

University of Nanking,

Nanking, December 16, 1937.

Japanese Embassy,

Nanking.

Gentlemen:-

I beg leave to approach you informally about problems of order and general welfare upon the property of the University next door to your Embassy buildings. We have all heard the official statements of Japanese officers that the Imperial Army does not wish to harm the ordinary civilians, and we hope there will be no difficulties in the way of return to peaceful life under whatever government is satisfactory to your authorities. But at this moment the suffering and terror among the people are very great. The following cases are from our college properties close to yours, and many others have occurred in our Hospital and Middle School and Rural Leaders' Training School nearby.

(1) December 14. Soldiers tore down the American flag and official notice of the American Embassy upon the gate of our Agricultural Economics Compound (Hsiao T'ao Yuan), robbed several teachers and assistants living there, and broke several doors without waiting for keys.

(2) December 15. In the place just mentioned, soldiers came several times and stole money and other articles from refugees who came in for safety; also took away women.

(3) December 15. In our new Library Building, where we are taking care of 1500 common people, four women were raped on the property; two were carried off and released after being raped; three were carried off and not returned; one was carried off but released by your military police near the Embassy. These acts of soldiers have brought great

pain and fear to these families, to their neighbors, and to all Chinese in this part of the city. More than a hundred similar cases in other parts of the Safety Zone have been reported to me this morning. They are not my business now, but I mention them to show that this University problem next door to you is only a sample of the great misery of robbery and rape carried on by soldiers among the people.

We earnestly hope that discipline may be restored among the troops. Now the fear is so great that people are afraid even to get food, and normal life and work is impossible. We respectfully urge that your authorities may arrange for their proper inspections to be carried out systematically under the immediate direction of officers, rather than by stray bands of soldiers who enter the same place as many as ten times in one day and steal all food and money from the people. And secondly, we urge that for the reputation of the Japanese Army and the Japanese Empire, for the sake of good relations between the Japanese authorities and the common people of China, for your own thought of your wives, sisters, and daughters, that the families of Nanking receive protection from the violence of soldiers.

The disorder and failure of the Chinese army gave a good chance for the Japanese troops to secure the confidence of the people, and it is unfortunate for all concerned if that chance is lost by delay or indifference to ordinary human welfare and morality.

Yours respectfully,

Chairman, Emergency Committee of the University of Nanking.

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Nanking, December 16, 1937.

Japanese Embassy,

Nanking.

Gentlemen:-

Permit me to add a brief note to the letter delivered to you this morning, in reference to Item number (2).

In our Agricultural Economics Compound (Hsiao T'ao Yuan) more than thirty women were raped last night by soldiers who came repeatedly and in large numbers. I have investigated this matter thoroughly, and am certain of the correctness of the statement.

The situation all through this section of the city is pitiful indeed. We trust that you have demonstrated your superiority in military power will also demonstrate superiority in mercy. Security of life and person is immediately needed by these many tens of thousands of peaceful citizens.

The University is situated in the Safety Zone and is affected by the conditions and problems of that Zone. Some officers have been friendly and understanding of the purpose and working of the Zone. Others appear to be harsh and suspicious. Let it be made clear to them that what the International Committee has done is entirely open from the beginning. Every office and building and action has been open to inspection each day. The Committee will be glad for the return of normal conditions and release from its humanitarian responsibility. Meanwhile it is merely trying under great difficulties to provide food and housing for people who were driven from their homes by war conditions and still live in great fear.