

1 Feb. 1938.

Dear Mr. Boynton:-

While Dr. Smythe is finishing his work in preparing for you a complete or nearly complete set of Safety Zone documents, it is my duty to write you a brief explanatory letter. There is also a supplementary series for the University, and one for American property. All these are to some extent interlocking and complementary. I believe that the University series are in your hands, or that you and Mrs. Bates together can and should make up such a set; also that most or all of the American property group are in Mr. Wallace's hands, since they were mostly Mr. Mills' work. If you can let us know what you have in these two sets, we will supplement as necessary.

Our idea in sending the documents to you is twofold: (1) Security, since we don't know what may happen to us here in the way of hurried exit, confiscation, search, and the like. (2) Reference by your own Christian and relief groups, by foreign consular officers, and by trusted newspaper men at your discretion. Consuls here have been using them thoroughly, with good results, and we suggest that you notify one or two men in the British, German, American, and possibly other consulates, that the documents are available for their use when desired. Other persons should be restrained to actual working needs, not to long-time consultation for general writing. Probably you would not wish any of the papers to go out of your hands. Place and responsibility are within your discretion, calling such consultation as you wish.

The Japanese have never given a written answer to anything. The same applies to lots of papers and requests from Allison. So you have a uniquely one-way performance.

Please let George Fitch and other interested people know at once that we are facing a serious crisis, or at least the probability of one, in the order to seal all camps after military eviction on Friday the 4th. Reports of violence outside the Zone have multiplied since F. left, partly because more people have felt they must try the venture, partly because we for the first time have a semblance of organized means for receiving such reports..

These documents may not amount to much in present use, but it is very possible that a situation may come in which it is important for you and others to have this fundamental and "background" information where you can get at it upon short notice. At any moment we may be backed up against the wall or expelled or threatened with expulsion, and well-backed publicity may be necessary to save these most-needed relief enterprises. Think it over, and have Timperley and one or two other minds more or less prepared for an instantaneous campaign if it should be required.

I venture to call to your attention the tremendous energy and faithfulness of Dr. Smythe, who has been the channel for a large fraction of our collective work in its aspects of expression and negotiation and record.