

Nanking, 11 Feb. 1938,

Dearest:-

Deliveries from "Bee" were very slow and piecemeal. Now on short notice "Cricket" goes down, and possibly a French boat two days later. British officials here hope to have a ten-day schedule for their boats, but Commander-in-Chief has not authorized such expense yet. "Oahu" due tomorrow afternoon, but arrivals usually lag and landing arrangements are very poor. Fitch on board, somewhat to our surprise, but he may be coming just to get stuff and wind up affairs.

Thanks a lot for all the trouble with errands and small business I don't want to work you too hard, and perhaps less frequent transport service would save you difficulties. But there is so little that can be got or started here. The pajamas look fine, and I'll try them out tonight. Brief-case nice leather, but I yearn for the size and handle-strength of the one you secured before. However, this is "normal", and maybe I'll appreciate it more when accustomed to it, substituting a light week-end case of some kind for part of the uses to which I used to put the over-size case of ancient years (which might eventually come back to me from Hankow anyhow, though it's future is short at best). I put away the pajamas so promptly and neatly that only now did I find the films and ribbon. Halivoil O. K. Lewis chagrined at problems over his failure to explain desires and instructions and is sending supplementary notes. Whatever you have done is O. K., anyhow. His rubbers all right, though a shade large. What about mine, which were explicitly ordered, I thought, with drawing as well as note on size. Have had Chinese-made at \$1.25 previously, but perhaps there are no more Chinese-made, as with so much else.

General Honma was gone five days before your message came. He remained in Nanking one day between two nights, heard what the officials wanted him to hear, talked nicely and apologetically (I mean defensively to the foreign diplomats, and went home. Allison says he is the standby for the military in Tokyo, in making foreigners feel that they have been too hard on the other generals.

Mr. Bos has been here for a call to get the Almas' clothes and do other Dutch errands for Boudrez, et al, while satisfying his own curiosity. See him if you can, for he is well placed and a really cordial man. His impressions are interesting, though he naturally will not add much in detailed facts from so brief and restricted a visit. Father Kearney sent me a note last night, and apparently is here for a short stop of the French gunboat. I invited him to dinner here tomorrow, but have not been able to meet him yet.

The notes from "Oriental Memories" you may hold. They are part of my "cultivation" of Dr. Rosen, son of this author and grandson of another unusual man -- and woman, who illustrated much of this book. The older generations were linguists in the Near East, and I showed interest in stuff relating to Baghdad and that region. Dr. Rosen has remarkably wit and abilities, but is a dilettante, making little use of his powers and opportunities now and always, I fear.

Sunday a sermon on Lincoln's character, which is basis for an effort to draw British and American Embassy people and some others to Union Church revival. Rabe and Rosen have come for a couple of Sundays past.

Since I wrote so recently to Morton, I won't try again just now. Please get some more prints according to numbers on backs, and enlargements of something like 2x3 size or a little better for those with "E", and double that for the few with a big "E". The rock-garden effect is Chang Chun's dugout, for the house now used as our Int. Com. Hdq. Wilson and Bannon are eating an air-raid luncheon on the porch, of the kind so common in October and early November.

Please see the NCC posteryourself for comparison, for that information is startling to us -- though we ought not to doubt it. Regards to Chen Kong-luh if he has found it difficult to get under way for Chinkiang.

Food deliveries through Self-Government Committee a trifle better, and if there were efficiency and consistencywe should hope that the corner is really turned. Pleased with word that beans are on the way. The green beans can be cooked with shi fan in the kitchens, and will help a great deal for diet.

Hurry call!

*With much love and continual
thought,*

Searle