

To Allison at his request

NOTES ON THE IMMEDIATE SITUATION AS AFFECTING THE UNIVERSITY
OF NANKING (8 January, 1938)

I. Direct losses from Japanese military:

- A. Institutional. Valuable breeding animals. Large number of doors and windows, gates and locks smashed by soldiers plundering and seeking women. Tools and secondary equipment from several buildings. Total roughly estimated in local currency at nearly \$10,000.
- B. Personal property of American staff. Most of their residences worked over many times. Disorder of the remains and absence of many persons concerned makes accurate estimate difficult, but present knowledge would put a low figure: about \$5,000 and two cars.
- C. Personal property of Chinese staff. Many residences plundered; no figure possible. Japanese are not interested in losses of Chinese. But we hold that manifold forcible entry in an irregular fashion of property flying American flag and bearing American proclamations, plus armed robbery of our Chinese staff, deserves consideration apart from monetary claims.

II. Personal security:

- A. American staff. We stayed here in time of war at our own risk, and therefore have little to say. However, wanton acts apart from normal risks of war are indications of disregard of Americans and of ordinary decency. Our members experienced several cases of blows from soldiers and officers, of cocked firearms pointed at us, of shots recklessly fired near us, and of general rough handling.
- B. Chinese staff. Many instances of beating and threatening while working for our institution and under the American flag. Many cases of rape upon our property (more than one hundred fully reported, and others withheld), including some among our own staff families; also some in houses now occupied by American members of the staff. One man slightly wounded in the neck with a bayonet.

III. Flags:

- A. Aside from the abundant disrespect already indicated above, American flags were torn down, lowered under armed compulsion, and in at least one instance carried away by soldiers. Total of cases six.

IV. Guards:

Former policemen were disarmed, disorganized, and intimidated by the murder of many of their own number, plus frequent beating and threatening. One compound of the University has received irregular, tardy, inefficient, and very troublesome guard service. Just this morning they suddenly seized and beat two of our own watchmen without reason or warning.

V. Refugees:

Our religious and humanitarian interests commit us to a program of service to persons suffering and dislodged in the present calamity. Continued casual damage to buildings alone by refugees will cost us nearly \$20,000 to say nothing of serious additional costs and risks. We are intensely interested as an institution and as individual Americans in seeing order restored among this population, and opportunities for some beginning of normal life for most of them. Now we face grave problems of disease and crime among the 30,000 on our property; and there is no sign of a police force, little of public water supply, none of fire protection, little hope for electric light and its diminution of fire risk. This whole problem is only suggested here.

VI. Interference with staff and work:

Already we are suffering from troubles that seem likely to grow: denunciation and malicious misrepresentation of us and our staff members to the military police, either for the self-interest of characterless Chinese or in collusion with the Japanese; efforts by the Japanese to get certain of our people into their employ by intimidation and purchase combined. These difficulties are greatly increased because of the confusion of our own personnel with the ad hoc volunteers hastily gathered together by the International Committee in emergency conditions for service in refugee camps. Also we have been injured by Japanese propaganda against universities in China, and especially by one or two false reports naming us individually in Domei, plus the frequent attribution to us of the crimes of the National Central University (carelessly called "Nanking University" by the Japanese).

BRIEF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Anything to improve discipline in the army, including that of guards and military police. We do not feel safe about one place or one hour, nor see a chance of relief from the pressing problem of refugees, so long as any private soldier is free to go ahead with arbitrary violence. Recent improvement lies in the reduction of numbers, and little else.
2. Revival of normal utilities and communications, with a chance for economic life. A separate memorandum on this subject is in preparation for submission to a Japanese friend, and will be supplied to you soon. But order is first requisite.
3. Education of army officers and soldiers as to foreign flags and proclamations. This might help other cities later.
4. Taking advantage of apparent "favorable" turn in international considerations, get prompt payment for losses as deterrent and as stimulus to numbers (1) and (3). Immediate assessment is needed, or Japanese will blame everything on to ordinary Chinese, who are now beginning to loot open buildings.