

JOHN H. D. RABE

(Copy)

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NANKING

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR NANKING SAFETY ZONE
5 Ninghai Road

December 27th, 1937.

The Imperial Japanese Embassy,
Nanking.

Dear Sirs:

For the kind attention of Mr. Fukui.

On December 1st when former Mayor Ma of Nanking turned over to the International Committee responsibility for the care of the civilians in the Safety Zone, he assigned to the Committee 30,000 tan (piculs) of rice and 10,000 bags of flour to be used in feeding the population. He agreed that this should be used at the discretion of the Committee: either to be given freely where needed, through soup kitchens, or to be sold to those that could afford it. The funds resulting from such sale were to be used in carrying on services for the people and buying such needed things as fuel for soup kitchens. (See attached letter from Former Mayor Ma, December 1st, in Chinese. Flour was a verbal addition to the letter.)

Between December 1st and December 11th, when your Army's attack on the city made it necessary to close the gates, our Committee succeeded in moving 10,000 tan of rice and 1,000 bags flour into the Zone. The remainder we hoped to get as soon as the fighting was over.

In our letter to the Japanese Commander of Nanking on December 14th, we called his attention to the fact that we had stores of rice in other parts of the city and would like to have free passage of trucks to secure them.

In answer to this letter in an interview at noon December 15th, the Chief of the Special Service Corps said we could use the 10,000 tan of rice and they would inspect the locations of other rice and guard. To date we have had no permission to let trucks pass to other parts of the city to secure rice stores. Since the Chinese military had 100,000 tan of rice (besides our 30,00 tan) in the vicinity of Nanking, most of which fell into your hands with the capture of Nanking, we plead that you allow us to get these 20,000 tan for feeding the 200,000 civilians.

The two weeks of disorder have made it impossible for us to do more than deliver rice to refugee camps and soup kitchens. But now with the restoration of a degree of order in the city, we would like to start moving in rice and coal while the weather is good.

As the private stores of rice in families in the Zone rapidly decline, the demand on our rice supply is going to increase rapidly. If we had to feed the whole population, our reserve would not last a week. Even with the restoration of order, many thousands of refugees are going to have to be fed until spring.

Our coal supply for soup kitchens is now down to enough for only one week. So it is very urgent that we begin hauling in coal at once.

Trusting that you will be able to work out some arrangement with your military authorities so that we can begin moving in rice, flour, and coal at once, we are

Respectfully yours,



John H. D. Rabe, Chairman.