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February 20, 1931.

*China*

To: Shanghai Office.  
From: Automotive Division.  
Subject: Annual Report of China Automotive Census.

27b

The following cable has been sent to you today:

"REFERENCE AUTOMOTIVE CENSUS STOP UNNECESSARY CABLE  
PRELIMINARY FIGURES PROVIDED DATA ARRIVES WASHINGTON  
PRIOR TO MAY FIRST."

We sent this cable after receiving three or four cables from you giving preliminary figures of automotive registrations in various parts of China. We commence work on the annual world automotive census on the first of May each year, at which time the reports from all field offices are expected to be in Washington. So long as the data arrives in Washington early enough before that date to permit of the necessary statistical tabulation in this Division, we are entirely satisfied. Last year, we received your mimeographed compilation of automotive registrations for China on March 8, which gave us sufficient time to compile the information well in advance for our completed survey. Inasmuch as these cables containing registration information cannot be used by us to any particular advantage which cannot be obtained from the use of your printed figures, we think you would appreciate learning that in our opinion, the submittal of the preliminary cables is unnecessary.

There may be some extraordinary reason, of course, why these cables are submitted, but so far as this Division is concerned the subsequent printed material is satisfactory for our purposes.

Forwarded:

A. W. Childs,  
Chief, Automotive Division.  
W. L. Miller,  
Chief, Foreign Service Division.

CW-1m