

B 19A

3 Ping Tsang Hsiang
Nanking, China,
December 24, 1937.

The Japanese Embassy
Nanking, China.

Gentlemen:

I wish to report that on yesterday afternoon, December 23rd, about 5:00 o'clock, two Japanese soldiers entered the premises of No. 2 Shanghai Road, took down the American flag, and hoisted a banner stating that this house is to be the residence of the Investigating Committee.

This house at No. 2 Shanghai Road is American property. It is the residence of Prof. R. A. Felton of the Nanking Theological Seminary, and also has stored in it the household and personal effects of Prof. C. S. Smith, and Prof. Edward James, both of our Seminary.

The proclamation placed on the front gate by the Japanese Embassy was removed just a few minutes before I found these soldiers taking down the American flag. The American Embassy proclamation was still displayed in a prominent place. One of the soldiers was obviously drunk. They insisted that they wanted to borrow the place for ten days, which I declined to grant. They then became very angry and rough with me, shouting and striking me on the shoulder, and finally by force took hold of me and dragged me across the yard and out into the middle of Shanghai Road. It was only after I agreed to sign a statement allowing them to borrow the house for two weeks that they would release me. After signing this statement, they released me, and allowed us to raise again the American flag. But they put their banner on the front gate and said they would return today at 9:00 o'clock and occupy the house. They ordered the Chinese refugees who are living in the house at present to move out completely.

Will you please take such steps as are necessary to end this forced occupation of our property, and to prevent the recurrence of such affairs.

Very truly yours,
Hubert L. Sone
Hubert L. Sone,
Chairman Property Committee,
Nanking Theological Seminary.