

STIMSON ASKS CURB ON ARMS TO JAPAN

Extension of 'Moral Embargo'
Urged to Impress on Tokyo
the Sentiment in U. S.

The text of Mr. Stimson's letter is printed on Page 4.

Henry L. Stimson, former Secretary of State, proposed in a letter to THE NEW YORK TIMES yesterday that Congress pass one of the four bills now before it to prohibit the export of arms, munitions or raw materials for arms to Japan.

A comparatively small number of individual Americans, he charged, have been aiding Japanese aggression in China for three years. He identified them as "chiefly the merchants who are selling to Japan the ore, steel and scrap iron indispensable for her bombs, and the large oil producers who are selling to her the even more indispensable aviation gasoline for her planes."

He urged the State Department to extend the "moral embargo" now effective on the export of airplanes and on machinery to manufacture special aviation gasoline, to the export of these additional articles, but said he did not think this would be enough. He said he believed legislation was needed to impress Japan "with the seriousness of the feeling of our people as to this matter."

Emphasis on Right Conduct

The passage of such legislation, he continued, would show "the emphasis we place upon right conduct in international relations and particularly upon the treaty for which we are mainly responsible, undertaking to respect the integrity and independence of China," and would do more than anything else to impress the Japanese people "with the sincerity of our purpose."

Such an expression of American disapproval, he argued, ultimately would help produce a reversal of the policy of the Japanese Army leaders, without which reversal, he said, "the stable equilibrium of Eastern Asia, in which the United States is so deeply interested and which is now menaced by Japan's attack upon China, cannot be restored."

It also would show the whole world, he continued, "that this nation recognizes its responsibility for making efforts toward the restoration of law and order and that wherever its peaceful influence can effectively be thrown it will be thrown on the side of independence and freedom and against militarized aggression."

Mr. Stimson also held that the proposed action would fortify the good effects which followed the act of Congress last year repealing the arms embargo. It would show again that the American people were "not afraid to discriminate between right and wrong," and would identify us more firmly on the side of the peace-loving nations rather than as "an unwilling ally" of aggressor nations.

Free to Place Restraints Jan. 26

It was emphasized by Mr. Stimson that the United States would be "morally free" to place restrictions on its commerce with Japan after Jan. 26, when the six months' notice of our abrogation of the

Japanese-American commercial treaty expires.

Taking issue with those who argue that such proposals as his might lead us into war with Japan, Mr. Stimson said that "the very last thing which the Japanese Government desires is a war with the United States. This was proved, he continued, by the Japanese reaction to our action denouncing the commercial treaty."

Instead of threatening war, Japan "put the brakes" on anti-American acts in China, began issuing conciliatory statements, and organized a movement in this country to try to persuade us to negotiate a new treaty, and also to offer our good offices for mediation in China.

He strongly urged against any mediation by this country now. He asserted that the Japanese military efforts were beginning to "bog down," and that recent events had given the Chinese Government renewed confidence to resist.

Any attempt by the United States "to force a peace upon China," he went on, would not bring enduring peace, but would merely help Japan acquire "legal title" to territory she has seized by force, would make

China a vassal State, and would mean an abandonment of all the principles this country has maintained toward China. It would seriously discredit the United States, he said, and impair our interests not only in the Far East but throughout the world.

NE.

I did not think
it necessary to suggest
a telegram on this. That
we should report by
dep. next day if you
agree.

1/15.

12/1

for: new letter home
attached by. also Walter
L 12/1
outside of today.
Old Pen 10/1