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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR NANKING SAFETY ZONE

5 Ninghai Road

January 22, 1938.

Mr. C. L. Boynton,
National Christian Council,
Shanghai.

Dear Mr. Boynton,

You have had many brief telegrams and letters from Mr. Fitch and myself but no longer a account of the relief situation here. Herewith is an account that will give some idea of what is involved. Mr. Kroeger who is coming to Shanghai and will bring this mail will be able to elucidate any matters you want to know about. We have come to have a very good understanding of the Japanese Army this past six weeks and he can help you understand!

Mr. Fitch received a letter from you and one from Fong Sec today, and Mr. Mills one from Mr. Wallin by Domei. They are very grateful for this word, as are we all. Mr. Walline said the American Advisory Committee had assigned \$25,000 to Nanking Relief. That will be a big help.

I know it was an almost impossible request to refer the negotiations for shipping foodstuffs to Nanking to you. But since we had been turned down that was all we could think of at the moment. All three of the Embassies here are willing to take indirect and probably unofficial steps to help in that but could not just yet. A complete report has gone to the U.S. State Department today. But they cannot act officially until the problem reaches a more dangerous stage---dangers of riots. We are trying to prevent such a situation from developing! We shifted immediately to pressing the Japanese to giving more rice and flour to the Self Government Committee because they told us in turning us down that the Army would assume responsibility for feeding the population.

The order in our telegram of Jan. 21st for 1,000 pounds of cod liver oil was in order to cover some of the need for supplementary foodstuffs, especially for the nearly 15,000 children under 10 years of age in our refugee camps. We know it will be difficult to administer but where successful will be that much help. Chinese cabbage (pei ts'ai) has held out so far but has been ten times normal price and will soon run out.

Will you please send us (if brief enough by telegram) instructions as to how the refugee camps in Shanghai administered the codliver oil? (1) To whom? (2) How distributed? (3) How induce the people to take it? (4) What success?

Mr. Allison of the American Embassy is still pushing on the matter of permits for the doctors and nurses. Today the Japanese offered us Japanese Army doctors but the Hospital is going to turn that down, though we will accept their aid in public health work in camps and Zone generally. Mr. Allison suggests they can come by train as soon as he gets the permits. He thought you could try in

Boynton, 1/22/38.

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We have about covered you with requests and orders since January 11th, 15th, 18th, 21st. But we assure you that we fully realized the difficulties under which you labor in accomplishing these results. But we hope that here, in Shanghai, and with the reports going to Washington, Berlin, and London---some of which have brought results back here via Tokyo already---we may find a way to save this situation. We are promised a complete reorganization of the Army system here in three or four days by orders from Tokyo as a result of representations via Washington. If we can only get some sort of order restored in other parts of the city, and can get food supplies moving more freely, we will be able to carry on rehabilitation work. Our supplies ordered to date stand (outside of personal items):

100 tons of Chinese green beans.
1,000 lbs. of bulk codliver oil
200,000 units of Diphtheria Antitoxin (through International
200 lbs. of absorbent surgical gauze. Dispensary)

The Diphtheria Antitoxin may be in the shipment through Domei today but Wilson did not report clearly at noon on that.

The transfer of funds here is not an immediate problem as we have enough for immediate needs---especially if we cannot buy rice. But we are working at every means we know to find ways of getting more rice, flour or wheat for relief work, as well as coal.

If T.T.Zee and some other Chinese in Shanghai can organize for loans either to families stranded here---Ginling has families on free rice who say they have families with money in other places---or loans for rehabilitation purposes, then transfer of funds will become necessary. If possible we prefer to purchase foodstuffs in Shanghai and ship them in rather than ship in money at present. If we have to go in for large scale cash relief, we may need more cash here. But until we advise you differently, hold funds raised in Shanghai subject to our order.

We have told Mr. Pridoux-Brune about your suggestion we get his approval for a loan from the British funds, but he is very much for waiting till things get worse. So we have left a formal request to we come closer to an immediate use of the funds.

We mention crowding in our description of the "Relief Situation". The private houses in the new residential area are bursting with people, as are all houses in the Zone. The rest of the city is a deserted city! A few people go back during the day to watch their places against Chinese looting---which began about ten days ago after the Japanese had taken what they wanted. People look upon it as "salvaging". These people come back into the Zone at night. A few families experiment with sending people back but most of them soon return with stories of mistreatment by Japanese soldiers.

You probably noticed we jumped the estimate on the total population to you from 200,000 to 250,000. There never was a census. When the Japanese registration was complete there were 160,000 people registered in the city. That did not include children under 10 (1/4 the population normally) or in places women under 17 or over 30, and many unregistered---the Japanese just got tired of it! So 250,000 is probably a conservative estimate. It may run to 300,000.

NOTES ON THE PRESENT SITUATION.

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188. This morning two men (Ma and Ying) who have been registered returned to the home of Ma at Hansimen to see about Ma's blind mother whom a neighbor said Japanese soldiers had killed. They found the body of Ma's mother. On the way back the two men met Japanese soldiers who demanded their clothes, then stabbed them and carried the two bodies into a dugout. One of them came to and crawled out. People saw him and gave him clothes. Then he walked back to the Sericulture Building. Two friends carried him on a bed to our Headquarters. Mr. Fitch sent them to the University Hospital. (Reported by the wounded man to Mr. Wu.)

N.B. This just adds to the chain of cases of people who have had difficulties going back to their homes.

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