

COPY

11 January, 1938.

Officers of the Japanese Embassy,

Nanking.

Gentlemen:-

On 8 January I wrote to you concerning Mr. Liu Wen-pin ( ), interpreter for our Nan Min So in the University Middle School, who on that day was tied and taken away from his work by the military police. Yesterday evening Mr. Liu came to me in fear, saying that he had escaped from the military police after severe treatment by them, and asking for shelter. I told him that he might sleep in my house last night, and this afternoon should consider some other arrangement for the future.

At three o'clock today a military policeman came to Mr. Riggs' house at 23 Hankow Road, and later to my house at 21 Hankow Road, when I was not present. The policeman took away Mr. Liu after tying him.

As we have often mentioned to you, we make no objection to search for criminals among refugees, if conducted in a regular manner, even though it is on American property. But this case is one of a useful member of the staff, whose record with us is excellent. The procedure has been highly irregular. No information has been given to us of evidence against Mr. Liu, or even of charges against him. The seizure in my house was carried out by one military policeman without authorization or permission so far as I know.

A copy of this letter is being taken immediately to the American Embassy, as a complaint against the procedure of the military police, and of unjustified interference with the conduct of a legitimate enterprise upon American property.



I trust that you will desire immediately to clear the record of the Japanese Army and its military police. Mr. Taketama of the Consular Police reported yesterday to the University Middle School that Mr. Liu had been released, and asked that the information be conveyed to me. Probably he will be able to solve this second problem promptly and safely. Any other solution will leave us with grave doubts as to the integrity of your military police operations, unless you have in your possession facts which should have been explained to us much earlier -- as to Mr. Liu.

Please convey to me a reply at your early convenience, by any means that is satisfactory to you.

Yours respectfully,

M. S. Bates

Chairman Emergency Committee,  
University of Nanking.