

Strictly Confidential

NAVAL RADIO

GAjr

FROM: SHANGHAI

RECD: NANKING
December 5, 1937.

PLAIN

Nanking Safety Zone.

AMEMBASSY HANKOW
NANKING
PEIPING
SECSTATE WASHINGTON

1087 December 4th, 6 plm. Reference Nanking telegram
944 November 22, 10 p.m. concerning Safety Zone at Nanking.

Japanese Ambassador through his Consul General has
requested that the following observations be communicated
to American Ambassador as prepared by Japanese authorities
concerned after serious consideration of the proposal of the
internation(al) community in Nanking:

"1. In view of the fact that the suggested area is
located within the well fortified rampart of Nanking
and is fairly extensive and that there exist within its
perimeter no natural vantage grounds or artificial
structures by means of which communication can effectively
be cut off whenever necessity arises, it is considered
necessary that sufficient powers material or otherwise
have to be vested in the hands of the supporters of the
Safety / Plan Zone in order to check effectively the
entry of Chinese armed troops which may in the event of
hostilities breaking out nearby try to take shelter within
the zone or utilize it for military purposes.

2. It must also be pointed out that in and around the said area there exist Chinese military establishments and that there are places in and around the said area that can hardly be considered to be left unused by the Chinese troops in case fighting will break out in Nanking in future.

3. Taking the foregoing into consideration the Japanese authorities entertain apprehension that even though the Chinese authorities had accepted the proposal under review sufficient guarantee could hardly be obtained in the event of fighting occurring in the city of Nanking for entirely preventing Chinese troops from entering into the zone or utilizing it for military purposes.

4. Under these circumstances the Japanese authorities while fully appreciating the lofty motive of the sponsors of the proposal in question are not in a position to give an undertaking that the said area will not be either bombed or bombarded.

5. It may be taken for granted however that the Japanese forces have no intention whatever to attack such places as are not utilized by Chinese troops for military purposes or such areas where the Chinese troops have not established their military works and establishments and where there are no Chinese troops stationed."

Sent to Department. Repeated to Hankow, Nanking, Peking, Tokyo.

GAUSS