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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR NANKING SAFETY ZONE

5 Ninghai Road

December 14, 1937.

Japanese Commander of Nanking,

Honorable Sir:

We come to thank you for the fine way your artillery spared the Safety Zone and to establish contact with you for future plans for care of Chinese civilians in the Zone.

The International Committee has taken responsibility for putting people into buildings in the area, has stored rice and flour for feeding the population temporarily, and has taken control of the police in the area.

We would respectfully request that the Committee may:

1. Be favored with a Japanese guard at entrances to the Safety Zone.
2. Be allowed to police the inside of the area with its own civilian police who are armed only with pistols.
3. Be allowed to carry on sale of rice and operate its soup kitchens in the area.
  - a. We have stores of rice in other parts of the city and would like to have free passage of trucks to secure them.
4. Be allowed to continue the present housing arrangements until the common people can return to their homes.  
(Even then there will be thousands of homeless poor refugees to care for.)



5. Be given the opportunity to cooperate with you in restoring telephone, electric, and water services as soon as possible.

Yesterday afternoon an unforeseen situation developed when a number of Chinese soldiers were trapped in the northern part of the city. Some of them came to our office and pleaded in the name of humanity that we save their lives. Representatives of our Committee tried to find your Headquarters but got no farther than a captain on Han Chung Lu. So we disarmed all these soldiers and put them into buildings in the Zone. We beg your merciful permission to permit these men to return to peaceful civilian life as is now their desire.

We would further like to introduce to you the "International Red Cross Committee of Nanking" with Rev. John Magee (American) as Chairman. This International Red Cross Committee has taken charge of the former military hospitals at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ( 外交部 ), the Ministry of Railways ( 鐵道部 ), and the Ministry of War ( 軍政部 ). The Red Cross Committee yesterday disarmed all men on these places and will see that these buildings are used only for hospital purposes. If it is possible to put all the wounded in it, we suggest transferring all the Chinese wounded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ( 外交部 ) Building.

We will be glad to cooperate in any way we can in caring for the civilian population of this city.

Most respectfully yours,

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR NANKING

SAFETY ZONE



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John H. D. Rabe, Chairman.