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Z 35(67)  
5 Ninghai Road,  
Nanking

January 14th, 1938.

Mr. Tokuyasu Fukuda,  
Japanese Embassy,  
Nanking.

My dear Mr. Fukuda,

On December 21st members of the foreign community called the attention of the Japanese authorities to the fact that food and fuel supplies available for the civilian population in Nanking were very inadequate and asked them to take suitable steps to cope with the situation. On December 27th I talked this matter over with Mr. Fukui, especially regarding rice and coal. Mr. Fukui replied that the Army preferred to handle the rice through the Tze Chih Wei Yuan Hwei but that he would kindly help us to secure coal for soup kitchens. However, a coal yard was assigned to the Tze Chih Wei Yuan Hwei to use for relief purposes. This yard contained 550 tons of coal when we first investigated it on December 27th. But because much of the coal had been hauled away by others in the meantime, only 100 tons was secured for soup kitchens.

At the same time that we were negotiating with Mr. Fukui, Major T. Ishida of the Army Supply Department voluntarily told Mr. Sperling that he would sell us plenty of rice and flour for relief purposes. Mr. Kroeger and Mr. Sperling approached Major Ishida on the matter and he offered us 5,000 bags of rice and 10,000 bags of flour. We gave him an order for 3,000 bags of rice and 5,000 bags of flour on January 7th. He also promised to

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sell us 600 tons of coal for soup kitchens. Three days later when Mr. Kroeger went back to arrange delivery of the rice, Major Ishida said he could not sell us rice, flour or coal because it was to be distributed through the Tze Chih Wei Yuan Hwei.

On January 8th, the Tze Chih Wei Yuan Hwei told us that they had been assigned 1,250 bags of rice for free distribution outside of the Zone and 10,000 bags of rice to sell, and asked us to help them truck it. We organized this on Sunday, the 9th, and had five trucks on the job Monday morning. In the meantime they had secured permission to sell the 1,250 bags assigned to free distribution and use <sup>a similar amount</sup> from assignment of 10,000 bags for free distribution later. The hauling of the 1,250 bags was completed in two days and sold as rapidly as it arrived. When the men supervising the trucking started to get the other 10,000 bags on the 12th, they were told that that assignment had been turned down and that now only 1,000 bags could be secured every three days. Already two days' delay has been used in negotiations about the matter. A check-up yesterday, January 13th, shows that all the coal in coal yards which we had pointed out to you on December 27th as places where coal might be made available for civilian use, has been ~~either~~ hauled away or burned. (These seven yards on December 27th contained over 2,000 tons of coal.)

We are glad to cooperate with you and the Tze Chih Wei Yuan Hwei in caring for this civilian population which now has no economic basis of support. This was evidenced by closing our rice shop when the Tze Chih Wei Yuan Hwei asked us to on January 10th and on the same day in helping them truck the rice assigned to them ---from which our soup kitchens and camps did not receive a single bag.

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We understand that you registered 160,000 people without including children under 10 years of age, and in some sections without including older women. Therefore, there are probably 250,000 to 300,000 civilians in the city. To feed this population on normal rations of rice would require 2,000 tan of rice per day (or 1,600 bags per day). From this it will be clear that the proposed 1,000 bags for every 3 days is less than one-third the amount of rice needed. Up to the present the people have gotten along very largely on their private stores of rice but that is being rapidly used up and the demand for purchasing rice has risen very rapidly since January first. There should immediately be made available for purchase by the people at least 1,000 bags of rice per day and that should be increased to 1,600 bags per day as soon as possible.

In addition to this there should be flour available for purchase in large quantities and 2,000 tons of coal, for one or two months' supply, as well as other fuel. Deliberate and efficient planning is necessary in order to prevent great suffering in this winter weather.

I write therefore to inquire what the state of affairs actually is, and why the arrangements previously made have been cancelled. The people must eat and when they are deprived of rice, or of the fuel with which to cook it, they are reduced to a bitter condition indeed. Permit me to ask you to straighten out this matter at once with the military authorities so that there will be a dependable supply of rice and fuel made constantly available for the people. Whether the rice and fuel comes through our own

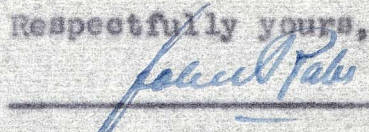
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Committee or through the Tze Chih Wei Yuan Hwei makes no difference to us. What our Committee does desire is that some adequate supply of these essentials of life be made available to the people. It would be well to have this done so far as possible on a commercial basis.

In closing let me add a word. If you have any suggestions as to how the service which our Committee is rendering can be improved, we shall be most happy to have them.

With kindest regards and thanks for your untiring help in these matters, I am

Respectfully yours,

  
John H. D. Rabe, Chairman  
International Committee for  
Nanking Safety Zone.