

Nanking, 3 Feb. 1938.

Dearest:-

Mr. Bishopric of China Import & Export Company, the first foreigner to come from distant parts (save the few diplomats), is leaving in a day or two under requirements, and may take this letter in the only safe transmission till the end of the month. B. was brought in by car with a military policeman, to transfer to the Japanese the considerable stocks in Hsiakwan, supposedly within 48 hrs. But he has insisted on receipts for the large quantities removed by military trucks since Dec. 15, when their boat passed down river and their representatives were allowed to measure stocks on water-front. These removals are denied, though he has found thousands of feet of them (distinctly branded) in a new bridge. B. saw 60 Chinese in 60 m. on way from Shanghai.

"Oahu" is expected to leave Shanghai the 10th according to our information, which probably means 9th, in preparation and is always subject to sliding one way or another. I now keep a folder marked "Shanghai", so that I won't be napping and unable to find things if a chance appears on short notice.

Our radio went off, probably because of failure of a No. 53 tube. We now have a remarkably good receiver borrowed from a former official resident preserved by German friends. So it's not worth a great deal of money and experimentation to try to straighten up ours at this moment. Tubes should be failing after 4 yrs., as they are guaranteed for only 6-12 mo., I believe. (However, you might price these tubes (U.S. \$1.75 for RCA standard, in America), and let me know what you learn — at convenience; or take advantage of any possible chance to get one from a disused set. They are found only in fairly good receivers, and in only a few of those. Other

letters and symbols vary with companies, but no. 53, perhaps with mention of RCA, is supposed to identify the right type of tube regardless of maker.

Probably will send you some copies of earlier mimeographed material, which went out to a considerable part of my "Christmas letter" list. You may send and hold as you please, for there may occasionally be good places to use them. More available if desired. ^{5 envelopes with 2 kinds; one extra envelope, of 1 kind.}

When you have nothing else to do, ask Boynton for a chance to see the Internat. Com. Documents. You should at least know their nature and will get some impressions from the "Cases", food & fuel papers, and so on. Never a word of written answer (foreign diplomats have some experience), and all told a most remarkable correspondence to an Embassy by private foreigners. Lewis has done a splendid job, which no one else would have had the energy and technique to do, in the definitely secretarial functions for grinding out the results of consultations and getting them into prompt action. The diplomats have made much use of this stuff.

If "Arch" Steele is in Shanghai, please be sure that he sees any stuff he wants to. He is a real gentleman and thoughtful observer, who sent out some very useful despatches from Hanking. Shortly before time of return mail, please find ^{out} for various people here, whether air mail Hongkong to Hankow & West is still running regularly, & whether letters posted for it

in Shanghai go safely, at usual air mail postage.

We feel an almost lazy sense of relief after hard work thru Embassies to make a case for non-violence tomorrow. Seem to have succeeded with new garrison commander & with Counsellor Hidaka (latter up for short visit from S.; much superior to other men here), & hope we're not unjustified in trusting them to block enforcement of previous instructions. Meanwhile military crime has greatly jumped, especially outside the zone. We have full details of over 50 cases of rape per day, some wounds & murders; and a total must be several times as many. One woman of 12 from Middle School was raped last night. I just received a fine-looking man with a bayonet stab in the chest, given on Tai Ping Su when he did not comply fast enough with a soldier's order to kneel in the snow before showing his pass. Two girls from the University were killed the first night of return to their home, when they refused soldiers' demands. And so on for a long series every day! There are not a few hideous cases of sadism, but it's mostly plain animal lust and violence.

Tomorrow we will be out on duty as sentry-observers, trying to cover the 95 camps in particular, though we have scant 10 men available part-time. There has been considerable exodus in fear, but today we have given out cautious word that we expect no

4.

action by arms, and will particularly try to look after the younger women while conforming as much as possible to the order.

I hope I didn't encourage you too much about Japan in the summer. I fear that my participation is very uncertain, and that I may have to rely on you or on writing or both — to keep in touch with friends there.

4th.

Day passed quietly, so far as I know at 6:00 p.m., though individuals have suffered much in fear some efforts at starting up their homes. I struggled with agricultural & other budget problems while waiting some hours at the University, interrupted as always by miserable women and appeals from various unfortunates.

5th.

Delayed messenger again. Believe contents of container can be placed by you with a little effort. Waiting for "Bee" with fuller word from you, most well come. Much love, my wife —
Searle