

Sent to Rees-Boynston

11 Jan

NOTES WITH A COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF
NANKING AND THE JAPANESE EMBASSY 16-27 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 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,

If at all available & possible, this correspondence and the Japanese letters now sent should be got to Elsie safely via Hong-kong & Hankow (U. of N., Chengtu). Also copy of Jan. set to N. Y. Cressy should see all, for Board of CCEA interests. Willing that ^{or word of Gould & Steele & Chancellor} ~~you~~ ^{you} should see my story stuff, and ^{hope} you can get much of it to ~~Shanghai~~.