

No.

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Circular distributed by the Il Chin Hoi .

When strong declare your purpose and act quickly ;
when weak keep your own counsel until you have some hope of
venturing successfully . Japan the most advanced power in
the Orient has been obliged to fight two great wars , the first
with China , the second with Russia in her desire to maintain
the peace of the Far East . Since the ratification of the
Treaty of Portsmouth and the signing of the Anglo-Japanese
Alliance there have been many rumours circulated throughout
the land and a suspicion in the hearts of the people that a
change would be made in the existing relations between Japan
and Korea . The change from Springtime to Summer's warmth is
pleasant but Autumn's chill is followed by the frosts and snows
of winter . As the feet of him who kicks against a stone will
suffer so surely will suspicion and useless intrigue bring
discord where harmony alone should prevail between the two
Empires . The consequence of friction will be the downfall
of Korea .

Oh! Heaven! whose sin is this ? Who's sin is this ?
What shall we do ? Oh ! we ask you our Twenty million countrymen
what shall we do ?

We members of the Il Chin Hoi cry aloud and by our
actions make appeal to the people of Korea . We assure you
and entreat you to believe that by following our example alone
may the Empire be saved , the mind of the Emperor set at rest,
and the hearts of the people comforted .

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Under the existing relations between Japan and Korea it would be as difficult for Korea to regain the position she held before the war as it would be to restore to perfect health a man already at death's door . We have but two roads to follow ; should we choose the one we declare to the Powers that we wish not outside interference , but desire solely to preserve the independence of our land , and , in so choosing, ~~mistaken~~ in our patriotism , go to our certain doom . As we tread the other ~~our~~ faltering footsteps would be guided by the advice of a friendly power whose aim like our own would be the independence and improvement of our country . But our Government has neither the spirit to act on it's own initiative or the confidence in the good intentions of a friendly state which ^{are} is necessary before any betterment of conditions may be effected . This lamentable distrust is increased by the machinations of corrupt officials who scheme to foment ill feeling between the Governments of Korea and Japan .

We members of the IL CHIN HOI actuated solely by a desire to maintain the majesty and glory of the Imperial House , to secure the prosperity of the people and the independence of our native land , exert ourselves . By the majesty of the Imperial House we do not mean false glory and ~~sham~~ ^{sham}less pride , but that attribute of the sovereign ^{ty} which commands the confidence of the ^{nation} people ; by the prosperity of the people , not a temporary phase merely , but a perpetual condition ; and as for independence we demand a reality and not an empty name .

The supreme power is vested in His Majesty Our Emperor but all officials must conscientiously perform the several duties to which they may be assigned both in the affairs of diplomacy and the business of the State . His Majesty has honored them with His confidence and the people should benefit by their administration . Is this present Government doing it's duty ? NO! We would rather have no Government than one like the present where all officials from highest to lowest are so incompetent that by holding their positions they rob the

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Government of their salary and who avail themselves of every opportunity to "squeeze" and oppress the people .

Who can foretell the future relations between Japan and Korea? Should the recall of the Korean Legations abroad and the withdrawal of the foreign representatives from Seoul place the external relations of Korea entirely in the hands of the Japanese Foreign Office some Koreans may say , with regret , that the national honor has been sacrificed and the independence and integrity of Korea become an empty phrase . Such expressions would be short sighted . The Korean Japanese protocol of February * 1904 provided that the Korean Government could only make agreements or treaties by the advice and with the consent of the adviser recommended by the Japanese Government . Korea should therefore hand over to the Japanese Government the charge of her foreign relations , especially as such a transfer of responsibility would be a form merely , in the light of that protocol , and since the Korean representatives abroad are only holding their posts and not obtaining any results . It would be better for Korea to do this , that the national integrity may be maintained and His Majesty the Emperor resume his greater authority . Moreover , in internal affairs , if the Government will listen to the suggestions offered by the Japanese adviser instead of retaining in office the corrupt and venal occupants of all official positions , the old and worned out administration may be improved and the power of His Majesty increased .

The fame of the virtue and the magnanimity of the Emperor of Japan is world wide . His justice is a household word and if we but place our trust in him he will not deceive us . Alas ! Our Government unmindful that its actions will estrange the Japanese persist in trusting a foreign Power in whom they should have no confidence .

At the very outset of hostilities between Russia and Japan the Imperial edict which published the Korean -Japanese

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Alliance , proclaimed Russia as our enemy , yet our Government, to our shame be it said , could send not a single man to aid the Japanese army . But we of the IL CHIN HOI did our utmost , and sacrificed the lives of a few hundreds of our fellows in building railroads and transporting military provisions . This we suffered in our devotion to Japan , the most advanced nation in the East , our belief in the righteousness of her cause and our appreciation of her friendship for Korea as shown by her alliance with us . But the corrupt Koreans called us traitors , blind to our true purpose ,; we regret while we do not fear their malediction .

Oh! brethren , 20,000,000 fellow countrymen / look upon the present plight of our country and ponder on the condition of the Far East and of the wide world . Who will doubt that the Emperor of Japan will respect bur independence as he has pledged himself before the world that he would do ? Let us then unite and trust in Japan with all faithfulness and sincerity and lend an ear to her advice under a protectorate thati we may mantain the independence of our country and secure the perpetual prosperity of our people .