

NOTES WITH A COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF
NANKING AND THE JAPANESE EMBASSY 16-17 DECEMBER, 1937.

1. These may be duplicated for confidential circulation if desired. But please send promptly by a safe route to Associated Boards Office, asking them to send copies to the Foreign Department, U.C.M.S., 222 Downey Ave., Indianapolis, and to my brother Dr. G. S. Bates, 45 Glendale, Highland Park, Detroit, Mich.
2. These letters are linked with a much more comprehensive correspondence carried on by the International Safety Zone Committee, in which I have been an active member. Also, they were commonly related to conversations held at the Embassy. Thus they are incomplete and give only glimpses of the situation.
3. Japanese entry into the city was on 13 December. Embassy men arrived on the 15th. with express purpose of lightening the Army's impact upon foreigners and their interests. I had slight previous relations with Consul Tanaka.
4. At first the officials refused to believe what we told them. After much battering with facts and finally some actual bumping into rape and violence, they woke up. Then they stalled with trivial promises about military police (there were 17 in the city when they had over 50,000 soldiers turned utterly loose); and told us twice that "fresh strict orders" had been issued to restore discipline.
5. In later stages they insisted upon the generals' formula that everything was improving and therefore no problem really existed.
6. However, two of the three officials chiefly concerned were really broken down by the array of misery, and asked for reporting as a help to dealing with the military. Thus you have a typical Japanese set-up of civilians half-defending, half-persuading the military.
7. The utter callousness of the generals is beyond description. And I cannot yet bring myself to take the time and heart to tell the general story.
8. We have been almost completely isolated, and only today is there a partial chance of getting out something without censorship right here.

Hastily,

M.S.B.

December 16.

Permit me to add a brief note to the letter delivered to you this morning, in reference to Item number (2).

In our Agricultural Economics Compound (Hsia T'ao Yuan) more than thirty women were raped last night by soldiers who came repeatedly and in large numbers. I have investigated this matter thoroughly, and am certain of the correctness of the statement.

The situation all through this section of the city is pitiful indeed. We trust that as you have demonstrated your superiority in military power you will also demonstrate superiority in mercy. Security of life and people is immediately needed by these many tens of thousand of peaceful citizens.

The University is situated in the Safety Zone and is affected by the conditions and problems of that zone. Some officers have been friendly and understanding of the purpose and working of the zone. Others appear to be harsh and suspicious. Let it be made clear to them that what the International Committee has done is entirely open from the beginning. Every office and building and section has been open to inspection each day. The Committee will be glad for the return of normal conditions and release from its humanitarian responsibility. Meanwhile it is merely trying under great difficulties to provide food and housing for people who were driven from their homes by war conditions and still live in great fear,

December 17.

The reign of terror and brutality continues in the plain view of your buildings and among your own neighbors.

- (1) Last night soldiers repeatedly came to our Library buildings with its great crowd of refugees, demanding money, watches, and women at the point of the bayonet. When persons had no watches or money, usually because they had been looted several times in the two preceding days, the soldiers broke windows near them and roughly pushed them about. One of our own staff members was wounded by a bayonet in this manner.
- (2) At the Library building, as in many other places through this part of the city last night, soldiers raped several women.
- (3) Soldiers beat our own unarmed watchmen, because the watchmen did not have girls ready for the use of the soldiers.
- (4) Last night several of our American-owned residences, with flags and Embassy proclamations upon them, were entered irregularly by roving groups of soldiers, some of them several times. These residences included houses in which three American members of our staff are living.

We respectfully ask you to compare these acts which are small samples of what is happening to large numbers of residents of Nanking with your Government's official statements of its concern for the welfare of the people of China, likewise of its protection of foreign property.

We do not wish to emphasize personal matters, and refer to two other incidents merely to indicate the degree of wild license among uncontrolled soldiers. Yesterday one American member of our staff was struck by an officer upon entirely false charges which the officer did not investigate, and also by soldiers. During the night another American and myself were pulled out of bed by a drunken soldier with a rifle.

This letter is not written to ask for special protection on behalf of the University, but to emphasize, by reason of the nearness of the University to yourselves, the urgency of peril to all peaceable people.

We believe that the Japanese Army has the power and the efficiency to maintain respectable conduct, and to give conquered people a chance to work and live under good order. We are unable to understand why it does not do so, and do it before further damage is done to local people and to Japan's reputation,

December 18.

Misery and terror continues everywhere because of the violence and robbery of the soldiers. More than 17,000 poor persons, many of them women and children, are now in our buildings hoping for safety. They are still crowding in, because conditions elsewhere are worse than here. Yet I must give you the record of the past twenty-four hours in this relatively good position.

(1) University Middle School, Kan Ho Yen. One frightened child killed by a bayonet; another critically wounded and about to die. Eight women raped. Several of our own staff, who are trying to feed and care for these wretched people, were struck by soldiers for no reason whatever. Soldiers climb over the walls many times day and night. Many persons could not sleep for three days, and there is hysterical fear. If this fear and despair result in resistance against the attack of soldiers upon women, there will be disastrous slaughter for which your authorities will be responsible. American flag scornfully torn down by soldiers.

(2) Sericulture Building, Chin Ying Chieh. Two women raped.

(3) Agricultural Implements Shop, 11 Hu Chia Ts'ai Yuen, two women raped.

(4) Faculty residence, 11 Hankow Road, inhabited by our own staff. Two women raped.

(5) Faculty residence, 23 Hankow Road, inhabited by American member of our staff. One woman raped.

(6) Agricultural Economics Department (Hsiao T'ao Yuan). This place has received terrible treatment so many times that all women have fled. This morning while visiting there, I was approached by six soldiers, one of whom repeatedly pointed a pistol at me with his finger on the trigger, although I did nothing except ask a courteous question as to whether he found any difficulty there.

These plain facts do not tell the misery of ordinary people visited as many as ten times in one day and six times in one night by wandering groups of soldiers looking for women and loot. They do indicate the urgent need for control at once.

Certain of your representatives declared that there would be military police at the gates of several of these buildings, last night (as at certain other points where large bodies of refugees are gathered). But not one guard was seen. Since soldiers are everywhere climbing over walls, a few guards will not do much good, anyhow, unless there is a genuine restoration of general discipline.

The presence of the Akiyama Department Headquarters in the residence formerly belonging to Ho Yin-ni'in, constitutes a special peril to this neighborhood until your soldiers are controlled. It could be made a means of security if the generals so desired.

Here and all through the city, people are becoming desperate with hunger, since soldiers have taken their food and their money; also many are cold and sick because soldiers have taken their clothing and bedding. How do the Japanese authorities plan to deal with this problem?

It is said on every street with tears and distress that where the Japanese Army is, no person and no house can be safe. Surely this is not what the statesmen of Japan wish to do, and all residents of Nanking expect better things from Japan.

I believe that if you have an opportunity, it would be well for one of you to go with me through some of the places where this terror and suffering continues, so close to your own walls. The writing of this letter has been interrupted in order to deal with seven soldiers engaged in their usual business called "inspection", which means looking for women whom they will return to seize at night.

I slept in these buildings last night, and will continue to do so in the hope of giving a little aid to helpless women and children. Other foreign friends and myself in doing such humanitarian work have repeatedly been threatened by your soldiers. If in the course of these efforts we are killed or wounded by drunken and disorderly soldiers, the responsibility will be entirely clear.

This letter is written in a courteous and friendly spirit, but it reflects something of the unhappy despair in which we have lived since the Japanese Army entered the city five days ago. Immediate remedy is greatly needed.

Yours faithfully,

Chairman Emergency Committee, University of Nanking.

December 21 (to Mr. Fukuda)

In accordance with your request this morning, I submit the following facts, most of which have been observed by myself since I saw you, and the remainder I have carefully investigated after they were told me by reliable people.

(1) This afternoon seven persons were taken from our Library Building by soldiers. These included members of our own staff. There was no accusation or fact of their being soldiers (Chinese), but they were simply seized for forced labor without regard to your proclamation.

(2) At No. 4 T'ou T'iao Hsiang, near the entrance to your Embassy, a woman was raped this afternoon by two soldiers. Does this suggest that a few gendarmes are restoring order?

(3) While I was with you in the Embassy today, my own house was looted for the fourth time. Seven other University houses have been looted today, and many have been entered several times.

(4) Fires systematically laid by large bodies of soldiers working under the direction of officers, are rendering thousands of people homeless and without hope of return to normal life and work. They are going ahead all day just the same as before.

(5) The Shuang Lung Hsiang gate of the University Hospital was broken in today, although it carried your proclamation. In another part of the Hospital, an American just saved the ambulance, which soldiers were stealing.

(6) I have seen myself five cases of soldiers taking this afternoon food and bedding from poor people, usually requiring the people then to go with the loot as carriers.

(7) In An Loh Li next our Middle School, I answered a call for help from a Red Cross Dressing Station that was caring for three persons wounded in the night by soldiers demanding women and money. One woman was raped upstairs in that house last night. Two soldiers were thoroughly robbing the house when I went in. The very good man doing the medical work said that in his own house at 58 Kao Chia Chiu Kwan, two women were raped last night.

(8) I returned through several hundred straw huts of very poor people south of Wu T'ai Shan. Some people said that conditions were better last night. Others said they were worse, for soldiers were still seizing girls in their homes, looting from the poorest people, and taking the rickshaws of men who have no other means of living.

(9) Yesterday, for the second time, the American flag was torn down from the American Primary School (Wu T'ai Shan) and trampled by soldiers.

Soldiers threatened to kill any servant or other person who should put it up again.

I feel sure that not so many people were raped or wounded last night as the night before. But the robbery, illegal entry, and terrible burning continues as bad or worse than before. Two members of the International Committee who have driven several miles in a car have not yet seen a gendarmes. They are not effective.

If the generals intend to destroy the people's homes and take away their last food and clothing, it is better to say so honestly than to deceive them and us with false hopes of order.

December 22.

In several places the situation last night and this morning is reported to be a little better. However, it is still disgracefully bad, as the following items will indicate:

- (1) This morning near five o'clock eleven men were suddenly seized by force from the University library. The gate was broken in by soldiers, although it had the gendarmerie notice upon it. The soldiers were so violent then, as also the afternoon before, that no one dared to try to give an alarm. Later soldiers came and got another man. The seven taken yesterday from this place, including members of our own staff, have not been heard from. Such terrorism and insecurity will of course make it impossible to get laborers for ordinary work.
 - (2) Last night at ten o'clock four soldiers came in a motor car to the main gate of our University. One by the use of his bayonet prevented our watchman from going to your consular policeman. After three soldiers got inside our servants called the policeman, who persuaded them to leave. This morning before ten o'clock, soldiers had entered the University five times, scorning the gendarmerie notice.
 - (3) Soldiers have continued this morning to enter University residences, including those occupied by Americans, and to rob.
 - (4) Three of my colleagues and myself, each of whom had business in different streets this morning, did not see a single gendarme. We know there are some, but they are too few and too mild to secure discipline.
 - (5) Systematic looting with the use of trucks, followed by burning, continues close at hand. This reduces daily more and more people to homelessness, poverty and unemployment for the future.
 - (6) Seven soldiers last night entered the Bible Teachers' Training School for women (Chien Ying Hsiang) and raped women.
 - (7) Several refugee places reported soldiers coming in despite gendarmerie notices, to search for women and money.
 - (8) The University Agricultural Economics Compound (Hsiao T'ao Yuan) was roughly treated by soldiers last night, who broke a large number of doors. Keys were taken away by soldiers two days ago, when they seized our servant whom they have not released.
 - (9) The University Sericulture Department was frequented by soldiers this morning as usual. One of them, drunk, seized three persons as carriers for wine he had stolen elsewhere, and fired his gun three times among the crowded refugees while he was robbing them.
 - (10) You will be interested to know of the statement of a faithful employee of the Post Office that a large quantity of mail has been opened by stray soldiers, with what damage we do not know. This mail, both domestic and foreign, remains undelivered in the last days of the fighting, and was stored for safety in the Central Post Office (Ch'i Wang Chieh, Chien K'an Lu).
- These items are only samples which I have seen or have come directly

under my personal attention. They show that no real discipline is being enforced. Many persons who have already lost by robbery all their money and watches, are beaten by soldiers, especially at night, because they cannot answer demands for the same.

December 25.

I have tried for a couple of days to refrain from troubling you further. However, many difficulties occur every day, and today they are worse than usual. New parties of stray soldiers without discipline or officers are going everywhere stealing, raping and taking away women. Some cases follow:

- (1) Just now soldiers forcibly entered the University and towed away a truck used to supply rice to refugees.
- (2) In our Sericulture Building alone there are on the average of more than ten cases per day of rape or of abducting women.
- (3) Our residences continue to be entered day and night by soldiers who injure women and steal everything they wish. This applies to residences in which Americans are now living, just the same as to the others.
- (4) Soldiers frequently tear down the proclamations put up by your military police.
- (5) This morning an American member of our staff was struck by an officer who suddenly approached him and angrily tried to tear off the arm band supplied by your Embassy.
- (6) Other buildings not mentioned above are daily entered several times each by soldiers who utterly disregard your proclamations, looking for women and for loot.
- (7) Despite this disorder caused entirely by soldiers, we have no guard whatever and no military police have been sent near us.

December 27, 1937. (To the officers of the Japanese Embassy)

Beginning more than a week ago, we were promised by you that within a few days order would be restored by replacement of troops, resumption of regular discipline, increase of military police, and so forth. Yet shameful disorder continues, and we see no serious effort to stop it. Let me give a few examples from University property close to you, without covering all portions of the University.

- (1) Yesterday afternoon a soldier cut the rope and took away the American flag from our Rural Leaders' Training School at Yin Yang Ying and Shanghai Roads.
- (2) Last night between eleven and twelve o'clock, a motor car with three Japanese military men came to the main University gate, claiming that they were sent by headquarters to inspect. They forcibly prevented our watchman from giving an alarm, and kept him with them while they found and raped three girls, one of whom is only eleven years old. One of the girls they took away with them.
- (3) Stray soldiers continue to seize men to work for them, causing much fear and unnecessary inconvenience. For example, a soldier insisted on taking a worker from the Hospital yesterday; and several of our own servants and watchmen have been taken.
- (4) Several of our residences are entered daily by soldiers looking for women, food and other articles. Two houses within one hour this morning.
- (5) Example 5 is from the Bible Teachers' Training School for Women, Chien Ying Hsiang, a place which has suffered terribly from your soldiers for a long time, and which I believe you once promised to protect especially - but where no military policeman has appeared. Yesterday

seven different times there came groups of three or four soldiers, taking clothes, food and money from those who have some left after previous lootings of the same type. They raped seven women, including a girl of twelve. In the night larger groups of twelve or fourteen soldiers came four times and raped twenty women.

The life of the whole people is filled with suffering and fear, all caused by soldiers. Your officers have promised them protection, but the soldiers every day injure hundreds of persons most seriously. A few policemen help certain places, and we are grateful for them. But that does not bring peace and order. Often it merely shifts the bad acts of the soldiers to nearby buildings where there are no policemen.

Does not the Japanese Army care for its reputation? Do not Japanese officers wish to keep their public promises that they do not injure the common people?

While I have been writing this letter, a soldier has forcibly taken a woman from one of our teacher's houses, and with his revolver refused to let an American enter. Is this order?

Many people now want to return to their homes, but they dare not because of rape, robbery and seizure of men continuing every day and night. Only serious efforts to enforce orders, using many police and real punishments will be of any use. In several places the situation is a little better, but it is still disgraceful after two weeks of army terrorism. More than promises is now needed.

With respectful distress and anxiety,