

April 25, 1922

Dr. Paul S. Reinisch,
204 Southern Building,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Dr. Reinisch:

I have been out of New York for some time, and returning find in my accumulated mail your letter of April 11. Thank you for it. I have, as I ought to have, a profound respect for your judgment about Far Eastern affairs, I know so little and you know so much, your judgment in such a matter as the recognition by the United States of the Far Eastern Republic is worth much, mine is worth very little because I have had no experience in the Orient and my information is not thorough, though my interest is keen. This fact makes me feel that I am not competent to give a judgment on whether or no we should recognize the Far Eastern Republic.

My instinct so far has been against it. It has seemed to me that a "Hands Off" policy for all Russia was the wisest course for us until there should be a Moscow government that really represented the people. I have had an idea that when that came, the Far Eastern Republic might again, of its own accord, become a part of Russia, though I do think it more probable - and certainly more desirable - that a federation result. A United States of Russia has seemed to me a probable outcome of the present situation, but that we could help that by recognition of the Chita government at this period, I am dubious.

How do you feel about the Pri-Amur government? Is it a bona fide government? Has it not some right to live as well as the Far Eastern Republic? Or do you regard it purely as a Japanese set-up? I have not felt sure about that. Naturally Chita wants Vladivostok. Naturally enough she fears Japan, but I have felt that Chita might be at times trying to arouse antagonism to the Japanese in order to create sympathy for herself. Is not the Japan interest in Eastern Siberia very like ours in the Philippines, England in India?

You see, dear Dr. Reinisch, that I feel that I am too ignorant to express an opinion on the matter. I have a very profound feeling that Russia must work this thing out herself, and that the best we can do for her is to keep our hands off the politics within her borders. If we can give her credit, establish trade

relations, relieve her suffering, I have felt that we were doing the best for her, and that we might only mess things up by recognitions, however sympathetic we might be with the undertaking of the Far Eastern Republic.

Certainly its constitution is admirable. It seems to have far and away the greatest number of the people behind it, but it takes a long time for the best of constitutions, even if they have an almost unanimous support, to work out stability.

Before I dare advise recognition of the Far Eastern Republic, I must feel surer that I am right. Your own judgment, which I value so highly, is certainly a strong argument with me that I am wrong.

I am going to be in Washington for ten days or so, and I should like very much to have a talk with you if you can find time to see me.

Very sincerely yours,