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A G R E E M E N T

BETWEEN THE

UNITED KINGDOM AND GERMANY

RELATIVE TO

C H I N A .

October 16, 1900.

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*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
January 1901.*

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AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED KING-  
DOM AND GERMANY RELATIVE TO CHINA.

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October 16, 1900.

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No. 1.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Count Hatzfeldt.*

Your Excellency,

*Foreign Office, October 16, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the Agreement, annexed hereto, which has been negotiated between your Excellency and myself with regard to the principles on which the mutual policy of Great Britain and Germany in China should be based.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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Inclosure in No. 1.

*Agreement signed on the 16th October, 1900.*

HER Britannic Majesty's Government and the Imperial German Government being desirous to maintain their interests in China and their rights under existing Treaties, have agreed to observe the following principles in regard to their mutual policy in China :—

1. It is a matter of joint and permanent international interest that the ports on the rivers and littoral of China should remain free and open to trade and to every other legitimate form of economic activity for the nationals of all countries without distinction; and the two Governments agree on their part to uphold the same for all Chinese territory as far as they can exercise influence.

2. Her Britannic Majesty's Government and the Imperial German Government will not, on their part, make use of the present complication to obtain for themselves any territorial advantages in Chinese dominions, and will direct their policy towards maintaining undiminished the territorial condition of the Chinese Empire.

3. In case of another Power making use of the complications in China in order to obtain under any form whatever such territorial advantages, the two Contracting Parties reserve to themselves to come to a preliminary understanding as to the eventual steps to be taken for the protection of their own interests in China.

4. The two Governments will communicate this Agreement to the other Powers interested, and especially to Austria-Hungary, France, Italy, Japan, Russia, and the United States of America, and will invite them to accept the principles recorded in it.

No 2.

*Count Hatzfeldt to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received  
October 16.)*

*Kaiserlich Deutsche Botschaft, London,  
den 16 October, 1900.*

Milord,

EUERE Excellenz habe ich die Ehre ganz ergebenst zu benachrichtigen, dass meine Regierung den nachfolgenden zwischen Eurer Excellenz und mir vereinbarten Punkten ihre Zustimmung ertheilt hat:—

“Die Kaiserlich Deutsche Regierung und die Königlich Grossbritannische Regierung, von dem Wunsche geleitet, ihre Interessen in China und ihre Rechte aus bestehenden Verträgen aufrechtzuerhalten, sind übereingekommen, für ihre beiderseitige Politik in China nachstehende Grundsätze zu beobachten:

“1. Es entspricht einem gemeinsamen und dauernden internationalen Interesse, dass die an den Flüssen und an der Küste Chinas gelegenen Häfen dem Handel und jeder sonstigen erlaubten wirtschaftlichen Thätigkeit für die Angehörigen aller Nationen ohne Unterschied frei und offen bleiben; und die beiden Regierungen sind mit einander einverstanden, dies ihrerseits für alles Chinesische Gebiet zu beobachten, wo sie einen Einfluss ausüben können.

“2. Die Kaiserlich Deutsche Regierung und die Königlich Grossbritannische Regierung wollen ihrerseits die gegenwärtige Verwickelung nicht benutzen, um für sich irgend welche territorialen Vortheile auf Chinesischem Gebiet zu erlangen, und werden ihre Politik darauf richten, den Territorial Bestand des Chinesischen Reichs unvermindert zu erhalten.

“3. Sollte eine andere Macht die Chinesischen Complicationen benutzen, um unter irgend einer Form solche territorialen Vortheile zu erlangen, so behalten beide Contrahenten sich vor,

über etwaige Schritte zur Sicherung ihrer eigenen Interessen in China sich vorher unter einander zu verständigen.

“4. Die beiden Regierungen werden diese Übereinkunft den übrigen beteiligten Mächten insbesondere Frankreich, Italien, Japan, Oesterreich-Ungarn, Russland, und den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika, mittheilen und dieselben einladen, den darin niedergelegten Grundsätzen beizutreten.”

Mit der ausgezeichnetsten Hochachtung habe ich die Ehre zu sein,

(Unterzeichnet) P. HATZFELDT.

(Translation.)

*German Embassy, London,  
October 16, 1900.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that my Government have concurred in the following points agreed to between your Excellency and myself:—

“The Imperial German Government and Her Britannic Majesty’s Government, being desirous to maintain their interests in China and their rights under existing Treaties, have agreed to observe the following principles in regard to their mutual policy in China:

“1. It is a matter of joint and permanent international interest that the ports on the rivers and littoral of China should remain free and open to trade and to every other legitimate form of economic activity for the nationals of all countries without distinction; and the two Governments agree on their part to uphold the same for all Chinese territory as far as they can exercise influence.

“2. The Imperial German Government and Her Britannic Majesty’s Government will not, on their part, make use of the present complication to obtain for themselves any territorial advantages in Chinese dominions, and will direct their policy towards maintaining undiminished the territorial condition of the Chinese Empire.

“3. In case of another Power making use of the complications in China in order to obtain under any form whatever such territorial advantages, the two Contracting Parties reserve to themselves to come to a preliminary understanding as to the eventual steps to be taken for the protection of their own interests in China.

“4. The two Governments will communicate this Agreement to the other Powers interested, and especially to Austria-Hungary, France, Italy, Japan, Russia, and the United States of America, and will invite them to accept the principles recorded in it.”

With the highest respect, &c., &c.,

(Signed) HATZFELDT.