

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LIAISON OFFICER

OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉ
51 CANTON ROAD
SHANGHAI, CHINA

SHANGHAI

MAY 4 - 1937

April 6, 1937.

L-505

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND
FORWARDED COMMERCE
INDEXED
FILE No. 531

RECEIVED
China

MAY 7 1937

To: Automotive-Aeronautics Trade Division.

From: Shanghai Office.

Subject: Annual Automotive Census - Questionnaire 27-H.

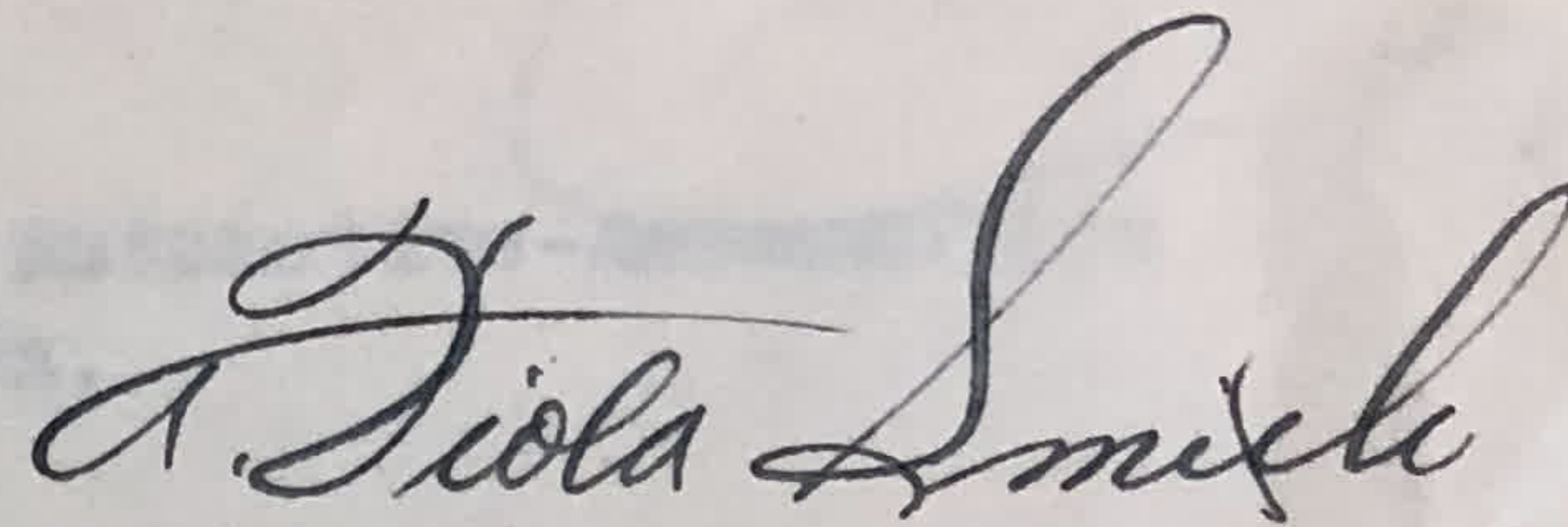
We are forwarding by the next outgoing mail, April 12, the final compilation of the Annual Automotive Census, in response to your Questionnaire 27-H, dated October 15, 1936. It is regretted that this will not reach you by April 15 as called for in the Questionnaire, but the heavy reporting schedule of this office has made it impossible to get the report to you sooner. That you may know the report is on its way, we are despatching a radiogram indicating that it should reach Washington about May 3.

The revised reporting requirements of your Division for inclusion in the Manual of Instructions, dated February 19, 1937, have just arrived and we note that under "Annual World Automotive Vehicle Registrations" it is stated that the field officer should await the annual questionnaire to be mailed in December. This brings up a point which we should like to present to your Division for further consideration. Questionnaire 27-H required a preliminary report to be mailed in time to reach Washington not later than February 1, and the final report not later than April 15. For the report to reach Washington means that we must mail it at least by January 15; and this does not allow sufficient time for us to get estimates from the territory which we are to cover. On the other hand the final estimates have varied so little from the preliminary figures, that we do not feel that the duplicate work which this has entailed on the part of this office and the Consulates, justifies the results obtained.

If, the future questionnaire is not to be mailed from Washington until sometime in December, this will mean that we shall not receive it in Shanghai until probably the latter part of January. We could not hope to get it to our contacts and receive their replies before March 1, in which event, under normal circumstances, we would be able to get the final report to you by April 15.

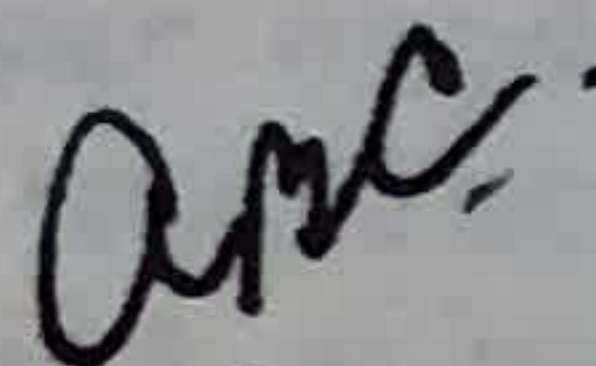
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We should like to suggest that the Questionnaire be mailed from Washington not later than November 1; that the preliminary report be eliminated, and that the one and final report be in Washington not later than April 15. We feel that if this schedule is adopted for the China field, we shall be able to give you reasonably good service. Our annual reporting requirements, and those which we request from the Consulates, are so extremely heavy at the close of each year that we are anxious to eliminate needless duplication and to "stagger" reporting schedules wherever possible, without sacrificing their usefulness to the needs of the Bureau in Washington.



A. Viola Smith,
Trade Commissioner

Approved by:



A. Bland Calder,
Assistant Commercial Attache,
Temporarily in Charge

AVS:EB

FILE NO.

November 25, 1938

China

27-g

To: Shanghai Office.
From: Automotive-Aeronautics Trade Division.
Subject: Questionnaire No. 27-0 - Annual World Automotive Vehicle Registrations.

We recently sent you a copy of our Questionnaire No. 27-0, Annual World Motor Vehicle Registrations as of January 1, 1939.

Last year in your summary, which was given on pages 3 and 4 of your Special Report No. S-81, you include Hong Kong and all the other Districts which you were requested to include in your report. I am inclosing a copy of our Article based on the report received last year, and you will note we like to publish separate figures for Hong Kong, Portuguese Colony of Macao, etc.. Accordingly, it is requested that you submit a separate summary for China, Hong Kong, Kwantung Leased Territory, and the Portuguese Colony of Macao, so these figures will not have to be compiled here in the Division.

You will note the Consulate at Mukden has been requested to furnish figures for Manchuria.

We understand, of course, that the Districts covered by you this year may differ from last year, but this is, of course, left to your judgment.

Robert Gervy,
Chief, District Office Division.

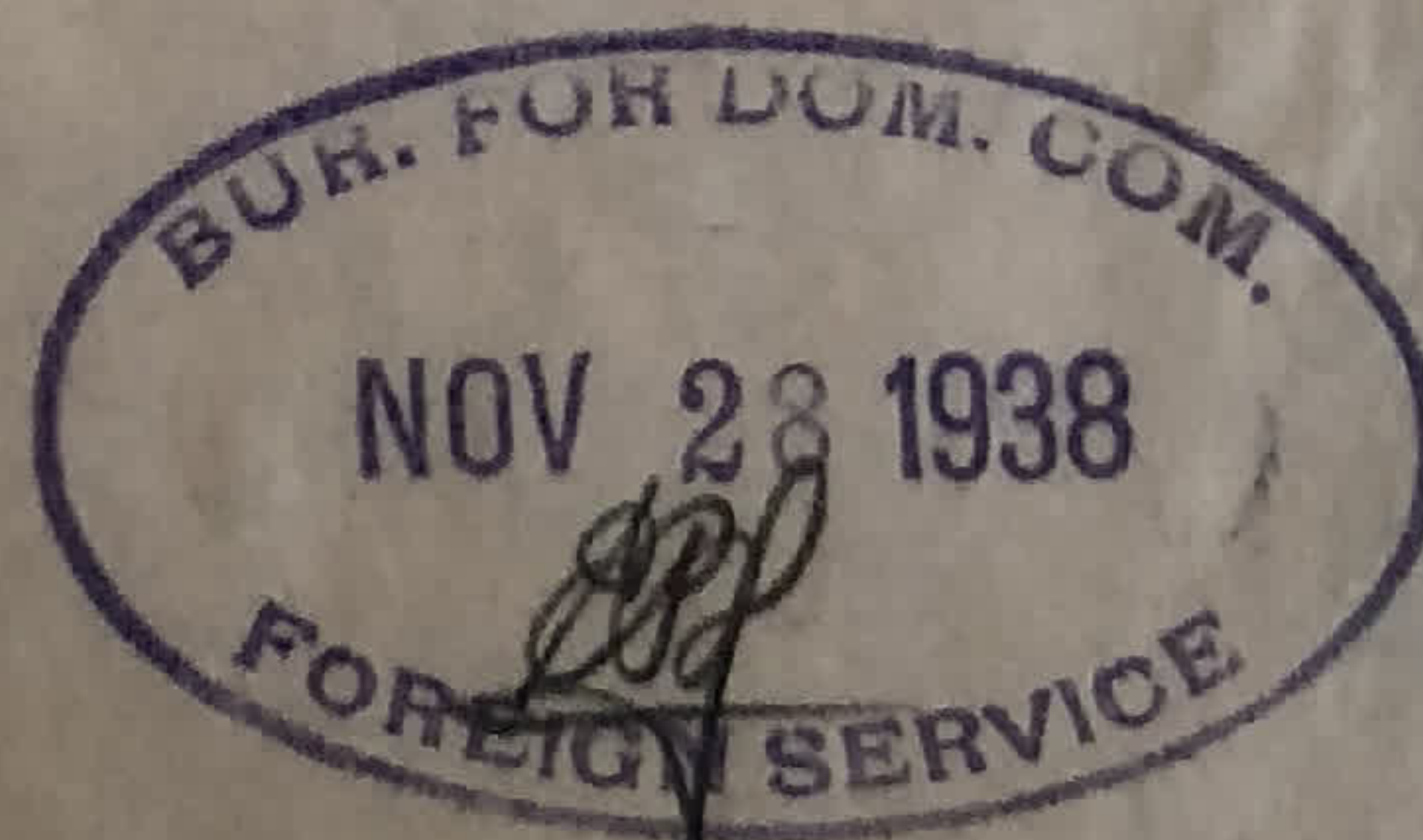
I. H. Taylor, Chief,
Automotive-Aeronautics Trade Division.

Forwarded:

William P. Wright,
Acting Chief, Foreign Commerce Service.

Inclosure: 36662

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impact of active warfare and other possible sources of information are sealed for military reasons.

SHANGHAI

April 11, 1939.

L-289

To: Automotive-Aeronautics Trade Division

From: Shanghai Office A. Viola Smith,
Trade Commissioner.

Subject: Questionnaire No. 27-0 Annual World Automotive
Vehicle Registrations.

Reference is made to your communication of November 25, 1938, transmitting Questionnaire No. 27-0. In response thereto we are sending by today's pouch, Special Report No. S-48, dated April 1, 1939, as the China Section of the Annual World Automotive Vehicle Registration Survey.

The difficulties of obtaining information for the compilation of the Automotive Census of China this year have frankly been so great and the information received so unsatisfactory that we have at times hesitated to make a report. The estimates for this year can not even be dignified by the term of an "educated" guess, for in most instances they are "blind" guesses. It is seriously questioned whether the omission of a Census this year might not be preferable to furnishing statistics of such a questionable nature. In whatever use is made of the China Census this year by the Bureau, it is hoped that emphasis will be laid upon the fact that the figures should be reviewed in the light of the extraordinary conditions which have prevailed in China since July, 1937, and that their use should be made with these reservations.

The rendering of this report gives us no satisfaction as we are too conscious of its deficiencies. We send it however, rather than to skip a year in the census survey. The estimates contained therein are representative possibly of trends, rather than of estimated registrations. With a few rare exceptions registration agencies throughout China have collapsed with the

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L-289 - Shanghai, China.

April 11, 1939.

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Impact of active warfare and other possible sources of information
are sealed for military reasons.

Mr. George S. Messersmith,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

A. Viola Smith,
Trade Commissioner.

Approved for Transmission:

A. Bland Calder,
Acting Commercial Attache.

AVS:MKD.