

WORK AND PROGRAM OF THE NANKING INTERNATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE
(Statement as of November first, 1938)

I. PERIOD DECEMBER 1937 - MAY 1938.

The International Committee organized, and for a brief period between the two military regimes, administered the Safety Zone in which nearly 250,000 people were provided with housing and a comparable measure of security. 70,000 were cared for in 25 refugee camps. It was necessary to provide food for many of them, even until May; though the numbers gradually dwindled with the partial restoration of order and return to original homes in other parts of the city.

During this period the International Committee received in cash and commodities a total of \$454,370.44, according to its accounts as audited by Thomson & Co. Contributions came generously from a large number of sources, Chinese and foreign; the largest gifts of rice and cash were made by the old Municipal Government of Nanking at the inception of the Safety Zone, and by the Relief Commission of the Executive Yuan, in May, 1938. Over \$178,000 was used for food and fuel. Cash relief was given to 17,500 families, largely in the form of small grants to assist them in returning to their homes, a total of nearly \$57,000. \$14,000 was used in the conduct of the camps and in medical and sanitary work; and nearly \$12,000 in work relief and special projects, particularly agricultural. Transportation and all overhead expenses, including those of the Safety Zone, were \$11,500, paid in considerable measure to assistants of all grades who were themselves subjects for relief. Thus total expenditures were \$272,408.42, leaving a balance of \$181,962.02 on May 31, when the Committee secured an audit of accounts for its first six months of work.

II. PERIOD JUNE- NOVEMBER 1938.

The International Committee from early February had employed its influence and policies to push for return of refugees to their own homes and independent living in every possible case. Camps were abolished as of May 31, though it took some time to complete the full work of transfer, cleaning, and final closing out. It was determined to conduct summer work upon a closely limited scale, trying out to the full the capacities of the people to get along somehow during the most favorable season, and conserving resources for the undoubtedly greater need of the coming winter.

In accordance with the practice developed in the spring, high standards of investigation were maintained, both as to conditions in the city and the surrounding rural districts, and more specifically as to each family considered for relief. Food was given out chiefly through the mechanism of a joint committee formed with the Red Swastika Society, employing as a basis some \$22,000 of the International Committee's funds so designated at the request of the Nanking International Relief Association (Shanghai), which sum was later increased to \$31,000. In this project alone, 6,324 bags of rice and wheat were distributed among 13,865 families out of 26,700 who applied. Total expenditures for food distribution are \$44,000. Other expenditures to the end of October run to almost \$23,000, including: small loans for productive

business, closing of camps, cash and work relief, transportation and administration. Thus total payments to November first amount to approximately \$67,000. These figures are preliminary reports from the Treasurer, subject to final accounting.

The financial position November first is as follows:-

<u>Resources</u>		<u>Approximate Expenditures</u>	
On hand June 1	\$181,962.02	June 1 to Oct. 31	\$67,000
Receipts to Oct. 31	16,536.00	November items	6,500
On hand Nov. 1	\$198,498.02	Estimated to Nov. 30	\$73,500
		Available for appropriation from Dec. 1	\$125,000
			\$198,500

III. CONSIDERATION OF PRESENT NEEDS

1. War Injuries. All thought of the people of Nanking and this region is against the background of economic ruin. The life of Nanking was based in high degree upon the direct and indirect payments of the National Government and all the complex interests related to it; and secondly upon the many educational institutions formerly conducted here. Those economic foundations were torn away by the war, and at the same time commercial communications practically ceased to exist. But that was only the beginning. The International Committee's surveys, printed as War Damage In The Nanking Area, show that in Nanking 26% of all buildings were destroyed or seriously damaged by fire and by military operations, and a further 63% by looting; leaving only 11% for lesser robbery. The average losses per family remaining in Nanking were \$838, of which \$291 was in movables for economic uses, particularly stock for sale and shop equipment, and \$276 was in domestic movables, mainly clothing and bedding and household equipment. This represents, obviously, the almost complete stripping of a large fraction of the laboring and lower middle class people of Nanking. The rural losses were also crushing, amounting to 40% of all farm buildings in the four and one-half hsien that we were able to survey in March last, and approximately half the animals and implements.

2. Slight Recovery. Under present conditions, recovery has not proceeded far. The means of bringing in necessary raw materials, or indeed finished goods, are limited both geographically and in quantity. The same statement applies to the distribution of agricultural or other products of this region, whether close at hand or in former markets at a distance. Transfer of goods and of funds is insecure. Almost all capital was removed from the city, peacefully or otherwise. There are still no ordinary banking facilities or other normal means of credit. Fortunately the currency problem has not become acute, though the introduction of military notes and fluctuating political intervention presages an effort to depreciate the established currency. Some tens of thousands of people have gradually returned from flight to the country districts, and are still trickling in, usually penniless and without adequate clothing and bedding. The struggle made by small merchants and still smaller producers is a remarkable one, but the limitations are too great for widespread success even on a low level. While this year does not confront the terrible crisis of last, yet economically it starts without the prosperous accumulations and the two successive bumper crops

which have enabled us to traverse the past eleven months. Indeed, it begins with an inferior crop and practically no reserves or stocks of any sort, private or public.

3. Reports on Grain, Fuel, and Clothing. The International Committee has recently completed a report of summer crop investigations, with supplementary data on other economic problems that affect relief. These inquiries reveal a crop below average, but quantitatively able to provide for the community if local communications can be kept passably free of forceful and financial hindrances, and if there is not too much official shipment to other consumers. (Dealers report that recently 50-70% of the rice entering Nanking has been shipped out by Japanese interests). Flood has done serious damage to a large fraction of the planted area, and cultivation has inevitably been poor as a result of war injuries and continuing difficulties. Fuel in Nanking is scraping along on a scanty minimum, but regional supplies of grass, reeds, and wood should be adequate for cooking if again there is passable freedom of entry. Supplies of cotton, yarn, cloth, clothing, and bedding are all short and unsatisfactory, yet able for the present to meet the small effective demand. Inquiry into these trades almost always strikes the rock of "no buying power", and at the same time shows the shocking reduction of employment and business opportunity even in these lines of "necessaries."

4. Estimates of Need. It is difficult to make a realistic estimate of the city's need for relief, and almost impossible to attempt it for the countryside. To earnest, authentic appeals for the barest necessities from a score of nearby villages areas, we have been able to make no response. As for the city, the combined estimates of a large number of mission and school workers suggest that 44% of the middle class and poorer groups with whom they are in daily contact, are practically destitute and cannot hope to get along this winter without relief. In a meeting of philanthropic organizations held recently by the City Government, it was declared that 200,000 persons out of the nearly 400,000 now in Nanking are in plain need of assistance. A number of our own group consider that serious need is apparent among about 100,000. Certain men of business connections are more optimistic. In considering practical relief programs, with some eye to possible resources as well as to needs, the figure of a million dollars has received some attention as representing two dollars a month for five months for 100,000 persons. This figure is small in comparison with the city losses of \$246,000,000 (see War Damage in the Nanking Area, pp. 12-13 and Table 12). The influence of the business men and our own knowledge of the probable limitations of resources, has brought down the working figure to something like \$500,000.

5. Means of Relief. What share of the burden necessarily or rightly falls to the International Committee? Considerable experience and inquiry have shown that other benevolent organizations will have very small resources this coming winter, and do not plan to undertake large-scale work. The City Government hopes to have \$200,000 for relief, part of which will be used for five large rice-kitchens, feeding 50,000 people. There is no doubt of the serious intention of certain officials to accomplish something in relief. Yet the desired funds are not assured, and in practice the use of government relief funds has continually been affected by unfavorable factors. All in all, the City Government may carry part of the burden. Little more can be said at this time.

6. The Committee's Conclusions. The International Committee concluded after this study of the situation, that it should work along two lines: First, adopt its own program for the use between December first and April thirtieth of the resources actually in hand, recognizing that certain modifications may later become desirable in order to secure the best distribution of effort with relation to City Government services. Secondly, seek further contributions of one to two hundred thousand dollars, which would be employed on something like the lines of the present modest program, but with possible variation of emphases as the situation develops.

IV. APPROPRIATIONS ADOPTED OCT. 25 AND NOV. 1 (for the period December 1938 - April 1939).

Food and Fuel for relief purposes (including supplies already secured)	\$65,000
Work Relief	10,000
Cash Relief (including medical aid and special attention to middle class)	10,000
Clothing and Bedding (in addition to previous appropriation of \$2,000)	8,000
Small Loan Fund (in addition to previous \$3,000)	3,000
Agricultural Relief (previously earmarked)	5,000
Staff and Administration Current	6,000
Reserved (gift with question as to designation)	2,000
Contingent Fund	9,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$118,000
Temporarily Unappropriated	7,000
Total Estimated Resources as of December 1	125,000