

MEMORANDUM ON RELIEF PROBLEM IN NANKING

February 22nd, 1938.

I am not going to tell you any atrocity stories because a Japanese friend of mine in Nanking told me that if I did the whole Japanese Army would be against me! And that would be too bad, both for me and the relief work my comrades are trying to carry on in Nanking. But I can say that order is much better in Nanking than it was and with about two-fifths of the people having returned to their homes outside of the former Safety Zone the city assumes more its normal appearance. But it is largely the old people and small children that are returning to their homes.

On February 18th the International Committee for the Nanking Safety Zone decided that from henceforth it would operate under the name of "Nanking International Relief Committee" which is more in conformity with our present functions.

There is one problem that continues whether people are at home or in a Zone: that is food. We are all grateful to have Dr. Brady join us in Nanking. He started his smallpox vaccination ~~we~~ campaign and camp clinic work for 30,000 refugees his first day ~~her~~ in Nanking. He told us that Mr. John Earl Baker had said to him that we must concentrate more on giving the people a proper diet or we would have more trouble with illness later on. And he further indicated that we must plan our resources to carry the ~~people~~ population through several months.

We have been very anxious about the food situation and until some of our Shanghai friends very energetically loaded and secured permission for 100 tons of beans to come to Nanking, we did not have any supplementary foods to add to the rice gruel the people fed by soup kitchens were getting. Worse than that we were not able to set up enough kitchens for the people in the camps so

we had to give many of them raw rice which they had to cook themselves and many of them could not buy vegetables to add. Consequently, a large part of the 50,000 people ~~xxx~~ on free rice had had very little else since the middle of December, two months.

Beans is beans, but I must add a word or two to that discussion. We do not have the beans yet!. That is because we did not have time to negotiate for their landing after it was learned the Army would not accept Admiral Hasegawa's permission for them to ~~be~~ be shipped and landed at Nanking. However, they are expected back to Nanking Saturday and will be received by the Nanking Self-Government Committee and distributed to the poor of the city free by them. We were assured that the Japanese military will place no restrictions on their use either outside or inside the former Safety Zone. That will be an interesting experiment in cooperation. If it works out to the satisfaction of all, we hope it will open the way for shipping in more foodstuffs soon.

In this case, we decided to forego the rights ~~of~~ inherent in a shipment consigned to an American mission institution and the right ~~of~~ of a private relief organization to send or receive supplies for the benefit of the needy in any country. This was because we thought that it was more important for the people to have the beans than to stick to strict observance of these principles at present. But we trust these principles can be faithfully adhered to in the future. Our Committee will try its best to protect the interests of the kind donors of the money for the beans by seeing that the beans are satisfactorily handled. If this is not the case, we will notify such donors not to ship under such conditions in the future.

These same donors will also be anxious to know how much progress our Committee has made toward securing the 10,933 bags of rice and ~~xx~~ 10,000 bags of flour confiscated from the Committee's

stocks when the Japanese Army took Nanking. We have tried every means open to us for negotiations. But so far the result has been zero. We went so far on February 6th as to inform the Japanese that we would be glad to cooperate with the local Self-Government Committee in the handling of these supplies. But even this has brought no results. (See letters of January 26th and 27th, 243 and 244.)

Experience in relief work in China shows that the problem of food, especially cereals, often becomes more serious in April and May than it is during the winter---or at times, when disorder prevents new crops, even in the following summer. With our stocks of relief rice running low, it is imperative that we secure rice for such an eventuality. The 10,933 bags of rice and 10,000 bags of flour due us would satisfactorily provide for such use.

In our earlier discussions with the Japanese authorities on this matter they said they wanted all food supplies to be handled by the Self-Government Committee. But in the two months since their entry into Nanking they have released through the Self-Government Committee only 2,000 bags of rice for free distribution. Besides this 8,000 bags of rice and 10,000 bags of flour have been sold by them to the Self-Government Committee for resale to the people. (Other isolated gifts and irregular distribution outside of the Self-Government Committee have occurred on a small scale. It should be noted that 250,000 people require 1,600 bags of rice per day.) Now the daily deliveries are limited to about 400 bags per day and the three days before I left Nanking there had been no rice or flour released at all. So the amount released for free distribution is far less than the amount confiscated from private relief stores.

When the Japanese Army is so solicitous for the welfare of the Chinese people, it would seem strange for relief organizations in foreign countries to have to raise money to buy rice and wheat

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or flour to replace \$144,330 worth of foodstuffs (at current Nanking prices) confiscated ~~by the Japanese Army itself~~ from supplies legally the property of the Committee by the Japanese Army itself!