

November 21, 1937.

To His Honor the Mayor of Nanking:

The International Committee for a Civilian Refugee Zone in Nanking desires to express its appreciation of the authorities' acceptance of the suggestion for setting apart a safety zone for civilian refugees; and further to declare appreciation for the Mayor's assurance that the Municipal Government would undertake the practical and administrative tasks of providing food, water, sanitary services, shelter, and police as required in the zone.

In order to carry forward the arrangements for the safety zone in the shortest possible time, and to make them as secure as we are able, the International Committee respectfully presents the following requests and declarations:

I. As a necessary preventive of misunderstandings, the International Committee requests the Nanking authorities for a written assurance that the designated safety area will be made free and kept free from military establishments and offices, including those of communications; from the presence of armed men other than civil police with pistols; and from the passage of soldiers or military officers in any capacity. Unless such an undertaking can be clearly made and carried out in detail, the whole enterprise is in danger of disastrous failure, which would injure the refugees, the reputations of the International Committee and of the Ambassadors, and most of all the standing of the Chinese Government. Moreover, this written assurance is needed at once, in order that the Committee (and the Ambassadors who will forward the request) may stand on firm ground in communication with the Japanese authorities.

II. The International Committee repeats its oral declaration that its responsibility is primarily the arrangement with the Chinese and then with the Japanese authorities for the designation and respect of a safety zone; and secondarily for such observation and inspection as may be needed to see

that the arrangement is properly effective. The International Committee naturally cannot take financial or administrative responsibility for the designated area; although, upon request, it is willing as a matter of friendly interest to confer with civil officials regarding such problems.

III. The International Committee requests the Nanking authorities for the names of officials who will take responsibility, in friendly consultation with the Committee, for matters of policing in the safety zone; for the provision of food, water, shelter, and sanitary services; and for immediate contact with the Chinese military authorities, if such contact should at any time be necessary. Officials of such rank and character as will assure the successful management of the refugee zone, should of course be appointed for this purpose. It is naturally essential that such officials will continue on the spot to carry out their duties until the need for the zone has passed.

IV. The International Committee has strong reasons for believing that the areas proposed for the safety zone should be:

(1) Clearly demarcated in such a way that they can be accurately described by telegraph, and their limits readily traced on any good map; likewise to be plainly visible both to civilians and to soldiers.

(2) Obviously not connected with the defence of Nanking in any way that might appear to third parties or to the Japanese as aiding the Chinese defence and hindering Japanese attacks.

(3) As satisfactory as possible for civilian refugees themselves, with particular reference to: nearness to the homes of the mass of the Nanking population; provision of food, water, sanitation, shelter, and police; proximity to neutral property and personnel as incidental aids to protection.

V. There should be a clear understanding as to the exact time from which the designated area should be free from all military activity, military personnel, and such communications as might be considered by the Jap-

anese to have possible military uses. It is obvious that the International Committee cannot expect from the Japanese an effective undertaking to respect the safety zone until the Committee can assure them that the zone is completely civilian in character, and that it will remain so during the critical period. The International Committee suggests that the Committee itself, should, after receiving the necessary assurances from both sides, announce the effective time from which the designated area shall be regarded as a safety zone.

The important matter of areas to be specifically considered is for the moment left to oral discussion, but it should be determined in the shortest possible time.

Yours most respectfully,