

c/o American Club,
Shanghai, February 16th, 1938.

Dr. Stanley K. Hornbeck,
State Department,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Hornbeck,

I am writing to explain the background of a film, taken in Nanking before, during and after the Japanese occupation, which is being ~~taken~~^{sent} to you by Julean Arnold, who left here for America by the "Empress of Japan" last week.

For your confidential information I may mention that this film was taken by the Reverend John Magee, a British missionary who acted as Chairman of the International Red Cross Society at Nanking. The hospital scenes which comprise the greater part of the film were "shot" in the Nanking University Hospital and the doctor who occasionally appears on the screen is Dr. Robert O. Wilson, an American medical missionary.

My ^{role} ~~part~~ in connection with the film has been limited to cutting out the parts which seemed redundant and inserting a few titles so as to make it self-explanatory. No effort has been made to "jazz up" the film, which, I think you will agree when you have seen it, would carry a very powerful message even if it had no script at all. The titles have been based chiefly upon the description furnished by Mr. Magee and this description has been used also for the "continuity" which I am attaching hereto for your edification. Some of us felt that you ought to see the film because it gives such a graphic picture of the terrible aftermath of the Japanese occupation of the Chinese capital.

I expect you will be interested to hear that George Fitch, of the Y.M. C.A., who is a member of the International Relief Committee which has striven so valiantly to succor the Chinese populace of Nanking, is planning to leave here shortly for America by Clipper. According to present plans he should leave Hongkong on March 3rd and arrive in Washington at approximately the same time as the films which are being taken by Arnold. Probably George will also take a spare copy of the film with him on the Clipper.

When the suggestion was made to him that he should proceed to the States George found it difficult to make up his mind, being torn between a desire to go to Washington and tell his story and feeling that perhaps it was not right to desert the little group of foreigners who are still carrying on at Nanking. When he asked me for my opinion I told him that I thought he ought by all means to go to the States and lay the facts of the case before you and, if possible, the Secretary of State.

It seems to me that nobody who saw this film and heard George Fitch's first hand narrative could possibly continue to demand the recall of American missionaries and others from China. If the sort of thing shown in the

film could occur in Nanking under the eyes of foreigners, one shudders to think of what may have happened in other places occupied by Japanese when no foreigners were present. To my mind this little group at Nanking, composed for the most part of missionaries and business men, together with other groups scattered over the length and breadth of China, are the real heroes of war. They have been the only buffer between the hapless Chinese populace and the invading army, and there is no doubt that they have done a truly noble work of mercy. Surely your Government and mine ought to be prepared to back up such people in their humanitarian labors.

These are rather trying times out here for all concerned but I think you may feel proud of the way in which Americans, in particular, have stood their ground. Allison seems to have behaved with commendable tact and courage all through at Nanking. Many complimentary things are being said also about the way in which your Naval and Military people have handled the delicate situations which have arisen from time to time both here and by the Yangtze.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

HJT/GS