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3 P'ing Ts'ang Hsiang,  
Nanking,  
December 25th, 1937.

(Case 149)

To the Officers of the Imperial Japanese Embassy,  
Nanking.

Dear Sirs:

This morning about 10:00, Mr. Riggs found several soldiers in the house at No. 29 Hankow Road and heard a woman cry. The woman, who was about 25--30 years old, tapped herself and motioned for Mr. Riggs to come. One soldier had her in tow. Other soldiers were in the house. She grabbed Riggs' arm. The other soldiers came out of the house and all of them went on and left the woman with Mr. Riggs. She had been out to buy things and the soldiers took her. Her husband was taken four days ago and had not come back. She wanted Mr. Riggs to escort her back to the Refugee Camp at the Military College on Hankow Road. So Mr. Riggs escorted her east on Hankow Road and almost to the University Gardens and there they met an inspection officer with two soldiers and an interpreter.

The officer grabbed Mr. Riggs' hands out of his pockets and grabbed his armband, which had been issued him by the Japanese Embassy. He swatted Mr. Riggs' hands when he put them back in his pocket. As near as he could tell, the officer asked Riggs who he was, but neither could understand the other. He then hit Mr. Riggs on the chest hard. Mr. Riggs asked him what he meant and that made the officer angry. The officer motioned for his passport but Mr. Riggs did not have it with him. He wanted to know what Riggs was doing. Mr. Riggs told him he was taking this woman home. So the officer hit Mr. Riggs again. Mr. Riggs looked to see what armband the officer was wearing and the officer slapped Mr. Riggs in the face hard. The officer then pointed to the ground and grabbed Mr. Riggs' hat so Mr. Riggs thought the officer wanted him to kowtow to him. But Mr. Riggs would not. So the officer gave Mr. Riggs another slap in the face. Then the interpreter explained that the officer wanted a card.

Mr. Riggs explained he was taking the woman home because she was afraid. The officer gave an order to the soldiers and they came to either side of Mr. Riggs with guns at attention. Then the interpreter explained that the officer wanted Mr. Riggs to bow to the officer. Mr. Riggs refused because he was an American. The officer finally told Mr. Riggs to go home.

Meanwhile, the woman had been so frightened when she saw Mr. Riggs so treated, she ran on down Hankow Road.

Mr. Riggs explained that he did not touch the officer and simply had his hands in his pockets (of his overcoat) walking down the road bothering no one. The woman was walking a short distance ahead of him.

We hope that there will speedily be such a restoration of order and discipline among the soldiers that foreign nationals going peacefully about the streets need no longer fear being molested.

Most respectfully yours,

*Lewis H. Smyth*