

University of Nebraska,

Lincoln,

20 December, 1947.

Mr. W. E. B. DuBois,

Embassy,

Washington.

I have tried for a couple of days to refrain from troubling you further. However, many difficulties occur every day, and today they are worse than usual. New parties of stray soldiers without discipline or officers are going everywhere, stealing, looting, and setting away women. Some cases follow:

(1) Last night soldiers forcibly entered the university and drove away a truck used to supply food to refugees.

(2) In our Agriculture Building alone there are on the average more than ten cases per day of rape or of abducting women.

(3) Our residence continues to be entered day and night by soldiers who in turn women and steal every thing they wish. This applies to residences in which Americans are now living, just the same as to others.

(4) Soldiers frequently tear down the proclamations put up by your military police.

(5) This morning an American member of our staff was struck by an officer who suddenly approached him and angrily tried to tear off the arm band supplied by your embassy.

(6) Other buildings not mentioned above are also being violated. These are done by soldiers who utterly disregard your proclamations, looking for women and for loot.

(7) Since this disorder caused entirely by soldiers, we have no guard whatever and no military police have been seen near us.

With thanks for your continued interest,

University of Nanking,

Nanking, 27 December, 1937.

Officers of the Japanese Embassy,

Nanking.

Gentlemen:-

Beginning more than a week ago, we were promised by you that within a few days order would be restored by replacement of troops, resumption of regular discipline, increase of military police, and so forth. Yet shameful disorder continues, and we see no serious effort to stop it. Let me give a few examples from University property close to you, without covering all portions of the University.

(1) Yesterday afternoon a soldier cut the rope and took away the American flag from our Rural Leaders' Training School at Yin Yang Ying and Shanghai Roads.

(2) Last night between eleven and twelve o'clock, a motor car with three Japanese military men came to the main University gate, claiming that they were sent by headquarters to inspect. They forcibly prevented our watchman from giving an alarm, and kept him with them while they found and raped three girls, one of whom is only eleven years old. One of the girls they took away with them.

(3) Stray soldiers continue to seize men to work for them, causing much fear and unnecessary inconvenience. For example, a soldier insisted on taking a worker from the Hospital yesterday; and several of our own servants and watchmen have been taken.

(4) Several of our residences are entered daily by soldiers looking for women, food, and other articles. Two houses within one hour this morning.

Example (5) is from the Bible Teachers' Training School for Women, Chien Ying Hsiang, a place which has suffered terribly from your soldiers for a long time, and which I believe you once promised to protect especially -- but where no military policeman has appeared. Yesterday seven different times there came groups of three or four soldiers, taking clothes, food, and money from those who have some left after previous lootings of the same type. They raped seven women, including a girl of twelve. In the night larger groups of twelve or fourteen soldiers came four times, and raped twenty women.

The life of the whole people is filled with suffering and fear, all caused by soldiers. Your officers have promised them protection, but the soldiers every day injure hundreds of persons most seriously. A few policemen help certain places, and we are grateful for them. But that does not bring peace and order. Often it merely shifts the bad acts of the soldiers to nearby buildings where there are no policemen.

Does not the Japanese Army care for its reputation? Do not Japanese officers wish to keep their public promises that they do not injure the common people?

While I have been writing this letter, a soldier has forcibly taken a woman from one of our teachers' houses, and with his revolver refused to let an American enter. Is this order?

Many people now want to return to their homes, but they dare not because of rape, robbery, and seizure of men continuing every day and night. Only serious efforts to enforce orders, using many police and real punishments, will be of any use. In several places the situation is a little better, but it is still disgraceful after two weeks of army terrorism. More than promises is now needed.

With respectful distress and anxiety,

31 December, 1937.

Officers of the Japanese Embassy,
Nanking.

Gentlemen:-

I am glad to report to you that our servant P'an Shu-ch'ing was released last night. He had worked eight days, including journeys to Wuku, all under compulsion. He says that he was well treated as to food, though he received no pay.

As to the important man in the Sericulture Building case of yesterday (Ch'en Mei or Wang Hsing-lung), the Housing Commission of the International Committee, which sent him to that place to care for refugees, will make a report today after careful inquiry as to the way in which he came to the Committee and any information they can get about him.

Permit me to repeat the oral statement made yesterday to Mr. Fukuda and more briefly to Mr. Tanaka. We have been open to search and investigation at all times, and make no effort to protect any individual from wrong acts of any kind. We do not like the frequent irregular entries by common soldiers, but any inspection by officers in a regular manner is always welcome. This man Ch'en or Yang has had no connection with the University at any time. I do not expect other cases like this to arise, since practically all of the other helpers are members of our own staff or are otherwise personally known to us.

Yours respectfully,

COPY

8 January, 1938.

Officers of the Japanese Embassy,

Nanking.

Gentlemen:-

At about two o'clock this afternoon guards from the gate of our Middle School at Kan Ho Yen suddenly tied up and took away the young man Mr. Liu Wen-pin (), who has worked for our Nan Min So as interpreter from Chinese into Japanese. Mr. Liu has a good record there so far as we know, and I therefore wished to find out what is the difficulty. Persons on the street told me that Mr. Liu was taken to No. 32 Hsiao Fen Ch'iao, opposite Hsiao T'ao Yuen (our Department of Agricultural Economics). I went there to inquire. The officer was very angry with me, although I merely came to ask a courteous question, and did not speak any word of complaint or discussion.

I was roughly handled by the officer and a soldier. The officer said he knew nothing about the matter. Soldiers also turned to strike the Chinese servant whom I had asked to show me where was the officer's room.

Certainly I have no wish to interfere in any military matter or political question. But if a useful worker in our organization is suddenly taken away under present conditions in Nanking, it must arouse grave fears for his life and at the same time make it very difficult for others to carry on necessary duties. I hope that the case will be investigated at once.

Yours respectfully,

COPY

11 January, 1938.

Officers of the Japanese Embassy,
Nanking.

Gentlemen:-

On 8 January I wrote to you concerning Mr. Liu Wen-pin (), interpreter for our Nan Min So in the University Middle School, who on that day was tied and taken away from his work by the military police. Yesterday evening Mr. Liu came to me in fear, saying that he had escaped from the military police after severe treatment by them, and asking for shelter. I told him that he might sleep in my house last night, and this afternoon should consider some other arrangement for the future.

At three o'clock today a military policeman came to Mr. Riggs' house at 23 Hankow Road, and later to my house at 21 Hankow Road, when I was not present. The policeman took away Mr. Liu after tying him.

As we have often mentioned to you, we make no objection to search for criminals among refugees, if conducted in a regular manner, even though it is on American property. But this case is one of a useful member of the staff, whose record with us is excellent. The procedure has been highly irregular. No information has been given to us of evidence against Mr. Liu, or even of charges against him. The seizure in my house was carried out by one military policeman without authorization or permission so far as I know.

A copy of this letter is being taken immediately to the American Embassy, as a complaint against the procedure of the military police, and of unjustified interference with the conduct of a legitimate enterprise upon American property.

I trust that you will desire immediately to clear the record of the Japanese Army and its military police. Mr. Taketama of the Consular Police reported yesterday to the University Middle School that Mr. Liu had been released, and asked that the information be conveyed to me. Probably he will be able to solve this second problem promptly and safely. Any other solution will leave us with grave doubts as to the integrity of your military police operations, unless you have in your possession facts which should have been explained to us much earlier -- as to Mr. Liu.

Please convey to me a reply at your early convenience, by any means that is satisfactory to you.

Yours respectfully,

M. S. Bates

Chairman Emergency Committee,
University of Nanking.