Hain Shun Pao

Shanghai, 6 January, 1938.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY NANKING

DARK PLOTS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY NOW COME TO LIGHT

They set the fire themselves to destroy documentary evidences of the anti-Japanese movement.

The Nanking Embassy of the Soviets suddenly took fire at eleven on the morning of January 5th. this year. The smoke and flames continued to four in the afternoon. The entire Embassy building was completely consumed, and also the residence of the Embassy officers, which caught fire for the second time on the afternoon of the 2nd., was all burned. As to the cause, according to residents nearby and people along the road, it was not clearly known. But our agency’s representative thoroughly inquired on all sides. The wall of the Embassy is unusually high, and it is not easy for outsiders to get into the enclosure. From the time the Japanese troops entered Nanking, they promptly announced that they would vigorously protect the said Embassy. But this was absolutely refused by the staff of the Embassy, with the pretext that they themselves would care for it. For several days before the fire broke out, Chinese were continually passing in and out, and during the night there were bright lights, of a sort resembling some extraordinary means of sending messages. Among the burned ruins were found ammunition boxes. When all the facts were brought together, there was no doubt that it had been established that all the materials and persons leaving and entering the Embassy were for the purpose of plotting secret enterprises. Under these actual conditions, they feared it was not a proper place to remain in, and therefore they set fire to it and burned up all the evidences. This explanation is particularly effective, because of the recent plan of the Chinese Communist Party for aiding a war of long-time resistance against Japan, in which they continually adapt their methods.

Examples are very numerous such as “The destruction by the Japanese of houses through the use of fire (burning up of houses by the Japanese) causes the guiltless mass of the people to wander up and down the streets and alleys in the midst of hunger”. This kind of base and mean idea is their sort of crafty game. Also they send out slogans and handbills in opposition to Japan, with the idea of creating dissension between other countries and Japan. Thus in the middle of November a few days after the Japanese troops occupied Nantao, the members of the Communist Party set fires. That is their real principle. Moreover, in Sungkiang, Khiaising, and various other places this principle can be regularly seen. Now in this case of the burning of the Soviet Embassy in Nanking, combines to show that there is no other aim for this conduct and treachery of Party members than to scheme for the disadvantage of the Japanese Army.

Hastily translated by M. S. B. New title: “Tripe of Tripe”.