

INDEXED
FILE NO. 128

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
WASHINGTON

Peking

January 14, 1924

CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

19

NAME OF SUBJECT	FILE NO.
Julean Arnold, American Commercial Attache, American Legation, Peking, China.	

Dear Mr. Arnold:

Subject - Copy of China Monthly Trade Bulletin for China Club, Seattle.

SE

NAME

DATE

Referring to your memorandum to the Shanghai office, File 128.3, we decided to concede to Mr. Herbsman's request for 50 copies of the China Trade Bulletin for distribution to his membership, notwithstanding our feeling that this was rather a precarious course to pursue. As you know, this whole matter of utilizing Consul's reports by our Commercial Attache is contrary to the strict wording of the law which requires that reports be forwarded to us through the Secretary of State, Washington, D. C. However, as you have managed "to get by with it" for over a year and it is evidently a very satisfactory and efficient service to American firms doing business in China, I was inclined to grant Mr. Herbsman's request as a sort of experiment to see whether the information contained in these bulletins could be disseminated to the membership of his club without the material getting into print or involving your office in any disagreeable "squabble" with the Consular service. If, however, anything of this kind occurs it may be necessary for us to call off not only the distribution in Seattle, but probably our authority to disseminate Consul's reports in China will be questioned as well.

I would, therefore, go slowly if I were you in suggesting to other Chinese clubs that this service is being given to Seattle until we see how the thing works out. So far we have had no unfavorable reaction from the thirty or forty copies which were sent to our confidential mailing list of bankers and executives. I would suggest that you drop a line to Mr. Herbsman impressing upon him the various points brought out above and suggesting to him the importance of having his members observe the caution against publication.

Very truly yours,

Chief, R. Aldridge,
SAN EASTERN DIVISION.

100-ars

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

CABLE ADDRESS:
"AMCOMAT," PEKING

OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉ
PEKING, CHINA

March 3, 1924

SUBJECT: Caution Against Publication of Material
Appearing in the Monthly Trade and
Economic Reports

Mr. J. O. Herbsman, Executive Secretary
China Club of Seattle
541-43 Henry Building
Seattle, Washington

Dear Mr. Herbsman:-

I received a short letter from you sometime ago in reply to one which I had written to you on the distribution of a number of copies of our monthly trade and economic report, to the members of your China Club. It was good to hear that you were well, and as enthusiastic as ever regarding the work of this excellent organization.

A few days ago I received a letter from Mr. E. R. Eldridge, Chief of the Far Eastern Division of the Department of Commerce, whom you know, in which he suggested that we bring to your attention again the fact that much of the material contained in our monthly economic report is confidential data supplied by the Consuls which according to law should be forwarded to the Department of Commerce through the Secretary of State, but as our present method of rendering this very satisfactory and efficient service to American firms has so far passed without objections, we shall continue to distribute the material in the future as in the past, unless objections are made because of material in the reports receiving too much publicity.

Mr. Eldridge suggests therefore, in view of the fact that we are sending a certain number of copies directly to your office for the benefit of the members of the Seattle China Club, that you caution these members once more against allowing any of this material to get into the press. I am sure that you will make every effort to prevent such an occurrence, and I assure you that we shall endeavor to see that you continue to receive these reports.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

AH:fn

A. H. Evans

INDEXED
FILE NO.

128

Peking

April 5, 1924.

To: Seattle District Office.
From: Far Eastern Division.
Subject: Letter to the Executive Secretary of China Club of Seattle.

We inclose for your information a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Herbsman, Executive Secretary of the China Club of Seattle, by Mr. Evans in which Mr. Evans draws attention to the confidential character of the information contained in the economic reports which are being supplied to the China Club.

We had previously suggested to Mr. Arnold that it might be desirable to send these reports to your office for distribution, thereby giving you further opportunity for cooperative efforts.

We have no objection to the method of transmittal adopted, but wish to inform you of the circumstances so that you may have the opportunity of offering suggestions should you care to do so.

F. R. Eldridge,
Chief, Far Eastern Division.

Inclosure 20775

HAB/LGX

Forwarded:

H. Dotterer,
Chief, Division of District Offices.