

18 December, 1937.

Officers of the Japanese Embassy,

Nanking.

Gentlemen:-

Misery and terror continues everywhere because of the rape, violence, and robbery of the soldiers. More than 17,000 poor persons, many of them women and children, are now in our buildings hoping for safety. They are still crowding in, because conditions elsewhere are worse than here. Yet I must give you the record of the past twenty-four hours in this relatively good position.

(1) University Middle School, Kan Ho Yen. One frightened child killed by a bayonet; another critically wounded and about to die. Eight women raped. Several of our own staff, who are trying to feed and care for these wretched people, were struck by soldiers for no reason whatever. Soldiers climb over the walls many times day and night. Many persons could not sleep for three days, and there is hysterical fear. If this fear and despair results in resistance against the attack of soldiers upon women, there will be disastrous slaughter for which your authorities will be responsible. American flag scornfully torn down by soldiers.

(2) Sericulture Building, Chin Ying Chieh. Two women raped.

(3) Agricultural Implements Shop, 11 Hu Chia Ts'ai Yuen. Two women raped.

(4) Faculty residence, 11 Hankow Road, inhabited by our own staff. Two women raped.

(5) Faculty residence, 23 Hankow Road, inhabited by American member of our staff. One woman raped.



(6) Agricultural Economics Department (Hsiao T'ao Yuan).

This place has received terrible treatment so many times that all women have fled. This morning while visiting there, I was approached by six soldiers, one of whom repeatedly pointed a pistol at me with his finger on the trigger, although I did nothing except ask a courteous question as to whether he found any difficulty there.

These plain facts do not tell the misery of ordinary people visited as many as ten times in one day and six times in one night by wandering groups of soldiers looking for women and for loot. They do indicate the urgent need for control at once.

Certain of your representatives declared that there would be military police at the gates of several of these buildings last night (as at certain other points where large bodies of refugees are gathered). But not one guard was seen. Since soldiers are everywhere climbing over walls, a few guards will not do much good, anyhow, unless there is a genuine restoration of general discipline.

The presence of the Akiyama Detachment Headquarters in the residence formerly belonging to Ho Yin-ch'in, constitutes a special peril to this neighborhood until your soldiers are controlled. It could be made a means of security if the generals so desire.

Here and all through the city, people are becoming desperate with hunger, since soldiers have taken their food and their money; also many are cold and sick because soldiers have taken their clothing and bedding. How do the Japanese authorities plan to deal with this problem?

It is being said on every street with tears and distress that where the Japanese Army is, no person and no house can be safe. Surely this is not what the statesmen of Japan wish to do, and all residents



of Nanking expect better things from Japan.

I believe that if you have an opportunity, it would be well for one of you to go with me through some of the places where this terror and suffering continues, so close to your own walls. The writing of this letter has been interrupted in order to deal with seven soldiers engaged in their usual business called "inspection", which means looking for women whom they will return to seize at night.

I slept in these buildings last night, and will continue to do so, in the hope of giving a little aid to helpless women and children. Other foreign friends and myself in doing such humanitarian work have repeatedly been threatened by your soldiers. If in the course of these efforts we are killed or wounded by drunken and disorderly soldiers, the responsibility will be entirely clear.

This letter is written in a courteous and friendly spirit, but it reflects something of the unhappy despair in which we have lived since the Japanese Army entered the city five days ago. Immediate remedy is greatly needed.

Yours faithfully,

Chairman Emergency Committee, University of Nanking.