

Address of Mr. John H.D. Rebe

at

Rossell Party Given by Staff of Nanking Safety Zone

Feb. 21, 1938.

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

As you will all know by this time, the International Committee for the Nanking 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--long live the king" The newly adopted name is more in conformity with our present functions that is to say: after the Safety Zone is being evacuated by order of the Japanese Authorities 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 Minni Vautrin marching at the head of some 3 or 400 woman 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 Hynds and Miss Bauer doing their work in the only Hospital at our disposal--the Kulo-Y-Yuen.

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 organisation were to be found in Ling Tsang Hsing No. 3. Thanks to the cleverness of our American friends

Mr. Mills, Dr. Bates, Dr. Smythe, Mr. Pitch, Mr. Sone, Mr. Magee, Mr. Forster and Mr. Riggs

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 when a poor soul had to be saved from Japanese soldiers.

Mr. Eduard Sperling--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 ~~XXXXXX~~ 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 knows 2 words: kailo--run and halaku kailo--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--stuck to 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

Han Hsiao Ling, the Food Commissioner

Dr. C.Y. Hsu, Housing Commissioner

Pastor Shen Yu Shu, Coma. 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--Do please continue to give the best of your aid to the Relief Committee and bring this 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