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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR NANKING SAFETY ZONE

5 Ninghai Road

December 18, 1937.

The Imperial Japanese Embassy,

Nanking.

For the kind attention of:  
Mr. Kiyoshi Fukui,  
Second Secretary to the Japanese  
Embassy.

Dear Sirs:

We are very sorry to trouble you again but the sufferings and needs of the 200,000 civilians for whom we are trying to care make it urgent that we try to secure action from your military authorities to stop the present disorder amongst Japanese soldiers wandering through the Safety Zone.

There is no time or space here to go into the cases that are pouring in faster than we can type them out. But last night Dr. Bates of our Committee went to the University of Nanking dormitories to sleep in order to protect the 1,000 women that fled there yesterday because of attacks in their homes. He found no Gendarmerie on guard there nor at the new University Library building. When at 8:00 P. M. Mr. Fitch and Dr. Smythe took Rev. W. P. Mills to Ginling College to sleep in a house near the gate (as one or more of us have been doing every night since the 14th in order to protect the 3,000 women and children, yesterday augmented to 4,000 by the panic), we were seized roughly by a searching squad and detained for over an hour. The officer had the two women in charge of Ginling College, Miss Minnie Vautrin and Mrs. Chen, with a friend, Mrs. Twinem, lined up at the gate and kept them there in the cold and the men pushed them around roughly. The officer insisted there were soldiers in the compound and he wanted to find them and shoot them. Finally, he let us go home but would not let



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Rev. Mills stay so we do not know what happened after we left.

This combined with the marching off of the men at the Ministry of Justice on December 16th (see separate "Memorandum"), amongst which were several hundred civilian men to our positive knowledge and 50 of our uniformed police, has made us realize that, unless something is done to clear up this situation, the lives of all the civilian men in our Zone are at the mercy of the temperament of searching captains.

With the panic that has been created amongst the women who are now flocking by the thousands to our American institutions for protection, the men are being left more and more alone. (For instance, there were 600 people in the old Language School at Siao T'ao Yuen up till December 16th. But because so many women were raped there on the night of December 15th, 400 women and children moved to Ginling College, leaving 200 men.) These public and institutional buildings were originally listed to accommodate 35,000 people; now, because of panic among the women, this has increased to 50,000 although two buildings have been emptied of men: the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Court.

If this panic continues, not only will our housing problem become more serious but the food problem and the question of finding workers will seriously increase. This morning one of your representatives, Mr. K. Kikuchi, was at our office asking for workers for the electric light plant. We had to reply that we could not even get our own workers out to do anything. We are only able to keep rice and coal supplied to these large concentrations of people by Western members of our Committee and Staff driving trucks for rice and coal. Our Food Commissioner has not dared



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leave his house for two days. The second man on our Housing Commission had to see two women in his family at 23 Hankow Road raped last night at supper time by Japanese soldiers. Our Associate Food Commissioner, Mr. Sone, (a Theological Professor) has had to convey trucks with rice and leave the 2500 people in families at his Nanking Theological Seminary look out for themselves. Yesterday, in broad day light, several women at the Seminary were raped right in the middle of a large room filled with men, women, and children'. We 22 Westerners cannot feed 200,000 Chinese civilians and protect them night and day. That is the duty of the Japanese authorities. If you can give them protection, we can help feed them!

There is another matter that is in the minds of the Japanese officers searching the Zone: they think the place is full of "plain-clothes soldiers." We have notified you several times of the presence of soldiers who disarmed and entered the Zone on the afternoon of December 13th. But now we can safely assure you that there are no groups of disarmed Chinese soldiers in the Zone. Your searching squads have cleaned out all of them and many civilians along with them.

For the good of all concerned, we would beg to make the following constructive suggestions:

I. Control of Soldiers.

1. We repeat our request of yesterday for patrols of Gendarmerie for the Zone night and day.

2. In our letter of December 16th, we asked that guards be placed at entrances to the Zone to keep out wandering soldiers at night. This has not been done. But we hope the Japanese Army will find some way to prevent soldiers about robbing, raping, and killing the civilian population



especially at night, when soldiers might be confined to their barracks.

3. Until general order can be restored amongst the soldiers will you please station sentries at the entrances to our 18 larger concentrations of refugees. These sentries should be instructed to be responsible for preventing soldiers climbing over the walls of the compounds as well. (See list of "Refugee Camps" attached.)

4. We would also respectfully request that a proclamation in Japanese be put at each of these refugee Camps describing what they are and ordering Japanese soldiers not to molest these poor people.

## II. Searching.

1. Since our Refugee Camps seem to be <sup>mis</sup>understood by Captains of searching squads, we suggest that today we will be glad to have a high officer of the Japanese Army accompany one of our housing men to each of the 18 Refugee Camps and see them in daylight.

2. Since we know there are no groups of disarmed soldiers in the Zone and there has been no sniping in the Zone at any time; and since, furthermore, search of both Refugee Camps and private homes has been carried out many times and each time means robbery and rape; we would venture to suggest that the Army's desires to prevent any former Chinese soldier's hiding in the Zone can now be accomplished by the patrols by the Gendarmeries mentioned above.

3. We venture to make these suggestions because we sincerely believe that if the civilian population is left alone for two or three days, they will resume their normal daily life in the Zone, food and fuel can be transported, shops will open, and workers will appear looking for work. These



workers can then help start the essential services of electricity, water, and telephones.

III. Police that have been taken away.

Yesterday we called your attention to the fact that 50 uniformed police had been taken from the Ministry of Justice, and that 46 "volunteer police" had also been marched off. We now must add that 40 of our uniformed police stationed at the Supreme Court were also taken. The only stated charge against them was made at the Ministry of Justice where the Japanese officer said they had taken in soldiers after the place had been searched once, and, therefore, they were to be shot. As pointed out in the accompanying "Memorandum on the Incident at the Ministry of Justice", Western members of our Committee take full responsibility for having put some civilian men and women in there because they had been driven out of other places by Japanese soldiers.

Yesterday, we requested that the 450 uniformed police assigned to the Zone be now organized into a new police force for the city under Japanese direction. At the same time, we trust the above mentioned 90 uniformed police will be restored to their positions as policemen and that the 46 volunteer police will either be returned to our office or we be informed their whereabouts as workers. We have on file a complete list of the 450 uniformed police assigned to the Zone so can help you in this process.

Trusting that you will pardon our venturing to make these suggestions, and assuring you of our willingness to cooperate in every way for the welfare of the civilians



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Most respectfully yours,



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John H. D. Rabe, Chairman.

Enclosure:

"Memorandum on Incident  
at Ministry of Justice"  
"List of Refugee Camps in Safety Zone."



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REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE NANKING SAFETY ZONE

as of December 17th, 1937.

<u>Name of Building</u>	<u>Number of Refugees</u>	<u>Sex</u>
1. Old Ministry of Communications	10,000 or more	Families
2. Wutaishan Primary School	1,640	Families
3. Hankow Road Primary School	1,000	Families
4. Military College	3,500	Families
5. Nanking Language School at Siao Tao Yuen	200	Men
6. Military Chemical Shops (back of Overseas Building)	4,000	Families
7. University Middle School	6,000--8,000	Families
8. Bible Teachers Training School	3,000	Families
9. Overseas Building	2,500	Families
10. Nanking Theological Seminary	2,500	Families
11. Ministry of Justice	empty	
12. Supreme Court	empty	
13. Sericulture Building at U. of N.	4,000	Families
14. Library Building at U. of N.	2,500	Families
15. German Club	500	Families
16. Ginling College	4,000	Women and children
17. Law College	500	Families
18. Rural Leaders Training School	1,500	Families
19. Shansi Road Primary School	1,000	Families
20. University of Nanking dormitories	<u>1,000</u>	Women and children

Total persons.....49,340--51,340



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MEMORANDUM ON THE INCIDENT AT THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

On the morning of December 16th, a group of Japanese soldiers under an officer came to the Ministry of Justice and insisted on marching off most of the men to be shot--at least, that is what the officer said he was going to do with them. He also marched out all the police after seriously manhandling the Police Captain. There were probably 50 because that was the assignment to that station.

Two days previously, December 14th, a Japanese officer came into the Ministry of Justice and inspected half of the group, from which they took about 200--300 whom the officer claimed were soldiers and left 330 men whom they acknowledged to be civilians. This first search of half of the men in the building was very carefully carried out. The remaining half, which the officer did not inspect that day, were quartered in a separate part of the building and he promised to come back the next day, December 15th, to inspect them and remove such soldiers as they might find among them. No officer came on the 15th to sort them. But on the 16th, an officer came and declared that they had taken all the soldiers at the time of the first search on the 14th. Because he found some soldiers in this group on the 16th, (including the half which had not been previously inspected), the officer declared that the police and we had put soldiers in there since the first inspection.

The only persons we added to this group was a number of civilians, that had been forced out of other houses by Japanese soldiers, who were taken to the Ministry of Justice by Mr. McCallum of the University Hospital and Dr. M. S. Bates of our



Committee. The fact that they found soldiers in the group on the 16th was not because the Committee had added any soldiers to the group, but because the Japanese soldiers had failed to inspect the second half of the group on the 15th as planned.

This whole incident on the morning of December 16th was observed by Mr. James McCallum of the University Hospital and by Mr. Charles Riggs of our Committee and associate Housing Commissioner. During the process, the officer threatened Mr. Riggs with his sword three times and finally hit him hard over the heart twice with his fist. All Mr. Riggs was trying to do was to explain to the officer the situation described above in order to prevent civilians being mistaken for former soldiers.

*Lewis S. C. Smythe*

Lewis S. C. Smythe, Secretary  
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR  
NANKING SAFETY ZONE

Nanking, December 18, 1937.