

May 13th, 1938.

Dear Doctor Imai,

Last night you were surprised at our difficulties at buying and shipping in food supplies. We did not have the heart to tell you that not only had permission to buy and ship in food been continually refused, but when the Japanese Army entered the city they confiscated (or at least have held and to date not released to us) 10,933 bags of rice and 10,000 bags of flour. (The rice bags weighed 215 pounds and flour 49 pounds each.) At February prices we valued this at \$144,330.00. Valuation in December was \$168,996.25; while the Japanese Army Supply Department quoted us on January 7th was \$188,528.50! (Yes, the supply Department was ready to sell us rice and flour then but some political interest ordered them to cancel the deal after it was all agreed to.)

Since our relief work this winter for the five months to April 30th amounted to \$251,000 in total you can see that the above food represented 3/8's of our resources. You can imagine the howl that would have gone up in America if the Germans had done anything like that with food being shipped to Belgium by the American relief organization under Hoover! We have tried to settle the matter with patience and are still hopeful that the Japanese Army will see the justice of our claim.

Dr. Imai, May 13th, 1938.

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The story behind this is that the former Mayor of Nanking assigned us---gave us warehouse orders---for 20,009 bags of rice (30,000 tan or 20,000 x 100 kg.) and by the time your Army reached the city we had only be able to haul into the Zone 9,076 bags. We have not been allowed to secure the remained although most of it was conveniently located inside the city a short distance east of the Zone! The Mayor also gave us the 10,000 bags of flour and we have not been able to get that.

In otherwords the Mayor of Nanking gave us Chinese \$80,000 plus 20,009 bags of rice plus 10,000 bags of flour when we organized the Zone December 1st. To date the Japanese Army has contributed nothing directly to our work and confiscated the above amount. Who loves the Chinese people most? The amount confiscated is more than all we have received from foreign relief agencies for our work so indirectly it has come out of American, British and Chinese relief funds. And when we render an accounting to these agencies May 31st, it will have to so appear in our commodity accounts.

Well, in giving you case material and food troubles, I have called your attention to our most serious problem this winter: first how to protect the refugees and second how to feed them!

I trust your friends in Japan will be led to see these bigger issues than anything that affects the welfare of a handful of missionaries! Decent treatment of the civilian population, to say nothing of disarmed soldiers!, in the occupied territories is the first step towards restoring the reputation of Japan and in the name of common humanity.

Most cordially yours,



Bates

Shanghai

For John Earle Baker from Bates

International Committee urgently desires funds aid farmers Ningahu area
Would request your help secure fifty thousand dollars for this
purpose. Could use effectively whatever portion available.
Seeds, animals, implements needed. Most urgent is rice seed before
April thirtieth if possible. Where cooperative societies exist or
can be organized, funds will be administered through them as loans.
Please wire notice any funds secured.

April 17th, 1938.
7:00 P.M.