

NANKING INTERNATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

5 Ninghai Road

April 13, 1938.

Mr. Yoshiyuki Hanawa, Consul-General,
Japanese Consulate,
Nanking.

My dear Mr. Hanawa:

You will recall that on the occasion of the last conversation which Dr. Bates and I had with you, it was agreed that we should draw up and present to you a plan for the use and distribution of the 10,933 bags of rice and the 10,000 bags of flour which were under discussion. I now beg leave to present this plan to you for your consideration.

Recently another need has come to our attention which is so serious that we feel it should be included in this plan. I refer to the urgent need of farmers in this area for rice seed for spring planting.

The area in which the shortage of rice seed is most serious is in Kiangning and Kuyung hsien along the road to Kuyung, from Kuyung city to Chinkiang, along the road to Hushu and the road to Wuhu. In this area we estimate there are 17,500 farm families in Kiangning hsien needing on the average 1.18 shih tan of rice seed or a total of 20,600 shih tan, and in the Kuyung area 9,000 farm families needing on the average 0.33 shih tan or 3,000 shih tan. Therefore the total rice seed needed that cannot be purchased in this area is 23,600 shih tan. (A shih tan is 50 kgs.) These needs are summarized in the following table:

RICE SEED NEEDED IN MOST SERIOUS AREAS OF KIANGNING AND KUYUNG-HSIEN
for spring planting before May 1st.

Hsien	: Number of : farm families : in worse area :	: Average amount : of seed needed : per farm family : (shih tan)	: Total seed needed : (shih tan)
Kiangning	: 17,500	: 1.18	: 20,600 x 50 kgs.
Kuyung	: 9,000	: 0.33	: 3,000 x 50 kgs.
Totals	: 26,500	: ----	: 23,600 x 50 kgs.

Mr. Hanawa, April 13th, 1938.

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We would suggest that instead of the 10,000 bags of flour mentioned in our previous discussion, the Army should give its equivalent in seed rice. For this purpose 12,000 shih tan (6,000 x 100 kgs.) of unhulled rice are needed. Even this amount will only meet half the above stated need. Nevertheless it would relieve the agricultural situation considerably. The money value is about the same, since your Army previously sold flour at \$3.50 per bag and unhulled rice is now selling at \$2.90 per shih tan in this area. This may be summarized as follows:

Flour	10,000 bags @ \$3.50	\$35,000.00
Rice seed	12,000 <u>shih tan</u> @ \$2.90	\$34,800.00

This matter is very urgent because the rice must be planted in the next two weeks or before May 1st.

Secondly, in the city we find it necessary to feed 27,000 people daily and at 300 persons per bag of rice per day, that takes 90 bags of rice a day or 2700 bags a month. Therefore, 10,933 bags would last only 4 months.

Besides these people in the city that need to be fed, we are receiving appeals for aid from nearby towns. If we satisfy these needs, we could use even more than the 10,933 bags in the next four months before the rice harvest. We would therefore suggest that the Army should plan to deliver this rice at the rate of 2,733 bags a month for the next four months, beginning May 1st.

In this connection it should be remembered that the planting of winter crops is far below normal, therefore the June wheat harvest will be small, and food needs will continue serious.

With regard to method of distribution, we will be glad to have these supplies distributed through the Nanking Self-Government Committee. We would desire only to check the amounts of seed they distributed to the farmers and the amount of rice used for food. In the case of rice used in our own soup kitchens or refugee camps, we would be glad to have the Self-Government Committee also check this. We believe that such a reciprocal arrangement should prove entirely satisfactory.

Mr. Hanawa, April 13th, 1938.

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It would be of great assistance and would, we believe, create a most favorable impression if the Army would take immediate steps to make the above seed and food supplies available in the manner suggested. The question of seed is especially urgent since, as has been stated above, planting should be completed not later than May 1st.

Thanking you for your cooperation in effecting a settlement of this matter, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) W.P. Mills.

W. P. Mills, Vice-Chairman.