

11 May, 1938.

Mr. Y. Hanawa,
Japanese Consulate-General,
Nanking.

Dear Mr. Hanawa:-

Your friendly attitude the other day in the question of taking pictures was much appreciated. I have therefore wished to allow time for the matter to be adjusted. But now ten days have gone by since the original problem arose, and six since your talk with me. It is highly unsatisfactory to leave things as they are.

In the first place, the officer who spoke to me in English accepted my offer to let him take the film for evidence, and he voluntarily promised to return it to me in three days. In western countries there is a tradition that "an officer's word is as good as his bond." I believe this Japanese officer was also sincere and honorable in his promise. Who then has prevented the return of the film?

Secondly, I was wrongly accused of photographing the Japanese army. Actually, neither on that occasion nor on any other have I photographed anything of military significance. The evidence of myself, of Dr. Smythe, and of my film seems to be disregarded, and the unfounded suspicion of a soldier was accepted as the basis of a charge against me. This position ought to be fairly and honorably cleared up.

Moreover, you informed me that the military consider the foreigners in Nanking to be supporters of the Hankow Government, suggesting that this view had some bearing upon the suspicion of military photography. I assure you that neither I nor my foreign friends are engaged in military or political activity. From long residence in Nanking I know thoroughly the faults as well as the good

points of the Kuomintang rule, and actually I had many difficulties with the Chinese military and civil authorities in December while helping to organize the Safety Zone and to protect American property in various places.

On the other side, difficulties with the Japanese army have been only those forced upon me by cases of disorder, which we have long hoped are coming to an end. Indeed, I encouraged many friends, Chinese and others, to remain in Nanking for useful work of all kinds, saying that from the past record and reputation of the Japanese army we should expect stern order and discipline from the time of its entry. The attitude of other foreigners has been similar to mine. We object equally to wrongful and injurious acts by any soldiers or officials or civilians, whether Chinese or Japanese or American or German. We respect good work by men of any nationality. We have not taken a position of supporters of one government against another. It is therefore unjust for the military to act toward me or toward other neutrals as if we were agents of the Hankow Government or persons generally hostile to Japan. I will be hostile to Japan only if the military make me so.

You as a diplomatic officer have the opportunity to reduce friction between Japanese and foreign interests by assisting the military to understand the real position of foreigners in Nanking. I have therefore written in a frank and friendly spirit, responding to the commendable attitude which you showed in the recent conversation in your office.

Yours respectfully,

M. S. B.