

Bates

RELIEF SITUATION IN NANKING

February 14, 1938.

1. Refugee Situation.

At the peak of the camp population during the latter part of December we had 69,406 persons in the 25 camps. On January 25th there were just 60,000. Today in 24 camps we have 35,334 people. This means there has been a reduction of 25,000 in the camp population since January 28th when the order was given by the Japanese authorities to the Self-Government Committee that refugees should leave the camps before February 4th.

As a result of strong representations here and the arrival of Mr. Hidaka from Shanghai, the Japanese were willing to agree confidentially that they would not drive the refugees out by force on February 4th. But that statement was made on the 28th, reinforced later by Japanese and representatives from the Self-Government Committee going to the camps on January 30th and since.

The International Committee has been urging all people who can return home from the camps to do so. But this will necessarily be gradual and we expect to have several thousand people, especially widows, women whose husbands have been taken away, and those whose homes have been completely destroyed, who cannot go home for a few months. These latter we will have to care for in camps designated for that purpose.

On the basis of reports by the Japanese authorities on the registration of families returning to their homes, there are 150,000 people left in the Zone as against 250,000 in January. But because the needs of many of the families continue after returning home, our Rehabilitation Committee is setting up offices in each of the recently opened areas to give aid to such families.

Relief Situation, Feb. 14, 1938. p. 2.

There are no indications of any rapid economic recovery. There is little present hope for economic access to Nanking, and there is no local production going on. It is difficult even to start spring farming on truck gardens inside or outside the city walls. Furthermore, much property---buildings, productive equipment and supplies---has been destroyed. Finally, there is a very small amount of paid labor in the community employed by the Japanese Army or by any others. All of these facts forbid any considerable economic revival in the next few months.

The seriousness of this delay in the economic revival is increased by the fact that the whole city is still largely on a consumption basis. That means that supplies and resources are continually diminishing. Consequently, it is probable that the relief situation will become worse during the next two months.

## 2. Administration and Cooperation with other Agencies.

Our relief work is all under the International Committee which organized the Nanking Safety Zone. The return to their homes of about two-fifths of the population since the latter part of January has served to erase the sharp distinction between the Zone and the remainder of the city. The International Committee is therefore carrying on not as a Committee for a special area, but as a purely private relief organization.

From the beginning the Committee has had the excellent cooperation of the local Chinese Red Cross Society in conducting a large soup kitchen; and the cooperation of the Red Swastika Society in conducting two large soup kitchens and burying the dead bodies. This latter function has proved no small task. Though they have

Relief Situation, Feb. 14, 1938. p. 3.

been burying 200 bodies a day they find there are still 30,000 left to bury, mostly in Hsiakwan. We have also had the cooperation of the University Hospital in medical work. The local International Red Cross Committee has assumed special responsibility for wounded Chinese soldiers. It is also paying for free patients at the University Hospital at pre-war rates for third-class service. This has enabled the Hospital to continue its work as long as it can use old supplies but does not pay half of its operating deficit now that normal income from fees has largely disappeared.

We have been on the most friendly terms with the Nanking Self-Government Committee. Their Food Commissioner was formerly a member of our staff, and in his new post has cooperated with us just as far as the Japanese authorities would permit. We have tried to help this Commissioner on the general humanitarian problem of urging the Japanese authorities to release more rice and flour through him for sale to the general population. In this connection, one of our Committee members has since Christmas, even before the Self-Government Committee was formally organized, cooperated with them in hauling food and fuel supplies. This same member is at present operating the repair department for their trucks. He has had practically full say as to how the trucks are used and has insisted that public service comes first.

Another line of cooperation with the Self-Government Committee has been with their Relief Committee. This has not become large as yet in actual work, but a weekly joint meeting with our Rehabilitation Committee has permitted the two groups to lay plans for rehabilitation work together. Two lines of practical cooperation have been opened up. The Self-Government Committee is trying to arrange free transportation for the return of refugees from towns

45  
Relief Situation, Feb. 14th, 1938. p. 4.

along the Shanghai-Nanking Railway; and our Committee is planning to give those refugees a small cash grant to help them get started at home. The Japanese authorities have assigned 2,000 bags of rice to the Self-Government Committee for free distribution. To date most of that has been sold through the Self-Government Committee stores outside of the Zone and is being only gradually repaid in rice to their Relief Committee. But they have offered to give a small amount of rice to each family returning home from our camps, if our investigators so recommend.

Cooperation with the Japanese authorities has so far consisted in their tacit tolerance of the International Committee's work, qualified by attempts to restrict it as much as possible. During the last week there have been indications that some of these restrictions are weakening: tolerance for the hauling of two fair-sized consignments of rice into the Zone area (though not to the Committee); the above mentioned assurance not to carry out forceful eviction of refugees from camps; the permission for 100 tons of green beans to be shipped from Shanghai; and now permission for one doctor formerly connected with the University Hospital to return to Nanking. Even during the period of most serious restriction of our work in January, the Japanese allowed the Self-Government Committee to deliver coal to soup kitchens in the Zone area. But we ourselves have paid for such of this coal as came definitely from private yards. Indeed, these soup kitchens, closely linked with our camps, represent a combination of many interests.

### 3. Entry and Distribution of Supplies.

Since January 11th, the sale of rice in the Zone has been prohibited by the Japanese authorities. But people have been allowed

Relief Situation, Feb. 14, 1938. p. 5.

to go to rice shops conducted by the Self-Government Committee a mile from the southern boundary of the Zone and carry back rice into the area. They were permitted at first to take two tau, then later a whole bag. Recently another shop under the Self-Government Committee has sold flour close to the eastern boundary of the Zone. However, no large deliveries were allowed. As mentioned above two truck deliveries have been allowed in the last week. With the denial of all attempts to purchase locally or to ship in food from Shanghai, our supplies on hand have been reduced to 1267 bags of rice, 266 bags of flour, and 12 bags of beans. That is just enough rice to last for two weeks or until March first at the present rate of free distribution.

Locally we are arranging to finance the purchase of rice in Hsiakwan by the Red Cross Society for free distribution. We have today completed an agreement by which our camps buy rice directly from the Self-Government Committee's shops, a transaction which will conserve our small stocks for use in supplementing that irregular source of supply.

The permission granted in Shanghai by the Japanese Admiral to ship 100 tons of green beans to Nanking, and to land the same, is the first break in the restriction on the shipment of food supplies. At present the Japanese Army authorities are objecting to the landing of these beans unless they are given over fully to the Self-Government Committee. These beans were consigned to the University Hospital and the Hospital met the Japanese Army's demands half way by arranging that the Self-Government Committee would land the beans and handled them from its own warehouse on behalf of the Hospital. But at the moment that offer has been rejected by the Army. The

Relief Situation, Feb. 14th, 1938. p. 6.

Committee naturally hesitates to advise the Hospital to turn this shipment entirely over to the Self-Government Committee since the beans were purchased with funds entrusted to the Committee and the Committee feels it has some direct responsibility in the matter. This shipment will prove an interesting test case as to whether or not a private relief organization can ship in foodstuffs. Beans happen to be one of the items common in the customary Chinese diet of which there has been the greatest shortage. The free distribution of these beans to the poor of Nanking would help to prevent nutrition difficulties for a population that has been for two months on a diet of rice gruel. Our medical advisers particularly recommend them as a check to the spread of beri beri, which has appeared in the camps.

Up to the present time, the International Committee has been unable to secure from the Japanese authorities effective recognition of its ownership of 10,933 bags of rice and 10,000 bags of flour legally given to the Committee by the Chinese authorities. (Full information may be found in Document Z44, a letter addressed to the Japanese Embassy by Mr. Rabe, Chairman of the International Committee, under date of January 27th.)

If it should become impossible to handle foodstuffs, we will resort more and more to cash relief. This is a solution so long as the Self-Government Committee has rice and other foodstuffs to sell. From December 13th to February 12th, only 5,200 bags of rice (including the 2,000 for free distribution mentioned above) and 10,000 bags of flour had been released. On February 12th, the Japanese authorities offered to let the Self-Government Committee

have 1,000 bags of rice per day for six days. If they could haul that in, the Japanese suggested they might allow them to continue at that rate. So far Japanese red tape has interfered and only 2,200 bags have been secured in three days. To feed this population of 250,000 requires 1,600 bags of rice per day; and as private family stocks are rapidly disappearing, the present rate of delivery of rice will be seriously inadequate. The total amount officially released since the Japanese entry is a scant week's supply.

Since the latter part of January, farmers have been permitted to go out of the city and bring in such vegetables and other products as were left in the countryside. But people who have been out foraging in the last few days say such supplies are increasingly scarce.

Hospital supplies, because of their small bulk, have been transported on gunboats, with permission for landing and delivery to the University Hospital.

The real problem regarding the entry and distribution of supplies is getting in adequate food supplies.

#### 4. Present Working Budget.

Our cash resources are now \$300,000 Chinese currency. This was received from the following organizations:

In Nanking

Former Nanking Municipal Government	\$80,000	
Balance from sale of rice	13,000	
Nanking Christian War Relief Committee	<u>7,000</u>	\$100,000

In Shanghai

Chinese Bankers Association	\$50,000	
American Red Cross	25,000	
British Mansion House Fund	20,000	
Golden Rule Foundation US\$1,900	6,350	
Rotary International	2,500	
China Club of Seattle US\$610	2,035	
Others as yet not specified to us by Shanghai Nanking Relief Association	<u>\$119,115</u>	<u>\$215,000</u>

Total \$315,000

Part of the above sum is in bonds which are subject to fluctuation. Therefore, we have worked out our budget on the basis of \$300,000.

The attached budget shows our working program for the use of these funds during the next two months and a half, that is, up to the first of May. This budget only covers resources available and is limited to work in Nanking proper. Furthermore, it amounts to only \$1.20 per capita.

All the work of the International Committee excepting a few chauffeurs and coolies has been carried on a volunteer basis. Up to the present we have given Chinese volunteer workers only their rice and 12 cents a day for vegetables. But because of the fact that many of these people now have no other source of income, and in order to reduce the drain on relief rice supplies, we have started from the first of February to pay our Chinese staff a cash maintenance allowance ranging from \$10.00 to \$35.00 per person per month inclusive of everything. In this period of transition our staff is being shifted somewhat from one department to another, as from camp upkeep to rehabilitation, but in all we are using 420 people on this basis of maintenance, including all classes of



workers from coolies to commission heads.

##### 5. Further Needs

Aside from the requirements specified in the present budget, the Committee is acutely conscious of other needs almost equally pressing, if there were funds and personnel to meet them.

It is possible only to refer to the unusual health problems of people on a diet generally inadequate and often consisting of two meals of rice gruel alone; for the most part crowded; and under abnormal conditions that tell heavily upon infants, prospective mothers, and all who are frail. Practically speaking, the only medical service available for civilians is that of the University Hospital, which is now operating with reduced staff and small means applied to limited fields of work. Upon that basis should be built an adequate clinical service at the Hospital, a group of out-clinics at various camps and centers; and a program of public health and sanitary supervision. There is no hope for a long time to come that the Self-Government Committee will be able to do more than to open one nominal hospital.

There are also critical needs for relief in the immediate vicinity of Nanking, where many villages were burned, and most of the others have suffered grievously, even up to this moment. For instance, from the half-deserted country side come authenticated appeals from one refugee community of 24,000 at Tsehshashan and another of 2,000 at Kotanchi. Not only is the plight of present residents to be considered, but there are others beginning to return to their homes from flight or deportation, and thousands of villagers now within the city who desire to return if there is opportunity and means to make a start.

Among the gardeners of the Nanking area and the farmers around about, the special difficulties in the way of food production this coming spring and summer are desparately apparent. The shortage will be appalling in its consequences, for at present we can hope only that a fraction of the arable land will be planted. When one venturesome group of farmers were asked if they had seed, they scoffed, saying that the real question was where to get rice to survive for one more day. On the five large farms of the University of Nanking, only a few beans have survived the military burnings and plunderings that destroyed buildings, equipment, and stores. That is a fair picture of thousands of farms. For restoration of security and of normal labor supply, we can do little directly. But in provision of seed, and if possible of animals, we ought to do something.

Such luxuries as elementary education and recreation we are not able to consider, though there is not a school nor a theater nor an outdoor game among these 250,000 people of all ages.

#### 6. Conclusion

The International Committee has striven to maintain a vigorous but flexible program in the face of many difficulties and uncertainties. But we are frequently discouraged before the continuing need of a large community deprived of nearly all its ordinary resources. The Committee is highly appreciative of the generous contributions and suggestions received from many interested organizations. Persistent aid and counsel are required to supplement present efforts.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR NANKING SAFETY ZONE

Tentative Draft Budget

Approved Feb. 13, 1938.

1. FOOD for 50,000 people 2 months (March, April)			
Rice 10,000 bags at \$10.00 per bag		\$100,000	
Supplementary foods		<u>30,000</u>	\$130,000
2. FUEL 10 tons of coal per day for kitchens			
600 tons of coal for 2 months at \$20.00			12,000
3. REHABILITATION			
Aid to people returning to homes outside of Nanking 5,000 persons at \$1.00 each		\$5,000	
Aid to families in camps whose houses have been burned, 2,000 families at \$10.00 each		\$20,000	
Direct relief with allotments for loans, work relief, or special projects		<u>\$75,000</u>	\$100,000
4. ADMINISTRATION (three months: Feb. Mar. Apr.)			
(1) Maintenance allowances to Chinese staff			
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Per month</u>	<u>Three months</u>
General Office	13	\$170.00	
Housing and camps	193	\$2350.00	
Food commission	51	520.00	
Sanitation commission	128	1640.00	
Rehabilitation staff	35	1050.00	
	<u>420</u>	<u>\$5730.00</u>	\$17,190
(2) Expense		<u>Three months</u>	
Cars: Chauffeurs 4		\$360.00	
Repairs		200.00	
Trucks: 675 loads of rice, foods, coal at \$2.00		\$1350.00	
Repairs		250.00	
Office expense		<u>100.00</u>	<u>2,260</u>
			\$19,450
5. CONTINGENCY FUND to be added to Rehabilitation if more important needs do not develop.			<u>\$40,000</u>
GRAND TOTAL (for use of funds now available).....			\$301,450.

Bali

APPENDIX

February 17th, 1938.

Since this statement was written on February 14th, a few changes have occurred in the situation:

1. Beans. Today negotiations were completed with the Japanese authorities regarding the landing of the beans recently sent from Shanghai. It was agreed that if the beans are turned over to the Self-Government Committee to distribute there will be no restriction placed by the Japanese on their being used either inside or outside the Zone area. Since our Committee has every confidence in the Food Commissioner of the Self-Government Committee, it is thought that there will be no difficulty in arranging for a satisfactory distribution of the beans in that way.

2. Rice. Our Camps have been buying rice from Self-Government shops for the last three days, but will have to cut down on the amount purchased in this way because the Self-Government people fear the Japanese will object. However, the Red Cross Society has been able to purchase about 1340 bags from private stocks in the city and is now hauling it in. An attempt to get rice from Liuho, north of the river, failed. We trust that in one way or another we can secure enough rice to carry the people dependent on our free rice---still over 27,000.

The results of the offer by the Japanese to the Self-Government Committee of 1,000 bags of rice per day for six days have not been so encouraging. During the last three days only 300 or 400 bags have been released each day, in spite of the fact that trucks were available to haul 1,000 bags a day. So the total delivery in the six days has only been about 3200 bags, or half that promised, and only one-third of the requisite daily consumption. The Self-

Government Committee has scouts out combing the countryside for rice and it is hoped that they will be successful.

3. Medical. Venereal disease contracted by women who have been raped is now a serious problem. It is hoped that we can expand clinic services rapidly enough to take care of it and give free treatment. The problem of mothers who come to have an abortion performed on their unmarried daughters who were raped presents an even more poignant and difficult question. To date the University Hospital has felt compelled to refuse such service. But as a result the families are resorting to techniques which may seriously endanger the health of the young women. Smallpox vaccination is another matter we have not been able as yet to promote on a large scale. With the arrival of another doctor next week, it is hoped that this can be done.

4. Name. The International Committee has had under consideration for some time the question of changing its name from the "International Committee for the Nanking Safety Zone" to some other that would more clearly express our present function as a purely private relief organization. Again in the recent negotiations regarding the landing of the beans it became apparent that the Japanese authorities too would welcome a change of name as making our status and purpose still clearer. It is probable therefore that by the time this document reaches you the Committee will have changed its name from that given above to some such title as "Nanking International Relief Committee." (So done on Feb. 18th.)

5. Order. During the last week the Japanese military authorities have established better order among their groups. It is now hoped that in the future we can concentrate more fully on relief problems than we have been able to do in the past.

REPORT OF A TRIP TO TSIH HSIA SHAN- FEB. 16-17, 1938.

By J.G. Magee

REFUGEES

At present there are 10,000 refugees in the camps inside the grounds of the Tsih Hsia Shan Cement works ~~which are~~ under the supervision of Dr. Ginter and Mr. Sinberg. The numbers there are increasing at the present time and new huts were being built as I walked through the camp. Most of the huts are built of rice straw while there were a few larger mat sheds. The camp is managed by a number of head men working under the foreigners.

A priest at the temple, which has also been housing refugees, told me that at one time they had 20,000 refugees there but that now they only had something over 1000. Apparently some of those in the temple had moved to Cement Works camp as the <sup>number at the</sup> camp there was increasing in size while that ~~at the~~ at the temple was decreasing.

On the evening of February 16th I met with the head men of the Cement Works camp, possibly 25 in all, when I had the opportunity of hearing them talk and also of asking them questions. I will give here a report of this conference as well as what I saw myself in the dispensary and also on my drives with Mr. Sinberg through the countryside.

OUTRAGES

One representative said that in a square of between 10 and 20 li each way he calculated that from 700 to 800 of the civilian population had been killed. This estimate seemed to be agreed to by the others. Let us call this, then, five miles square or 25 square miles. They said the cases of rape of women between 30 and 40 years old were too numerous to give an estimate while cases were known of girls of about ten years old being raped.

These outrages are still happening. They said that soldiers had come to Shih Pu Chia, a town less than a mile from the railway station at Tsih Hsia Shan, on Feb. 15th and demanded of some old people who had returned some girls. When this couple said there were none the soldiers burnt down their house. When I asked <sup>head men</sup> them when they would be returning to their homes they said they were afraid to do so since the Japanese would come and demand either girls or food (especially the former) and when these were not forthcoming their homes would be destroyed or they would suffer some other injury.

Another man reported that at his village, Hsu Shan Ts'uen, about five miles from the camp, soldiers had come on Feb. 15th and killed 7 people and wounded another. These villagers had recently been vaccinated and the soldiers avowed that the marks were bullet wounds and that therefore they were soldiers.

In the Dispensary on Feb. 17th I saw a farmer who had been shot in the hand on Feb. 15th by two soldiers who had demanded that he produce some girls. It was a most painful wound.

A child was brought to the Dispensary while I was there <sup>when Japanese soldiers</sup> had been horribly burnt set fire to the house in which it was

living. As the father had fled at their approach the soldiers asked this child of three where its "ma-ma" was and when he made no satisfactory answer they set fire to the house. A neighbor rescued him. The mother was already living in the camp.

I also talked to a young farmer in the Dispensary who had been badly burnt in the upper part of his body when soldiers threw Kerosene oil on him and set him afire. They had demanded money from him but he had told them that he was a poor farmer and had no money. This happened in the outskirts of Nanking on Feb. 9th.

Cases are also brought into the Dispensary in which the injury has been caused by bandits. While I was there a woman of 49 years was ~~brought these days had been battered~~ carried in who had been injured ~~by~~ on February 14th. Bandits had come in the night demanding money. When she and her husband said they had none they battered her head ~~with steel~~ and breast with a stool and burnt her feet until she disclosed their savings of between four and five dollars.

### BURNING OF HOMES

These head men estimated that along the main highway from Taiping Gate to Lungtan, a distance of between ten and twelve miles, about 80 % of the houses had been burnt down while they thought that about 40-50 % of the houses on the smaller roads away from the main highways had been destroyed. From my own trips about the country I should say that these estimates were about right.

### FOOD

They thought that the comparatively few <sup>more</sup> well-to-do families living in the camp had food to last for four months more but that the great majority had food only for one month. Dr. Gunter told me that up to the present the refugees had been providing their own food.

### BUFFALOES

They said that only about 10% of the water buffaloes were left in the area running from Taiping Gate to Lungtan-T'angshan-Nanking. One place hidden away in the hills had pretty well escaped. I myself noticed a few buffaloes in the camp, and I also saw three at a village near to Tsih Hsia Shan that had, I think, been kept at the camp and had only recently been taken ~~back by these villagers~~ home.

In reply to my question as to what crop they might be able to produce without oxen and with human labor alone they said they would only be able to produce 1/3 of a normal crop yield.

They estimated that in an area from Taiping Gate to Lungtan to Chi-Ling Men and back to Nanking they would need 3000 oxen to bring about normal conditions. In reply to my question they said that if the banks could advance money to establish Cooperatives for buying oxen they could repay the loan in three years.

### SEED

They reported very little seed on hand and went on to say

that even if they had seed the farmers would not dare to go back to their farms in any large numbers in present circumstances.

In my drives with Mr. Sinberg ~~fast~~ over the countryside as well as on the road between Tsih Hsia Shan and Nanking I saw a few people on the roads apparently going back to their farms. This seemed to be particularly noticeable near to Tsih Hsia Shan and it is possible that some of those near at hand returned to the camp at night. One woman casting manure on her fields as though nothing had happened stands out in my memory as women were so rare. In one village I saw three men, <sup>two</sup> women and some children starting to rebuild their home, the substantial stone walls of which were still standing.

#### MEDICAL WORK

Dr. Gunter and Mr. Sinberg have opened a small hospital and dispensary in one of the buildings belonging to the Cement Works, helped by several gifts of medicines, bandages etc from the University Hospital. Six or more in-patients were being cared for while there were 24 dispensary cases the morning I was there. Some lives have been saved in spite of the total lack of trained medical staff at the beginning. At present there is one graduate nurse with two women and one man dresser who have had very little training. Cases were there needing an operation and it is unquestionably true that more lives would be saved if they had a more adequate staff. While I was at Tsih Hsia Shan the foreigners had a conference with three old-fashioned Chinese doctors who agreed to start work in the camp tending to cases needing internal medicine. Dr. Gunter's idea was that the farmers would probably prefer Chinese medicine and there was also the fact that they had no doctor at the dispensary to attend to internal diseases. These Chinese doctors were going to make up a list of the medicines they would need. The plan is to have them start work in another part of the camp so as not to interfere with the work at the dispensary.

There can be no question of the need in this place. If a doctor could attend, even once a week, a great deal of suffering could be relieved and many lives would be saved. In the substantial buildings belonging to the Cement Works an operating room could be easily set up. Once there were proper facilities for medical and surgical work the news would spread over the country side and the numbers of patients would greatly increase.