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BUREAU OF FOREIGN
DOMESTIC COMMERCE
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China

To the Bureau.
From Commercial Attache Julian Arnold.

February 26, 1938.

Import Tariff on Automotives

Inclosed is a copy of a letter addressed by the Commercial Attache to the Minister of Industry and Commerce on the subject of the Import Tariff on Motor Vehicles.

On Sunday afternoon I called on the Vice Minister of Industry and Commerce to discuss the matter, after having been fully informed on the subject at a luncheon on the same day, given by four representatives here of the General Motors. On the morning of the 25th I called, in company with two representatives of General Motors, on the Minister of Industry and Commerce, who appeared to be very favorably impressed with the representations as made by us and agreed to use his influence in bringing about the desired alteration.

According to the Chinese Import Tariff, chassis and accessories, as also motor vehicles for ordinary use, are assessed 22 1/2 per cent. duty, while completed motor passenger vehicles with seats for not less than twelve passengers, or complete motor trucks or motor lorries over one ton carrying capacity, are admitted at 12 1/2 per cent.

This militates particularly against American exports of motor vehicles, as we are in a position to bring in chassis in a larger and more advantageous manner than any other peoples, and arrange for assembling or body construction in China. I shall also take up this matter with the Minister of Finance later in the week, and hope for favorable results.

(Julian Arnold)

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Cora
041.2 China

Inclosure 95244.

Ministry of Industry and Commerce,
Nanking.

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