Address of Mr. John J. Rabe
at
Farewell Party Given by Staff ofanking Safety Zone
Feb. 21, 1936.

I am very grateful to you for having arranged this party
thus giving me the opportunity to talk to you a last time be-
fore my departure for Europe.

As you will all know by this time, the International
Committee for theanking Safety Zone has changed its name
into Nanking International Relief Committee— the Frenchman
would say "le roi est mort— Vive le roi--the king is dead—
live the king". The newly adopted name is more in con-
formity with our present functions that is to say: after the
Safety Zone in being evacuated by order of the Japanese Autho-
rities we are now purely a Relief Committee—nothing more—but
—mind you—nothing less!

The Safety Zone—now being abolished—was— we can frankly
admit—after all a complete success. A complete success—I
am thankful to say— because all of you—here assembled—stood
faithfully at your post—ready by day and night to defend—
what we called—humanitarian rights!

For this work of yours—which I shall never forget—I want
to thank you—my Chinese and foreign friends—all and everyone
of you— I shall not fail to tell my friends in Germany how I saw
you working here. I shall—just to mention some of the instances
—never forget Miss Minna Ventrin marching at the head of some
5 or 400 women refugees through the town— during the worst of
the December days, to bring them to the safety of her camp.
I shall ever remember Miss Nynda and Miss Bauer doing their work in the only hospital at our disposal—the Kulo-Yuan.

I must tell you that Mr. Mills is the man—who originally had the idea of creating the Safety Zone. I can assure you that the brains of our organization were to be found in Ling Tsang Hsiang No. 3. Thanks to the cleverness of our American friends

Mr. Mills, Dr. Bates, Dr. Smythe, Mr. Pitch, Mr. Loom, Mr. Magee, Mr. Forster and Mr. Pigga

the committee was put on its feet and thanks to their hard work it ran as smoothly as could be expected under the dreadful circumstances we lived at.

The Kulo Hospital with its reduced staff of only two doctors—Dr. Trimmer and Dr. Wilson, the Manager Mr. Mac Callum and the few ladies already mentioned, did the finest bit of Hospital work I have ever seen in my life. As a matter of fact—we were all afraid the Kulo Hospital would have to close temporarily simply on account of its reduced personal being thoroughly overworked—Chinese as well as American.

If you allow me to speak also a few words of my German friends, I may mention that Mr. Christian Kroger was the most ideal treasurer—whenever we needed a dollar or two—he could not be found—but he never failed to turn up then a poor soul had to be saved from Japanese soldiers.

Mr. Eduard Sparling—our Police Commissioner—well—what shall I say about him?—We all know how bravely he behaved. Once upon a time he was made a prisoner by the Japanese—this time he had his revenge—None of us forgetfully chased so many Japanese.
soldiers away as he did—partly I must admit on account of his knowledge of the Japanese language, of which he knew 2 words: kaiho—run and haikau kaiho—run quick!

There is still Mr. Hatz and Cola to be mentioned—Mr. Hatz who ran away with the biggest truck and Cola who told the Japanese in Japanese what he or we thought of them.

However—if we foreigners were thus successful—we were so—and we shall never forget it—because you—our Chinese friends—stood by us in good and true fellowship—the practical work of the different commissions being carried out by you. In fulfilling your duty—you were—we have never left that out of sight—in greater danger than we. Surely some of us foreigners have been badly handled by the Japanese soldiers, but we had comparatively—a certain feeling of safety and trusted that the worst would probably not happen—whilst you, when working for the Committee—did so very often at the very risk of your life.

You are numerous—my Chinese friends—forgive me if I don't mention all your names but only the chiefs of the departments:

Dean Tang, Chief of the Secretariat
Man Heinn Ling, the Food Commissioner
Mr. C.Y. Yau, Housing Commissioner
Pastor Shen Yu Shu, Comm. of the Sanitation Dept.
Mr. Low of the Rehabilitation Dept.

and their staff.

To all of you I want to express my heartfelt thanks. I hope that the spirit of good fellowship and friendship will last—so please—continue to give the best of your aid to the Relief Committee and work—which I am sure—will
go down into the history of Nanking—to a good and successful end.

I am really sorry that I cannot stay with you—as I would certainly like to. My firm has called me back to Europe— but I hope to come back here some time—to meet you all again.

I wish you all

good luck

fare well!

Thank you