oviedo

From: The U.S. Secretary of State

To: The American Ambassador in Mexico

File No. 704.9312/5.

[Telegram—Paraphrase.]

Department of State,

Washington, May 27, 1911.

¹⁴ Stamped with the seal: [Municipal Presidency, Torreón, Coahuila]

If the Mexican Government has no objections the consular agent at Torreón may be instructed to extend his informal good offices in behalf of Mr. Woo Lam Po.

[Philander C.] Knox.

From: The American Ambassador to Mexico

To: The U.S. Secretary of State

File No. 704.9312/9.

American Embassy,

Mexico, June 6, 1911.

No. 635.

Sir: With reference to the Department's telegraphic instruction of the 27th ultimo, in regard to the use by the American consular agent at Torreón of his informal good offices in behalf of the Chinese residents of that place, I have the honor to inform the Department that the Mexican Government advises me in a note which I have just received that it has no objection to the use of such good offices by the American consular agent at Torreón. I have to-day addressed Mr. Carothers in this sense.

I have [etc.],

Henry Lane Wilson.

From: The U.S. Secretary of State

To: The American Ambassador in Mexico

File No. 704.9312/10.

American Embassy,

Mexico, June 19, 1911.

No. 667.

Sir: With reference to the Department's telegraphic instructions of May 27 last, in which it was indicated that there would be no impropriety, in the event that no objection was offered by the Mexican Government, in the use of good offices by the American consular agent at Torreón on behalf of Chinese, I have the honor to advise the Department that when a condition menacing the safety of the Chinese residents of Tapachula was reported to the embassy, on May 24 last, I considered in view of the above-mentioned instructions that I was not overstepping the bounds of propriety in calling the attention of the foreign office to their

predicament, especially on account of the fact that certain of these Chinese possessed American citizenship.

I inclose to the Department herewith copy of a note which I addressed the foreign office, and beg to say that the foreign office in replying has stated that all necessary steps will be taken to protect the lives and property both of Americans and Chinese.

I have [etc.],

Henry Lane Wilson.

From: The Mayor of Torreón¹⁵

To: The Governor of Coahuila

Effective Suffrage No Reelection

To the Secretary General of Government, Saltillo, Coahuila

Provisional Government of the National Anti-Reelection Party

Duly complying with the provisions of Your Excellency in official letter number 6348 dated the 9th of this month and as I offered in my note dated the 13th of the same month, today I have the honor of forwarding to you the following documents containing the information gathered regarding the Sino-Japanese incident in this town:

1.- Official letter from the Director of the Civil Hospital stating that the ambulance service did not find any Japanese nationals.

2.- Official letter from Civil Status Judge A. Santos Coy stating the information obtained from the Administrator of the Cemetery, who states that 203 Chinese were buried there. No Japanese.

3.- Communication No. 21, dated the 5th of this month, from Dr. A. Mondragón, Head of the First Aid Station, stating that no dead or wounded persons were found at said establishment whose characteristics indicated they were Japanese subjects.¹⁶

5.- Communication No. 49, dated the 17th of this month, signed by the Military Investigating Judge, stating that no Japanese were killed in the attack on this plaza, and sending as proof

¹⁵ Stamped with the seal: [Torreón Municipal Presidency]

¹⁶ The description for Document 4 was missing from the copy of this telegram that I have. I am not sure if it was missing in the original or not but, based on the attachments included and placed below it, it was a letter from Judge M. J. Martinez placing blame for what happened on the Chinese who (according to him) instigated the fight.

a letter written in this language by Yokotovia Tokiva, the only Japanese subject, which letter is addressed to the Japanese Consul in Mexico.¹⁷

Having thus completed my response to your order, I am pleased to reiterate the assurances of my highest consideration and respect.

Effective Suffrage No Reelection

Torreón, Coahuila, June 23, 1911

The Mayor

Manuel N. Oviedo

To the Governor of the State. Saltillo, Coahuila.

Document 1

Seal of the Mexican Republic, Government of the State of Coahuila de Zaragoza.

Secretary's Office. Section 3.

In the margin, a stamp reads: "Civil Hospital, June 3, 1911. Torreón, Coahuila.

In response to your kind note dated the 2nd of this month; I have the honor to inform you that among the wounded and dead collected by the Ambulance Service at this establishment, no Japanese nationals were found. I have the honor to inform you of these. For your information. Effective Suffrage, No Reelection. Torreón, June 3, 1911. = The Director of the Hospital. = A. Mondragón. Signature. = To the Municipal President. Formally Deliver.

This is a true copy of the original.

Saltillo, June 29, 1911.

Document 2

Seal = Mexican Republic. State of Coahuila de Zaragoza.

Secretariat. Section 3.

In the margin, a seal that reads: = Mexican Republic. = Civil Registry Court. = Torreón, Coahuila. = Number 639. =

In response to your kind communication sent under number 114 dated today, I have the honor to inform you that the only news that exists in this court under my charge, regarding the deaths of Chinese, killed in the recent combat in this City, which is the number of (203) two hundred and three Chinese, this news was communicated to me by the Administrator of the Municipal Cemetery of this City; Some of the bodies of the Chinese have been buried in the Cemetery and in some other places in this town. = I am communicating this to you for your information and for the following purposes, informing you that this Court under my charge has no further information than that presented. = I reiterate my kind regard and appreciation. = Effective Suffrage No Reelection. = City of Torreón, Coahuila, June 3, 1911. = The Civil Status Judge. = A.S. Coy. = Signature. = To the Provisional Municipal President. = Formally Deliver.

¹⁷ I do not have the letter in Japanese. It was not included in Dr. Rodolfo Esparza's book. I am not sure if it was saved by the Mexican National Archives.

This is a true copy of the original.
Saltillo, June 29, 1911.

Document 3

Seal: Republic of Mexico, State of Coahuila de Zaragoza.
Secretary's Office. Section 3.

In response to your note No. 106, I am honored to inform the Presidency that at the barracks that were responsible for assisting Aid Post No. 5, located at the "Mondragón" Sanatorium, no wounded or dead were found whose ethnic characteristics would indicate that they were Japanese subjects. I hereby inform you. For your information. = The Person in Charge of Aid Post No. 5. = Torreón. = June 5, 1911. A. Mondragón. = Signatures. = The Mayor. = Formally Deliver.

This is a true copy of the original. Saltillo, June 29, 1911

Document 4

Seal: Republic of Mexico. Government of the State of Coahuila de Zaragoza.
Section 3.

In the margin, a stamp that reads: = Anti-Reelection Republican Army. = Second Northern Division. = Military Investigative Court. = Torreón, Coahuila. = "No. 21="

In response to your kind note dated the 3rd of this month, in which you are kind enough to forward to me the one you received from the Interim Governor of the State, I must inform you that according to the investigations being carried out in this Court under my charge and which are being conducted in connection with the events that occurred on the 15th of the previous month following the capture of this Plaza by the Insurgent Forces, the number of Chinese dead amounts to 204, with no wounded having been collected at any of the aid stations set up for that purpose. = I think it is appropriate to inform you that, according to the proceedings carried out so far, the Chinese subjects were victims of their own imprudence, since, according to procedural records, they fired on the insurgent forces at the suggestion of the Military Commander of the Plaza, General Don Emiliano Lojero. This version seems to be confirmed by the support of public opinion and strengthened by the fact that the records show that weapons and ammunition belonging to the government's legal army were collected from the Chinese dead. I believe it is my duty to make this declaration for the appropriate purposes. I swear to you, the assurances of my kind and distinguished consideration. =

Effective Suffrage No Reelection. = Torreón, June 5, 1911.

E.J.I.M. M. J. Martínez. = Julio Aviña. = Secretary. = Signatures. = To the Municipal President. Formally Deliver. This is a true copy of the original. Saltillo, June 1911.

Document 5

Seal: Republic of Mexico. Government of the State of Coahuila of Zaragoza
Secretary. Section 3. No. 5

In the margin, a seal that reads: Anti-Reelection Republican Army.
Second Northern Division.
= Military Investigative Court. =

I refer to your kind note dated the 16th of this month and in response, I must inform you that according to the investigations carried out in this court under my charge aimed at clarifying the events that occurred on the 15th of last May and related to the death of some Chinese subjects, it does not appear that among those dead Chinese there was any Japanese subject. = For greater certainty of what I have stated, I have the honor of enclosing with you so that you may forward to the highest level of the Federal Government,¹⁸ a letter written in Japanese that Yokotovia Tokiva, the only Japanese subject residing in this City, addresses through this Court and through the Secretariat of Government, to the Japanese Consul in Mexico. =I am informing you of this as you instructed, and so that you may take whatever actions are appropriate.= I hereby assure you of my attentive and distinguished consideration, assuring you, on my behalf, that efforts will continue to be made to discover if any Japanese subject has died. = Effective Suffrage No Reelection.

Torreón, June 17, 1911.
El J.I.M. = M.J. Martínez.
To the Municipal President. City.

This is a true copy of the original.
Saltillo, June 29, 1911

From: The Mexican Secretariat of State and the Office of Justice¹⁹
To: The Governor Of Coahuila

Mexico.
63-2

On June 29th, the Supreme Court of Justice informed me:

Referring to your letter 10.191 dated the 23rd of this month, in which you transcribe the communication that was sent to you by the Governor of the State of Coahuila, in which he states that the Mayor of Torreón has addressed him, requesting that the District Judge in said State, or one of the District Judges by his delegation, open the corresponding investigation to clarify the facts that have motivated the diplomatic claim on the part of the Chinese Empire and that of Japan; I have the honor to inform you that the resolution issued today by this Supreme Court is being telegraphed to the District Judge of Coahuila, which reads verbatim:

¹⁸ "Supremo Gobierno" in the Spanish original.

¹⁹ Stamped with the seal: [Secretariat of State and the Office of Justice]

The District Judge of Coahuila is hereby requested to travel to the City of Torreón to immediately proceed with the corresponding investigation to clarify the events that have prompted the diplomatic claim by the Chinese Empire and that of Japan, which occurred in the aforementioned city of Torreón, and to report on his work.

I have the honor to transcribe this to you as a result of your respective duties, reiterating my respectful consideration. Liberty and Constitution. Mexico, July 1, 1911. Undersecretary González Garza.

From: The Mayor of Torreón
To: The Governor of the State of Coahuila

Stamped with the seal: [Municipal Presidency]
Secretary 00905

I acknowledge receipt of your telegram dated the 25th of this month, which I received last night at 8:30, and in response, I inform you that I am now addressing Mr. Macrino J. Martínez, Military Investigating Judge, who is hearing the matter relating to the massacre of Chinese citizens in this City when it was occupied by insurgent forces. As soon as I have the response I urgently request, I will have the honor of communicating it to that Government.

I must also inform you, with reference to the letter that the Secretariat of Government was kind enough to send me on the 7th of this month through its Section 3/a and under number 6788: that I have been awaiting the visit of the District Judge of this State of Coahuila to proceed with the corresponding investigation to clarify the facts that motivated the diplomatic claim on behalf of the Chinese and Japanese Empires regarding the same matter of the massacre of subjects of those nations. To date, the District Judge has not appeared. I inform you of this so that you may be of the service you deem appropriate.

I assure you of my respect and distinguished consideration.

Liberty and Constitution.

Torreón, Coah. July 26, 1911
Municipal President
Manuel N. Oviedo.

From: Secretariat of State and the Office of Justice
To: The Governor of Coahuila

Stamped with the seal: [Secretariat of State and the Office of Justice. Mexico.]
Justice Section Table 1

Number 765-1

The Acting Justice of the Supreme Court of Justice says the following:

Having reviewed your courteous communication No. 628-1, dated the 1st of the current month, in which you transcribe what the Governor of the State of Coahuila states to the Secretariat under your worthy charge, regarding the diplomatic protest made by the Empires of China and Japan in the matter of the killing of subjects of those nations, and noting as well that the Municipal President of Torreón informs you that he has been awaiting the visit of the District Judge of that state so that he may proceed to carry out the corresponding investigation, and that up to this date the judge has not appeared, the Supreme Court has resolved that you be informed, as I have the honor of doing, that on the 2nd of the present month the new District Judge was notified of the order concerning the transfer of the court under his charge to the city of Torreón for the purpose of conducting the proceedings pertinent to the matter in question.

Which I have the honor to transcribe for your information and subsequent purposes, reiterating my attentive consideration.

Liberty and Constitution. Mexico, August 5, 1911

[Manuel] Calero.

From: Secretariat of State and the Office of Justice

To: The Governor of the State of Coahuila

Stamped with the seal: [Secretariat of State and the Office of Justice]

Mexico

Justice Section Table 1 Number 628-2

August 6, 1911

In response to your letter No. 3634, sent by the Third Section on July 29th, regarding the transfer of the District Court staff in that State to the City of Torreón, for the performance of proceedings related to the events that gave rise to the diplomatic claims of the Empires of China and Japan, I have the honor to inform you that on this date your aforementioned letter is transcribed to the Supreme Court of Justice for any applicable purposes, and that this Secretariat on the aforementioned date sent the following letter to the Supreme Court:

Not being able to travel to the City of Torreón, the District Judge in the State of Coahuila, Mr. Salvador Dumaine, in carrying out the proceedings aimed at clarifying the facts that motivated the diplomatic claims of the Empires of China and Japan, since said Judge was called to this capital for service matters, I have the honor to inform you, by agreement of the Interim President of the Republic, that Mr. Donato R. Cárdenas, having been appointed to the aforementioned District Court of Coahuila, as you were duly informed, this

Supreme Court can reiterate its orders for the aforementioned Judge to relocate to the City of Torreón in due compliance with the agreement that you were kind enough to transcribe to this Secretariat in your letter of June 29th.

Which I have the honor to transcribe for your information and other purposes, reiterating my attentive consideration.

Office of Justice.

From: The Mayor of Torreón

To: The Office of the Governor of Coahuila

Provisional Government of the National Anti-Reelectionist Party

In reply to your courteous communication dated the 20th of this month and issued under number 6560, in which you were so kind as to inform me of the instructions of the Governor regarding the measures that should be enacted so that the Chinese residents of this city may enjoy the guarantees to which they are entitled for the protection of their lives and interests, I have the honor to inform you that immediately after taking charge of the duties of this office, I issued the corresponding and appropriate orders for this purpose. I am pleased to report that the Chinese Colony is currently receiving special protection.

I request that you inform the Governor and accept the considerations of my distinguished esteem and respect.

Effective Suffrage, No Reelection.

Torreón, Coahuila. June 23, 1911

E.P.M.

Manuel N. Oviedo.

From: Secretariat of State and the Office of the Interior

To: The Office of the Governor of Coahuila

Stamped with the seal: [Secretariat of State and the Office of the Interior]

Mexico.

Section Four Number 145

By your official letter number 3534 dated the 28th of last month, in which you were kind enough to enclose the letter sent to you by the Municipal President of Torreón regarding the measures that should be taken to ensure the lives of the Chinese residents of that city, this Secretariat is informed that the corresponding and appropriate orders for this purpose have already been issued.

I hereby declare my respectful consideration.

Liberty and Constitution. Mexico, July 1, 1911.
Matías Chávez.

From: The American Ambassador in Mexico
To: The U.S. Minister of Foreign Affairs

File No. 704.9312/10.

[Inclosure.]

American Embassy,

Mexico, June 2, 1911.

Mr. Subsecretary: I have the honor to inform your excellency that this embassy is in receipt of telegraphic advices from the American consul at Tapachula indicating that there is a complete absence of authority at that place and that conditions there are serious. He states that there are murmurs on the part of the lower classes against the Chinese and that the president of the Chinese colony, which numbers 500, is an American citizen, and that he, together with the members of his colony, is fearful that they will be massacred, and has requested asylum at the American consulate in case of danger.

In view of the foregoing I earnestly request that your excellency will do whatever is possible to have American lives and property in Tapachula immediately and adequately protected.

It would seem that on humanitarian grounds such action as is possible should be taken in behalf of the Chinese, in order to prevent a recurrence of so regrettable an incident as that recently taking place at Torreón.

I avail, etc.,

Henry Lane Wilson.

From: The Chinese Chargé d'Affaires in Washington, DC
To: The U.S. Secretary of State

File No. 151.07/3.

Chinese Legation,

Washington, June 27, 1911.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 13th instant, with reference to the application of Wong Foon Chuck and Wong Jon Kin, merchants of Torreón, Mexico, to be allowed to reside at Eagle Pass, Tex., until the disturbances at Torreón cease, informing the legation that it has been the practice of the American immigration authorities on the Mexican border to allow Chinese residents in Mexico, whether of the merchant class or not, to take refuge in the United States.

This action of the American authorities has given the desired relief to the Chinese residents in Mexico in the present disturbed condition of that country and is sincerely appreciated by the Imperial Government.

Accept [etc.],

Yung Kwan.²⁰

To: The American Consul at Ensenada

File No. 704.9312/11.

Department of State,

Washington, July 15, 1911.

No. 9.

Sir: The Department has received your dispatch No. 11 of June 27, 1911, requesting a copy of the instruction to your predecessor, Mr. George B. Schmucker, authorizing him to look after the interests of Chinese subjects in the consular district of Ensenada.

The Department does not appear to have sent specific instructions on this subject, but at the request of the Chinese minister at this capital all consular officers in Mexico are desired to render such assistance as may be possible to Chinese subjects in Mexico.

I am, etc.,

(For Mr. Knox.)

Alvey A. Adee.

From: The American Ambassador to Mexico

To: The U.S. Secretary of State

File No. 412.00.

²⁰ I believe *Kwan* is a typo and this should be Yung Kwai (1861-1943), whose papers are archived at [Yale](#).

No. 712.

American Embassy,

Mexico, July 6th, 1911.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Department's instruction No. 398 of June 27th last, in which I am instructed to report relative to such plans as may have been proposed or such suggestions as may have been made with reference to the question of claims growing out of the Mexican revolution by members of the resident Diplomatic Corps.

Since the agitation and discussion among the diplomatic representatives which occurred immediately after the creation of the Mexican Claims Commission there seems to have been a disposition manifested not to proceed hastily, but to await developments which may reveal the purpose and policy of this Government relative to the question of the settlement of claims.

A temporary Court of Claims, of excellent personnel, has been organized and is expected to open its sittings in the near future, giving preferential consideration to the Chinese claims, which are vastly greater in number and pecuniary size to those of any other nation. A copy and translation of the rules of procedure of this Claims Commission is transmitted herewith to the Department, and I think it advisable that I should be instructed, at as early a date as is convenient, as to what attitude the Embassy shall take toward this Claims Commission and in what manner it shall advise American claimants.

In the meantime, the Embassy is taking steps to ascertain the names of all American claimants and is instructing them as to the form in which their claims shall be prepared for presentation.

I have [etc.]

Henry Lane Wilson.

[Inclosure.—Translation.—Extracts.]

Rules of the Mexican Claims Commission.

The Constitutional President ad interim of the Republic, exercising the powers vested in him by Section I, Article 85, of the Federal Constitution, and in accordance with Article 2 of the Decree of May 31 last, has seen fit to issue the following:

RULES OF THE CONSULTATIVE CLAIMS COMMISSION.

Article I. In accordance with Article 2 of the Decree of May 31 last, a Consultative Commission shall be established in the City of Mexico, beginning July 1st of this year, which shall have Chargé of the examination and elucidation of claims made against the National Treasury because of injuries to the private estate of persons or for damages directly growing out of the revolution of November, 1910; and to consult with the Department of Finance with reference to the legal foundation or nonfoundation of said claims, and upon the amount of the indemnity, if any, to which claimants may be entitled.

Articles II to VII concern the organization, manner of voting, place and time of meeting, etc.

Article VIII. All claims shall be submitted in writing, accompanied by the proper proofs, and shall be received from the 1st day of July to the 30th of September of this year. After the expiration of this term no administrative cognizance shall be taken of any claim.

Article IX. Claims shall be registered and taken up in the order of their filing with the Commission; and when several of them are filed at the same time they shall be given the alphabetical order of the last names of the claimants.

Article X. The Secretary shall keep a register [etc.].

Article XI. Claims growing out of forcible occupation, supply of money, arms, horses, or effects, or from loans exacted by the chiefs of the revolution, shall be submitted with the proper orders, certificates of delivery, receipts, and other documents proving the claim.

Article XII. The preparation of the records up to the time when they are ready for decision shall be made by means of instructions given by one of the members of the Commission, and to that end the business shall be divided among the members.

Article XIII. When the claimants do not prosecute their claims personally but through attorneys, the capacity of the latter shall be proved by a duly certified power of attorney, regardless of the amount of the claim.

Article XIV. The claimants shall have the right to ask for a fixed term within which to file proof, which shall not exceed two months from the date on which such term is fixed. During such term all proofs usually contemplated by the law, except those of interrogatories, may be submitted, and in due time they shall be considered in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure of the Federal District. The term of proof shall not be limited for the Commission, and therefore as long as it remains in existence it shall have the right, at any time prior to rendering its decision in any case, to institute such inquiries therein as it may deem advisable.

Article XV. The Commission may also accept any means of proof different from those provided in the above-mentioned Code of Civil Procedure which, in its judgment, may be reasonably sufficient to cause conviction concerning the concrete case in question, leaving the estimate of such means of proof to the reasonable opinion of the Commission; but the fact that they may be taken into consideration in some concrete case shall not serve as a precedent which will necessarily cause such means to have the same effect in other cases.

Article XVI. All public offices of the federal, states, or municipal government, as well as the chiefs of the army and of revolutionary forces, shall be required to supply information, data, and copies of such documents as the Commission may ask in order to establish and ascertain claims.

Article XVII. In case any proof or proceeding is to be had outside of the capital the Commission may appoint for the purpose any authority of the Republic, be it federal or local;

and if, because of the amount of the claim or for some other reason, the Commission considers it advisable, it can designate the secretary or any of the commissioners to go to the place in question for the purpose of said proceeding, receiving, in case it is necessary, through the Department of Finance, the assistance of the federal or local authorities.

Article XVIII. The decisions reached by the Commission during the course of the case shall be personally brought to the attention of the interested party, if the latter appears at the office within three days from the date in which they are passed, or, in case the party does not appear, he shall receive information in writing from the secretary, who shall address his communication to the domicile mentioned for that purpose in the first application. In the absence of a given domicile notices shall be published in the "Diario Oficial,"

Article XIX. When there may be any reason to suspect that false proofs or documents have been submitted and, in general, that a punishable act has been committed; the case shall be brought to the attention of the proper authority, suspending all action and reporting the case to the Department of Finance to the end that it may prescribe such action as may be proper.

Article XX. When the term of proof has expired, there being no further proceedings, the record shall be placed at the disposal of the claimant in the Office of the Commission to the end that if he sees fit, he may allege in writing, within a term of fifteen working days, whatever he may consider favorable to his interests. At the expiration of the fifteen days' term, the Commission shall subject the case to discussion in connection with the decision submitted by such member of the Commission as may have taken cognizance of the matter, without prejudice to the right which all the other commissioners shall have to personally study the record before voting, if they so desire.

Article XXI. The final report rendered by the Commission in each case shall be made in the usual form for legal decisions and shall close with concrete conclusions concerning the propriety or impropriety of the claim and the amount, if any, of the indemnity to be paid the claimant. If from the examination of the claim it would appear that a solution strictly in accordance with the law is not possible, the Commission shall so state it in its report and shall propose to the Department of Finance such equitable bases as in its judgment may be adopted to effect a settlement with the party in interest.

Article XXII. When the records are completed, with the report of the Commission, their originals shall be sent to the Department of Finance for such definite decision as may lie.

Article XXIII. The Commission shall end its labors no later than December 31 of the present year.

Articles XXIV to XXVI. [Pay of members and employees of the Commission.]

Mexico, June 30, 1911.

Madero,

Secretary of Finance.

From: The Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs

To: The Governor of Coahuila

Saltillo, Coahuila.

Telegram

Number 32 Mexico City, June 1, 1911

Received in Saltillo, 58 of 58

Mr. Governor. I once again request that you tell me what has been discovered in the matter of the Japanese in Torreón. The Chinese Chargé d'Affaires has again addressed this Secretariat to arrange for the prompt granting of compensation to its nationals. Please have a thorough investigation conducted so that we can inform these diplomats and prevent future claims.

V. Salado A.

From: The Mexican Secretariat of State and the Office of the Interior

To: The Governor of Coahuila

Stamped with the seal: [Secretariat of State and the Office of the Interior]
Mexico.

Section Four, No. 457.

With your letter No. 3542 of last June, this Secretariat received the originals of six letters addressed to the Government of Your Honor by the Mayor of Torreón, regarding the efforts that have been undertaken to determine whether any Japanese nationals were among the Chinese citizens who died in that town.

I have the honor to inform you that the referenced attachments have been sent to the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, transcribing the note to which I am replying.

I hereby express my sincere consideration.

Liberty and Constitution. Mexico, July 8, 1911

Undersecretary Chávez.

From: The Mayor of Torreón

To: The Mexican Interior Ministry

Stamped with the seal: [Municipal Presidency of Torreón, Coahuila]
Secretary's Office
Section No. 01121

I acknowledge receipt of your courteous official letter No. 7128 of the 5th of this month, issued by Section 3 of that Secretariat, informing me that you have appointed Mr. Donato R. Cárdenas, Esq., to serve as District Judge of this State. He will carry out the proceedings related to the events that gave rise to the diplomatic claims of the Empires of China and Japan.

I hereby express my sincere consideration.

Liberty and Constitution
Torreón, Coahuila. August 9, 1911
The Municipal President
Manuel N. Oviedo

From: The Mayor of Torreón
To: The State Secretary of Government (Interior) of Coahuila, based in Saltillo

Stamped with the seal: [Municipal Presidency, Torreón, Coahuila]

Secretary's Office. Section No. 01119

Through your telegram, dated yesterday, I learned that the State District Judge left for this city on the same date to conduct an investigation into the death of the Chinese. I express my highest regard and respect.

Liberty and Constitution
Torreón, Coah. August 9, 1911
The Municipal President
Manuel N. Oviedo

From: The Imperial Legation of China (in Mexico) on behalf of the Imperial Chinese Government of the Qing Dynasty
To: The Mexican Government

May 25, 1911.

Mr. Minister:

I have received instructions from my government to address the Mexican Government to find out if it would be possible to repair the damage caused to the property of the Chinese subjects who perished in Torreón and other parts of the Republic, victims of the revolutionaries, as well as to alleviate the precarious situation in which the respective families of said subjects have been placed.

Given the good relations of friendship that have always existed between both governments, mine hopes that Your Excellency's will be able to assist these unfortunate families by offering them the necessary guarantees to prevent further attacks.

I hereby inform Your Excellency of the aforementioned instructions, so that you may communicate them to your Government, and I reiterate the assurances of my highest consideration.

Shung Ai-Sune.

From: The Mexican Legation in Beijing, China

To: The Mexican Government²¹

May 27, 1911

The Chinese Government has received the following telegram from its representative in Mexico:

The Mexican Revolution is carrying out arbitrary massacres. Yesterday more than two hundred Chinese were killed and wounded under deplorable circumstances. I urgently request authorization to provide aid to the relatives of the deceased, protection for Chinese subjects, and punishment for those responsible. I await your reply.

HUERTA.²²

There was a handwritten note on this telegram that read: [Reply through the same channel that the government has opened a thorough investigation, and that, according to the results, it will act in conformity with the practices established by International Law.]

From: The Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs

To: The Mexican Legation in Peking, China

May 30, 1911

Please convey to that Government the condolences of the Mexican people regarding the attack of which Chinese subjects in Torreón were victims, informing them that a thorough investigation of the case is already underway, so that, based on the results, the precepts of International Law will be applied, taking into account the circumstances of the incident and the traditional friendship existing between the Chinese Government and that of Mexico.

V. Salado Álvarez

²¹ Most likely to the Ministry of Foreign Relations.

²² Huerta was Pablo Herrera de Huerta who was serving with the Mexican Legation to China at the time of the massacre. See here: https://portales.sre.gob.mx/acervo/images/Embajadores-2024/sedes-2024/1_14-China.pdf. It appears that there was a handwritten message on the telegram, which was used to draft the reply below this one.

By instruction of
His Excellency Mr. Francisco L. de la Barra
Minister of Foreign Affairs

From: The Imperial Legation of China in Mexico
To: The Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs

May 31, 1911

Mr. Minister.

Instructions from the Imperial Government of China to make the following requests to the Mexican Government:

Art. 1. To request the courtesy owed to China for the revolutionaries having lowered the Chinese National flag in Torreón.

Art. 2. That assistance be given to the families of those who perished in the Mexican Republic, victims of the revolution.

Art. 3. That the Chinese be compensated for the losses suffered to their property.

Art. 4. That those responsible for the massacre of Chinese in Torreón and other parts of the Republic be punished.

Art. 5. That the guarantees granted by the Constitution of the same Republic be granted, effectively protecting their lives and property.

I renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

Shung Ai-Sune

To His Excellency,
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

From: The Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs
To: The Governor of the State of Coahuila

Note in the margin: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs.]

Telegram
June 10, 1911

Governor of the State of Coahuila

I request that you please inform me of the status of the investigation ordered by that government into the events in Torreón, as the press reports are highly alarming, and I would

like to be able to calm public anxiety by providing the most reassuring news. If you could send me a report by mail that counters the reports published so far, I would be extremely grateful. I also request that you order the commissioner or commissioners you sent to carefully investigate whether any of the Chinese were naturalized Mexicans, as it is almost certain that they were among them, and all that would be needed would be to identify their names and circumstances with the information we have in this Ministry, largely avoiding international liability. I beg an urgent response.

V. Salado Álvarez.

From: The Governor of the State of Coahuila
To: The Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Telegram no. 16

June 10, 1911

That the investigation into the deaths of the Chinese will proceed slowly because it is being conducted judicially, taking into account that those in Torreón who died were Mexican citizens and that they fired upon the insurgent forces, having been armed before the attack on the Plaza by General Lojero. It is recommended that the investigation currently being conducted on this matter be accelerated.

The Interim Governor, Venustiano Carranza.
This is communicated to the Chinese Chargé d'Affaires.

From: B. Cabajal y Rosas, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Acting Minister
To: Herrera de Huerta, Chargé d'Affaires at the Mexican Legation in Beijing

July 14, 1911

It is stated that appearances indicate the massacre of the Chinese was due to their own imprudence. Special envoys are conducting active inquiries. The Mexican government deeply deplores the events.²³

From: The Mexican Legation in Beijing²⁴
To: The Mexican Government

July 29, 1911

²³ It is unclear from the book if this is the whole text of the telegram or not.

²⁴ It is unclear from the book if this is the whole text of the telegram or not.

His Excellency Chang-Yin-T'ang, Chinese Minister residing in Washington, sent a telegram to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs a day ago, in which he states approximately:

From the investigations I am personally conducting in Mexico, it appears that the Chinese suffered damage in thirteen provinces, that is, thirty-four cities, and that there are two hundred and thirty-three dead. The extent of property loss and other damage has not yet been fully ascertained, but there is an immediate need to distribute relief supplies. In Torreón, the devastation has been very cruel. Therefore, I went in person to that city to ascertain the circumstances, comfort the survivors, and demonstrate to the Mexican Government the great importance ours attaches to what happened. I have sent officials to the other cities where the Chinese suffered damage to distribute relief supplies, ascertain the exact circumstances, and thus prepare all the evidence for discussion with the Mexican government. The Chinese residents in Mexico do not understand the current circumstances and harbor very high hopes. The old and new parties are still fighting, and it has not yet been decided which will dominate. The matter of reparations must be dealt with as soon as possible; if we temporize, greater calamities could ensue and cause an indefinite delay in the final settlement of the matter.

From: The Imperial Chinese Legation in Mexico
To: M. J. Martínez, Military Examining Judge, Torreón, Coahuila

August 8, 1911

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that a communication has been referred to me, addressed to "Dr. J. W. Lim, Chargé d'Affaires of the Chinese Empire, or, in his absence, the person substituting for him."

I wish to inform you that Dr. J. W. Lim is not, and never has been, a Chargé d'Affaires or any kind of official representative of the Chinese Empire, whether in Torreón or in any other part of the Mexican Republic.

Furthermore, Dr. Lim has informed me that he is a naturalized Mexican citizen and that he has no information regarding the massacre of Chinese subjects in the city of Torreón on the 15th of May last, except for reports received from others; that he did not witness the massacre, has no personal knowledge of the matter, and that he so stated to the court on the date he was summoned to testify before it.

I have the honor to request that this communication be incorporated into and made part of the proceedings being conducted before you.

I remain your most devoted, attentive, and faithful servant,

Chang Yin Tang
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
of His Majesty the Emperor of China
to the United States, Mexico, Cuba, and Peru

From: The Mexican Secretariat of State and the Office of the Interior
To: The Governor of the State of Coahuila

Stamped with the seal: [Secretariat of State and Office of the Interior. Mexico]

Section Four, number 1590.

The Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, in official letter 101, dated the 26th of this month, states to this office under my charge as follows:

The Minister of China in Mexico, in a note dated the 24th of this month, tells me the following:

In relation to the matter, I wish to remind Your Excellency that on May 20th last, an investigation office was formed in Torreón, at the behest of Mr. Emilio Madero, then Chief of Arms of the Second Northern Division, having notified:

TO THE PUBLIC:

In order to ascertain as approximately possible the value of the losses suffered by individuals or merchants of this City, from the 15th of this month to the present date and TAKE THEM INTO CONSIDERATION IN DUE TIME FOR WHATEVER ACTION MAY BE NECESSARY; The public is hereby informed that, as of today, an investigation office is open from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the basement of the Hotel Central, No. 222, across from Plaza 2 de Abril, where those whose interests have been harmed may come; requesting that they submit their statement in writing, accompanied by the corresponding supporting documentation.

Torreón, Coahuila, May 20, 1911.
The Chief of the 2nd Northern Division,
Emilio Madero.

In accordance with the provisions of this notice, a large number of Chinese citizens who lost property in Torreón on May 14 and 15 have filed their claims in triplicate, supported by notarized statements. The triplicate copies of the claims filed with the aforementioned

investigation office, on which an acknowledgment of receipt was made by the office, were returned to the claimants and have been sent to this Legation.

I have the honor of requesting Your Excellency to be so kind as to inform me regarding the powers of the aforementioned investigation office and whether the claims filed with it have been forwarded to that Department.

In the case of the aforementioned claims, which have been sent to Your Excellency, please provide me with a list of the claims received under the aforementioned heading, since there are numerous claims originating from Torreón that were not submitted to the aforementioned investigating office and which will later be submitted to Your Excellency's consideration.

I have the honor of forwarding this to you for your information and so that you may inform this Secretariat of any truth in the matter, as this Secretariat is completely unaware of the formation of the aforementioned commission.

I have the honor of transcribing this to you for your information and so that you may inform us on the matter.

I reiterate my highest regards.
Effective Suffrage, No Re-election.

[Matías] Chávez.

From: The Imperial Chinese Legation in Mexico
To: The Mexican Office of Foreign Affairs

Mexico City, July 24, 1911

Mr. Undersecretary,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's letter, dated July 15, 1911, number 1830, in which you inform me that the Consultative Commission on Mediation has addressed your Secretariat requesting that it process claims filed for damages caused by the recent revolution. Your Excellency would be pleased to ask if it is my wish that the claims submitted by this Legation be referred to said Commission. I beg Your Excellency to inform me to which claims your aforementioned letter refers.

In relation to the particular desire to remind Your Excellency that on May 20th, an investigation office was formed in Torreón at the behest of Mr. Emilio Madero, then Chief of Arms of the Second Northern Division. The public was notified of the creation of said office by means of a notice which reads as follows:

TO THE PUBLIC

In order to know as approximately as possible the value of the losses suffered by individuals or businesses in this city, from the 15th of this month to the present, and TO TAKE THEM INTO CONSIDERATION AT THE PROPER TIME FOR THOSE WHO QUALIFY; it is made known to the public that, starting today, an investigation office will be open from 10 AM to 12 PM at the lower floor of the Central Hotel, No. 222, across from Plaza 2 de Abril, where those who have been harmed in their interests may go; kindly requesting that they submit their statement in writing, accompanied by the corresponding supporting documents.

Torreón, Coahuila, May 20, 1911
The Chief of the 2nd Northern Division
EMILIO MADERO.

In accordance with the provisions of this notice, a large number of Chinese citizens who lost property in Torreón on May 14 and 15 have filed their claims in triplicate, supported by notarized statements. The triplicate copies of the claims filed with the aforementioned investigation office, on which an acknowledgment of receipt was made by the office, were returned to the claimants and have been sent to this Legation.

I have the honor of requesting Your Excellency to kindly inform me regarding what powers the aforementioned investigation office had, and whether the claims presented to it have been forwarded to that department.

In case the aforementioned claims have been sent to Your Excellency, I am obliged to request that Your Excellency provide me with a list of the claims received under the aforementioned heading, since there are numerous claims from Torreón that were not submitted to the aforementioned investigation office and that will later be submitted to Your Excellency's consideration.

It is the desire of this Legation to provide all possible assistance to the Mexican Government in the investigation and verification of the claims submitted or to be submitted for losses suffered by Chinese subjects during the recent revolution. However, I consider it my duty to inform Your Excellency that many of the Chinese claimants who suffered losses during the aforementioned revolution have been left destitute and, therefore, are not in a position to incur expenses in preparing and submitting their claims. Many of the claimants live at a great distance from this city, and in many cases, it will be impossible for them to come here to present evidence before the commission that has been established regarding their claims.

Therefore, it is my wish that these claims be prepared and submitted in the simplest and most economical manner possible, consistent with the requirements of the department so worthily presided over by Your Excellency.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

Chang Yim Tang
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary
of His Majesty the Chinese Empire to the United
States, Mexico, Cuba, and Peru.
To His Excellency
B. Carbajal y Rosas
Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, Acting Minister

From: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
To: The Ministry of State and Justice²⁵

Stamped with the seal: [Ministry of State and Justice]

The Attorney General of the Republic, on October 3, states:

On September 2, the Federal Public Prosecutor assigned to the District Court of the State of Coahuila, currently residing in Torreón, asked if the number of murdered persons had been verified and individually identified: if so, the exhumation of the bodies was ordered and you would report back.

The aforementioned agent replied on October 30 that of the investigations carried out up to that day, according to information provided by Chinese nationals, there were 303, based solely on the fact that these were the ones who were not found in this city after several days since Chinese commissioners conducted a search of those who lived in Torreón before the event.

According to information from other people, mainly doctors from the Red Cross, the number exceeded 226. This figure was corroborated by the cemetery administrator, based on notes he took of those buried in that cemetery and in an open grave at the Civil Hospital, adding 23 bodies of Mexicans. The bodies were exhumed, but their state of decomposition prevented any identification. He also says that the investigation includes a list of Chinese nationals whom the commissioners presume were the dead.

Mexico, October 4.

Signed: [Manuel] Calero.

From: The Mayor of Torreón
To: The Governor of Coahuila

Stamped with the seal= [Municipal Presidency of Torreón, Coahuila]

²⁵ I am taking a bit of a guess on the recipient of this telegram here.

Secretariat, Section No. 00994

As a result of the investigations carried out regarding the matter of the massacre of Chinese citizens in this city, I have the honor of transcribing to you what the Military Investigating Judge stated to me in his letter dated yesterday, number 119.

“I acknowledge receipt of the contents of your kind letter of this date, marked with the number 980, and in my reply I must inform you, so that you may forward it to the Governor of the State, that: the proceedings relating to the deaths of the Chinese subjects, which occurred in this City on May 15th, are being completed with full activity, and once concluded, they will be sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the legal channels. I cannot indicate the names of the deceased because the Chargé d’Affaires of the Chinese Empire has not yet provided them to this Court, despite being obligated to do so. Regarding the number, according to the reports on file and provided by the Administrator of the Municipal Cemetery, the total is 203, of which 128 were buried in the Cemetery itself, and the rest in other locations. As for whether they were nationals, I must inform you that we only have information on some of them, as it has not yet been possible to clarify this matter.”

I am informing you of this, with the understanding that I will continue to report to your Superior Authority as soon as I obtain better information.

I respectfully submit my highest consideration and respect.

Liberty and Constitution

Torreón, Coahuila, July 31, 1911

The Municipal President

Manuel N. Oviedo

From: The Mexican Delegation in Beijing, China

To: To the Mexican Undersecretary in Charge of the Office of Foreign Relations

August 9, 1911

I have the honor of forwarding to you, enclosed, a clipping from today's "Journal de Pekín"²⁶ and another from "The Weekly China Tribune,"²⁷ concerning the massacre of Chinese in Torreón, the exaggerated and unfounded claims of the Chargé d’Affaires of China, the inappropriateness of sending warships from that nation to Mexican waters to support its claims, and the serious and prudent attitude adopted by the Imperial Government in this situation.

²⁶ A French language newspaper based out of Beijing.

²⁷ An English language newspaper published in China.

I renew to you the assurances of my most respectful consideration.

P. Herrera de Huerta.
Mexico, August 28, 1911.

From: The Mexican Consulate, Eagle Pass, Texas
To: The Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations

MEXICAN CONSULAR SERVICE
Eagle Pass, Texas, December 19, 1911

[To:] Mr. Manuel Calero
Mexico City

My dear Sir, with all due respect:

I received your kind letter of the 10th of this month on the 15th.

(...)

I believe it appropriate to give you the following information: I know that a Chinese diplomat, who is in Spain or Washington, told someone that China did not want to have the slightest friction with Mexico regarding the matter of the Chinese in Torreón; because he feared that Mexico would pass a law prohibiting the entry of Chinese into Mexican territory. Or that in some other way the Mexican government would hinder the subjects of the Celestial Empire from remaining in our nation, and that this would be more detrimental to China than the benefit of a few million pesos that it could obtain from this matter.

(...)

Vidal Garza Pérez

From: The Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations
To: The Chinese Chargé d'Affaires in Mexico

Marginal note: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Office of the Chief Clerk. No. 44
Mexico City; January 13, 1912

Mr. Chargé d'Affaires

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt to Your Excellency of the kind note from that Legation dated the 13th of this month, regarding His Majesty the Emperor of China's

ratification of the Convention for the settlement of the claims of Chinese subjects residing in Mexico due to the recent revolution, and which agreement was concluded by that Legation

(...)

Manuel Calero

From: The Chinese Chargé d'Affaires in Mexico

To: The Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations

Woo Chung Yen

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of China

CHINESE LEGATION

MEXICO

May 13, 1912

Mr. Minister:

In response to the request you kindly made to me during our interview of the 10th of this month, I have the honor to inform you that I have instructions to let your Government know that on April 28 of this year, my Government ratified the protocol between Mexico and China that was signed in Mexico City on December 16, 1911.

I also have instructions to inform you that this news has been conveyed to your representative in Beijing.

The Government I represent is pleased to receive the news that the aforementioned protocol will be ratified during the course of this month by the Mexican Senate.

(...)

Woo Chung Yen

To Pedro Lascurain

Minister of Foreign Relations.

From: The Chinese Legation in Mexico

To: The Mexican Undersecretary of Foreign Relations

CHINESE LEGATION MEXICO

December 21, 1912

Mr. Undersecretary

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's note dated December 14, in which Your Excellency informed me that the Senate of Mexico had approved the Protocol signed between Mexico and China on December 16, 1911, and its corresponding amendment dated December 13, 1912, concerning the payment that Mexico will make to China for the damages suffered by Chinese citizens in Mexico during the Revolution of 1910.

Your Excellency stated in the aforementioned note that you had referred to the Senate the conversation Your Excellency had with me regarding the payment of the amount stipulated in the Protocol, in which conversation Your Excellency indicated that Mexico may wish to make the payment in bonds of the National Debt of the Republic.

I informed Your Excellency in a personal interview that I had consulted the matter with the Government I represent. I have received instructions from my Government to inform Your Excellency that, in view of the fact that the aforementioned sum will be immediately distributed among the Chinese subjects whose losses gave rise to this claim, the Government prefers that the sum be delivered in cash; but if the Government of Mexico does not wish to make the payment in that form, the Government of China will accept bonds whose market value on the day the payment is made is equivalent to the amount that Mexico must pay in accordance with the stipulations of the aforementioned Protocol, namely, Three Million One Hundred Thousand pesos.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency my highest assurances of appreciation and esteem.

Woo Chung Ten.

From: The Chinese Legation in Mexico
To: The Mexican Undersecretary of Foreign Relations

Chinese Legation.
Mexico

May 28, 1913.

Mr. Subsecretary:-

Referring to our interview of this afternoon, I have the honor to state in confirmations of the same, the following:

I mentioned to Your Excellency the fact that I had been informed that the \$20,000,000. internal loan, to which reference was made in the note of His Excellency Minister de la Barra to me, dated the 20th of May, would not be approved at this session on Congress, whereupon Your Excellency assured me that my information was incorrect and that authority would be given by Congress before its adjournment [sic] to negotiate the above mentioned loan, which

includes among other items, a provision for the payment of the Chinese indemnity which has been due and payable since the 15th of February, last.

Your Excellency stated that you would immediately call the matter to the attention of His Excellency, the President of the Republic, for which I extended to Your Excellency my very sincere thanks.

In the event that Congress fails to pass the bill providing for the \$20,000,000. loan at this session of Congress, I will ask Your Excellency to kindly call to the attention of His Excellency, the President of the Republic the necessity for the prompt payment of the amount of the Chinese indemnity from such other source as His Excellency may deem proper.

In conclusion I will state that I have wired my Government in regard to the situation and the assurances which Your Excellency so kindly gave me this afternoon.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

Woo Chung Ten (signed)

[To:] His Excellency Lic. Carlos Pereyra,
Subsecretary of Foreign Relations, Mexico, D. F.

From: The Mexican Ministry of Finance and Public Credit
To: The Mexican International Affairs Sections

Marginal Note. Ministry of Finance and Public Credit
No. 6678

By your kind letter number 4718, issued by the International Affairs Section, dated the 30th of last January, this Ministry has learned that on the 29th of the same month, the exchange of instruments of ratification of the Protocols signed in this Capital between the Governments of Mexico and China took place, our Government granting compensation to the subjects of that Republic who suffered damages to their persons and property and to the relatives of those who perished in Torreón, as a result of the revolution.

Mexico, February 3, 1913
Signature.

From: The U.S. Secretary of State
To: The American Ambassador in Mexico

File No. 412.11/47.

[Telegram—Paraphrase.]

Department of State,

Washington, January 8, 1912.

American claims. You will communicate with the Foreign Office informally in the following sense:

“A profound impression has been made in this country by news of Mexico’s settlement of Chinese claims arising from the Torreon massacre. There is much criticism of this Government for what appears to those not familiar with the facts to be its failure to secure a settlement of American claims, particularly those resulting from the killing and wounding of American citizens on American soil at Douglas, Arizona, and El Paso, Texas.

“As is well known, this Government, desiring to embarrass as little as possible the Mexican Government in its present situation, has urged that all American claims should go before the specially established Mexican Claims Commission, even including the claims above specified although these stand on a peculiar footing different from that of any other claims against the Mexican Government since they involve a technical violation of American territory by Mexican forces.

“The Department has always desired and still desires to avoid making diplomatic representations regarding the Agua Prieta and Juárez incidents, but it now finds it necessary to bring these cases informally to the attention of the Mexican Government with a view to hastening the hearing thereof and the early allowance of a generous indemnity to all those injured at Douglas or El Paso and to the families of those who were killed there. Prompt attention to this matter by the Mexican Government would probably prevent congressional action here and so forestall the embarrassments that might be caused to both Governments by the agitation referred to.”

Inform the Department of the attitude of the Mexican Government and state whether French, English, Spanish, and German claims are now being settled diplomatically or by reference to the Commission.

Regarding the killing at Alamo of American citizens, and referring to previous correspondence relative thereto, ascertain whether the promised fresh investigation has been completed; and say that this matter is also pressing here and that the information received by the Department indicates that the reports furnished the Mexican Government by its subordinate officers directly concerned in the matter are entirely erroneous, the Americans having been wantonly murdered; in view of all of which, the Department

confidently expects that early steps will be taken to punish those guilty of committing the outrage and that the families of the murdered men will be properly indemnified.

[Philander C.] Knox.