

RELIEF PROBLEMS IN HANKING UPON WHICH COOPERATION OF JAPANESE
AUTHORITIES IS ESPECIALLY URGENT.

February 10th, 1938.

1. Order and discipline amongst the Japanese soldiers should be further improved both inside the former Zone boundaries and in the five areas recently opened for civilians to return to their homes. On February 7th General Matsui himself was in Hanking and gave new instructions that this should be done. There are indications that along the main roads this has brought an improvement, but back from these roads the people still suffer. It would seem that only stricter discipline and more efforts to confine soldiers to the area of the city chosen by the Japanese military authorities for their use will solve the problem.
2. Food. The Japanese authorities to date have released a total of 5,200 bags of rice and 10,000 bags of flour for civilian use. All of this was for sale through the Self-Government Committee excepting 2,000 bags of rice (included in the above) which was for free distribution to families returning to their homes. But so far only a few hundred of these bags have been given out. At the present moment there is no further assignment for either sale or free distribution. The Japanese authorities have also permitted sufficient coal to be hauled into the Zone to keep the soup kitchens running. And on the 8th of February they gave the self-Government Committee 2,000 gallons of gasoline which will greatly facilitate continued trucking in of foodstuffs and coal. While the liberal assignment of 9,000 bags of flour (included above) in the last week has made the food situation easier, there is no regular provision for the future. A population

of 250,000 should have at least 2,000 tan of rice or 1,600 bags of rice per day. Until regular provision is made for that, the food situation will remain precarious. This can be done either by assignment from local stocks by the Japanese authorities or by opening up the avenues of economic access to Hanking so that commercial food supplies can come in, either from Hanking's hinterland or from Shanghai.

The International Committee has requested the opportunity to secure the stocks assigned it by the Hanking Municipality, amounting to 10,933 bags of rice and 10,000 bags of flour. This would be used for free relief both outside and inside the Zone boundaries and the Committee has indicated its willingness to cooperate with the Self-Government Committee in the distribution of these supplies. When it is realized that the 50,000 people who are now being fed free rice will probably increase, as private resources run out and the economic life of the community does not revive, ^{that} and this population will have to be carried through at least the month of April, it will be seen that this amount of rice and flour can easily be used in the next three months for free distribution.

If disease is to be prevented (and Beri beri has already appeared), these people on free rice as well as many who are still able to buy rice but cannot afford to purchase other foods should have some supplementary foods. The local supply of beans of all kinds is almost nothing. When it is considered that a Chinese population depends largely on bean curd for its protein and Vitamin B, the almost complete absence of bean curd from the local market indicates how serious this problem is. We have requested the opportunity to purchase beans and other supplementary

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foods in Shanghai and ship them to Nanking. Six hundred tons of such foodstuffs would carry us through the next three months.

3. Medical Personnel. From the very beginning of the Zone, the medical and sanitation work has been our greatest weakness. It has only been by a stroke of luck and a mild winter that we have not had much more sickness. But at that, there has been a large amount of sickness and maternity cases under camp conditions about which we have been able to do nothing. Now with the wetter spring weather and with lowered resistance resulting from two months on hsi fan (rice gruel) sickness will increase.

We have requested permission for two American doctors and two American nurses to come to the University Hospital so that it could expand its clinic work at the hospital and do a little work in the camps. (While part of the camp population is moving out, we will probably have several thousand who cannot move out. And the population within the Zone according to local Japanese registration figures is still 160,000.)

Now the American Red Cross in Shanghai has asked the Nanking International Red Cross Committee to submit plans for relief work in Nanking. The Nanking Committee thinks that, in view of the complete lack of any municipal health service, they should start four clinics in various parts of the city. This is especially necessary as people return to their homes and are too far from the University Hospital to come for treatment.

The fundamental problem in all this medical work is personnel. There are a number of Chinese doctors and nurses in the city but nearly all of them have very inadequate training.

They can assist good doctors and nurses but are unable to organize and carry on the work. Consequently, it is urgent that permission be secured for doctors and nurses to come to Hanking for this work.

Conclusion. Our requirements are very simple, namely, that the Japanese Army improve the order amongst its troops in the city and allow us to secure foodstuff and medical personnel.

Lewis H. Smyth
Lewis H. C. Smyth, Secretary.

P.S. February 11th. An uncertain amount of rice has been assigned for delivery today and word has come of a shipment of green beans on the "Fantung." For this we are grateful.

Prepared for Mr. Bos at his request
for confidential use.