

18 January, 1938.

American Embassy,

Nanking.

Dear Mr. Allison:-

This morning at 10:30 I inspected our compound known as Hsiao T'sao Yuan (3 Hsiao Fen Ch'iao). I was surprised to find there, searching through the rooms at his pleasure, the same military policeman whom I asked to leave Dr. Brady's residence at 19 Hankow Road (as reported in my letter of 14 January, page 2). He left, albeit reluctantly, and I watched him enter his headquarters nearly opposite, at 32 Hsiao Fen Ch'iao, the office about which we have complained so many times. Reliable witnesses told me that on 16 th. January two military policemen had also gone over the place thoroughly.

At 10:45 I found in the Middle School Compound a non-commissioned officer, who had walked all over the school area, ostensibly to look for laborers. Yesterday three common soldiers inspected the place thoroughly. The previous day, groups both of military policemen and of soldiers went about freely within the walls.

The case of Mr. Liu Wen-pin, which first arose on the 8th., and in its more acute form on the 11th., has met with no satisfactory handling on the part of the Japanese authorities, so far as I am aware. After you took up the matter, I did not wish to complicate matters, despite my original beginning and connections with Mr. Liu. But on the 16th. I was at the Embassy for a personal reason, and stepped into Mr. Taketama's office to inquire about Liu -- as Mr. Fukui had earlier suggested that this case was in Mr. Taketama's

hands. The inquiry was apparently embarrassing, for reference back to Mr. Fukui and various sidelines were suggested. But finally after several minutes of consultation with different persons, Mr. Taketama said that he would come to see me "tomorrow" (nominally the 17th.). Nothing more has been seen or heard of him.

Respectfully submitted,

H. S. Bates

24 January, 1938.

American Embassy,

Nanking.

Dear Mr. Allison:-

It is my duty to report that during the night of the 22nd.-23rd. January, a Japanese soldier climbed over the high main gate of our Hsiao T'ao Yuan Compound, and got a woman whom he returned last night with a promise that he would be back again for her with rewards for another trip in prospect. The gate bears Japanese and American proclamations, and has the American flag above it. Also, the gate is diagonally opposite the office of the military police at 32 Hsiao Fen Ch'iao, about which we continually complain.

Yesterday a soldier went through the main University gate, in company with a Chinese assistant, and found three women who were willing to go with them. This was a long trip to dormitories.

Other problems of approach for laborers and women we will need to discuss in detail, likewise the results of intimidation.

Yours respectfully,

24 January, 1938.

American Embassy,
Nanking.
Dear Mr. Allison:-

Yesterday evening Mr. Taketama and another Japanese (who was in a dark uniform, surmised to be that of a Consular Policeman) went to the University Middle School to look for Mr. Chiang Cheng-yuin (美正雲), Head of the Refugee Camp and teacher of the Middle School. I am told that the Japanese, not finding Mr. Chiang at home, said to others that they blamed him for sending to me a written report that Mr. Taketama had got five girls from the Middle School. They declared that a certain refugee named Liu told them of the alleged report. After receiving assurances that Mr. Chiang was not the kind of man to start slander, the Japanese departed with instructions that the whole matter must be cleared up in the morning upon their return. There was considerable severity in the conversations. Of course the shadow of Liu Wen-pin is heavy over all the Chinese concerned, and upon me as well.

Three notes: First, Chiang did not send me the report described. Second, the refugee Liu is a rascal already dismissed from his position in the Refugee Camp, and returning there occasionally to solicit women for the Japanese. Third, evening and morning I was at the School for a total of hours, though I did not meet the Japanese. The information here given was received through several men in whom I have confidence, usually with mutual corroboration and always very close to the event.

This morning the Japanese returned in easier mood. Chiang was eventually asked to go to the Japanese Embassy to write a statement that would clear Taketama from the charge in the report said to have been given through me to the American Embassy. The main line taken by Chiang at the School and later during two hours at the Embassy, was to write the statement that Taketama had asked for five or six women to wash clothes. He would declare nothing further as to motives, saying repeatedly in answer to pressure, that he could not see into people's hearts but would simply write what he had heard. The questioning at the Embassy was relatively mild and reasonable.

Meanwhile, keeping in fairly close touch with the proceedings, I went to the Embassy one hour after Chiang was taken from the School, arriving near eleven. I found Mr. Fukui, and reported the case as seriously contrary to my understanding of correct procedure, which he should know about while I was on my way to the American Embassy. I thought that this visit might give greater chance of prompt release for Chiang, and possibly draw an effort to clear things up at once. Mr. Fukui sent for a policeman, and soon said that Chiang would be released when the questioning was completed. I asked Mr. Fukui if that meant that Chiang was being detained in the Embassy; he made essentially the same reply. Finally he asked me not to be disturbed, saying that he would speak to you. I said that I should need to do the same, at once.

At one stage I tossed in the case of Liu Wen-pin as just reason for my concern for prompt information on Chiang. Fukui insisted that he knew nothing about it (though my original report on the case I put in his hands myself, and he showed readily that he knew the name before he referred me to Taketama).

Then I went to call upon you, and found Taketama in your ante-room. He twice pressed me to write "the name of the Chinese", but I said I wanted to speak to you first. He then made the effort to get to you before I did. As you saw, when we later came out together, Taketama again asked repeatedly for the names. I replied that he was familiar with the case, and there was no need to ask me. When I mentioned the place and times of difficulty, he professed momentary surprise. He persisted in his request even after I wrote Chiang's and Liu's names, so I finally realized that he had some unexpressed idea. Then I asked "Whose name?", and he said, "The one who made the report to you." I said there were several who made reports, and that I could not give the names, for reasons which he understood.

At a time probably just before Taketama's visit to the American Embassy, he met Mr. Fitch while looking for me, and said to the latter that I was "a bad man", and once again "a thoroughly bad man".

This report has been delayed by many interruptions, including a long call by Taketama and a policeman who could speak better Chinese (indeed, he acted as interpreter between Japanese and Chinese for Taketama throughout). Only a phonographic record could reproduce the conversation, which shakes down to a few simple propositions: (1) Taketama was much distressed by the wanton slur on his good intentions in securing a wash-amah for himself and others for four friends. (2) They professed to see no point in any matter of procedure or irregular entry, but after tedious exposition and reiteration they decided it best to cover by telling me that Chiang and Taketama were good friends and that he often went down there for a cup of tea and a chat, such as last night and this morning. (3) A letter from the American Embassy had accused Mr. Taketama of being a bad man, and the origin of the report was Mr. Bates. I said that the only communication I knew of from the Embassy was one that declared objection to Taketama's method of searching for wash-amah's ~~to~~ as one that easily aroused doubts after the experiences of Nanking women in recent weeks. Further, that I took responsibility for that report, even though I did not make it to the Embassy myself. (4) Taketama spends a great deal of time in visiting various parts of the University to aid in protecting it and other parts of the Safety Zone. This morning he was therefore deeply pained that from our Middle School should come a vicious attack upon his efforts. (5) Peace and good will are greatly desired for the Safety Zone, and therefore I should be especially careful not to believe evil stories started against Japanese by bad Chinese. (6) Various courtesies and assurances that may be foregone.

Yours respectfully,

COPY

25 January, 1938.

American Embassy,
Nanking.
Dear Mr. Allison:-

In continuation of this morning's letter, I should add that Mr. Riggs and myself cautiously took the woman who was the ~~victim~~ of last night's ~~visit~~ abduction from 11 Hu Chia Ts'ai Yuen, and gave her an unprejudiced opportunity to trace her route of the forced journey. She made a fully clear identification of the building in which she was raped three times. Also, she turned back from one wrong road because it did not have distinctive signs which were found readily on the right road. The total number of checks was five, and mistake seems impossible. The building was the familiar office of the military police for this district, at 32 Hsiao Fen Ch'iao.

Continual report of the doings of these enemies of decent people has brought no relief. It seems that it is high time for a clean sweep of the whole outfit, officers and men alike. Certainly it has been completely proved that this area will have no security so long as they are in it, and likewise that the Japanese Embassy people have been able to do nothing ~~about~~ by any means that may hypothetically have been employed to date.

This noon I was called to give friendly help against soldiers in No. 8 Chin Ying Chieh, a house in the same fenced area as our Sericulture Building, though not our property. Yesterday soldiers came through our property to that house and committed rape. The women were sent last night to the University for refuge. Today soldiers came again, and finding no women, angrily robbed the men and smashed windows. This case illustrates the dependence of our American welfare upon decent discipline in the city as a whole, rather than upon occasional attention of the Japanese authorities to American property as such. This particular house has been entered by soldiers five times within the past week, coming on more than one occasion through our Sericulture Compound. Only today, when their experience seemed increasingly severe, did the occupants venture to call upon the only source of aid they have seen to exist in this part of the city.

Respectfully submitted,

25 January, 1938.

American Embassy,

Nanking.

Dear Mr. Allison:-

Before there is time for more thorough report from the University for the happenings of yesterday and last night, I must send you information of a visit made at eleven p. m. to our Agricultural Implements Shop at 11 Hu Chia Ts'ai Yuen, by Japanese soldiers wearing light armbands.

They threatened the storekeeper with a gun and searched him. Then they took away a woman, raped her, and released her two hours later. She believes that she can identify the place to which she was taken, and we will attempt to secure that information as well as any other details that may be available.

This case involves forcible and irregular entry, intimidation by military weapons, abduction, rape. It was done presumably by military police (the only other possibility, judging by the armbands, would be the less likely Special Service men).

We do not have order, security, respect for American property as marked by proclamations and flag, or respect for Japanese proclamations and Japanese orders.

Yours respectfully,

P. S. After this letter was finished, I was reliably informed that the soldiers tore down the Japanese proclamation from the door.

COPY

26 January, 1938.

American Embassy,

Nanking.

Dear Mr. Allison:-

Although reporting has become very difficult through intimidation, I ought to let you know of two more cases of military entry which I have fully authenticated and which are known to a number of reliable persons who were on the spot.

On the afternoon of the 25th., two soldiers entered the Middle School Compound and wandered about. When asked their purpose, they replied, "to amuse ourselves." When reminded that the place was American property, they said they did n't care. Eventually they decided to leave, and over protests insisted on climbing the wall - at a point where there was already a partial break from frost. The wall collapsed, bringing down one of the soldiers with a damaged head. He showed much resentment, but was mollified when offered first-aid treatment in the improvised dispensary of the refugee camp. For these services he put forth one dollar, courteously refused with the suggestion that climbing walls is always dangerous.

On the night of the 25th.-26th., about eleven o'clock two soldiers came over the south wall of the Middle School near the east corner. They approached the large dormitory so often visited irregularly, but were frightened away with a whistle and a general hue-and-cry previously organized by the caretakers among the refugees.

It is somewhat doubtful whether details of place should be passed on ^{to} the Japanese authorities, in view of recent happenings, though I will take responsibility for such reports whenever they serve a useful purpose.

Yours respectfully,

27 January, 1938.

American Embassy,

Nanking.

Dear Mr. Allison:-

Unfortunately it is necessary to refer again to the woman taken yesterday from the Agricultural Implements Shop, 11 Hu Chia Ts'ai Yuen. At 4:15 p. m. nothing has yet been seen of her, some 25 hours after she was taken to the Embassy for "questioning".

The original positions taken by you and by the Japanese officers as to the place and conditions and time for the inquiry are known to you more directly than to me. I record merely the later stages as known to me.

Last night at eight o'clock I went to the Japanese Embassy after a word with you. Mr. Fukui said that he would release the woman during the evening, "when the ^Squestioning was finished." I reminded him that it was some five hours since she was brought to the Embassy. He said that the "gendarmes" thought it better for her to have some rest before the questioning, since she was so excited; and declared that he would send her back to the Implements Shop. I reminded him of the understanding that she should come to our cooperative residence at 3 P'ing Ts'ang Hsiang, to which he assented.

At about eleven ^aTaketama and an English-speaking member of the Consular Police came here with the combined request that I agree to the woman's remaining in the Embassy, where food and a bed had been given her; and assertion that she should stay there because the "questioning" was not yet completed. (I had just gone to bed; and since Mr. Mills was fully dressed, he kindly acted as shuttle-telephone in three exchanges with ^eTaketama). I replied that the long detention was unsatisfactory both to you and to me; and recalled

that Mr. Fukui had recently promised return last evening. It became clear that they had no intention of releasing her then, and the night was well along. I therefore said that the responsibility was fully upon Mr. Fukui, which Tak^etama repeated affirmatively. Mr. Mills asked for the setting of a time today, but they would not name an hour nor agree to the morning period.

The fundamental case was very simple, and as you are aware, all legitimate inquiry could be made in ten minutes. The ultimate effect upon the woman, and upon all persons in that neighborhood and perhaps in wider ranges, can be guessed; assuming for a moment that intimidation was a "pure" motive. If the purpose is mainly to discredit reports from the University and yourself, that is another factor; and a sideline might be the manufacture of "evidence" in regard to yesterday afternoon's incident.

Welfare of the woman is an important consideration, the more so because the honor of Mr. Riggs, of myself, and of the American Embassy are in some degree involved. We reported, we arranged the interview, and so on. Moreover, the flaunting of the American position in regard to such procedure, and the disregard of assurances given on none too high a level (time and method of examination, for example), are serious. For instance, Mr. Fukui's statement, as I understand from Riggs, that he would personally be present during all questioning, lacks verisimilitude over this range of twenty-five hours.

With sympathetic concern,

Yours respectfully,

University of Nanking,

Nanking, 14 February, 1938.

American Embassy,

Nanking.

Dear Mr. Allison:-

For a long period our men responsible for buildings used by refugees have endeavored to avoid reporting entry by Japanese soldiers, feeling that the risk of reprisals was too great. I have been able to learn of three or four entries, none of which had serious consequences; and since I did not know of them immediately, I have sent you no written report. Meanwhile I have tried to build up a morale that would provide prompt information of any important difficulty.

Last night just before eight o'clock, two Japanese soldiers broke through the fence of the Library Compound. One of them stood by the gate with a sub-machine gun, while the other went about with a revolver looking for "hua ku-niang" (girls for immoral purposes). They had dark overcoats and the ordinary khaki uniforms. The searcher was in haste, and did not find the desired girls. He took seventy-six, fourteen and a half, and twelve dollars, from three men, respectively, and the registration certificates of two of them. Ostensibly the robbery was punishment for failure to provide girls upon demand.

This case is insignificant compared with what is happening every hour in other parts of the city. But it occurred close to the Japanese Embassy, and illustrates the utter lack of real policing.

Yours respectfully,

22 February, 1938.

American Embassy,

Manila.

Dear Mr. Allison:-

A thorough check of the scene of this morning's incident at the middle school shows that the glass of one door and of the windows of two rooms was broken by bayonets. There are witnesses available for this and the remainder of the facts reported, for the resentment over harsh treatment has developed courage; perhaps the more readily because the whole matter was in public and in broad daylight.

The injury to property is small in itself, but it surely does not indicate orderly procedure, respect for American buildings under our flag and proclamation, or obedience to Japanese orders as signified in proclamations of their military police in their own language.

Yours respectfully,

J. S. Bales

23 February, 1938.

American Embassy,

Nanking.

Dear Mr. Allison:-

Yesterday two Japanese in plain clothes, accompanied by a Chinese with an official armband, came to our Agricultural Implement Shop at 11 Hu Chia Ts'ai Yuen, and after some parley declared that they would return at noon today to take for two hours' questioning the raped woman of the case with which you are familiar (documents in my correspondence with you from date of 25 January). At five in the afternoon they came back and took the woman, of whom nothing more has been heard up to ten-thirty this morning. Their manner was decent; they had a slip of paper with the proper name and address; they declared they would take the woman only a short distance and that all would be well.

Our Rural Leaders' Training School has regularly been supplying laborers to a Japanese unit which had papers from the Special Service Organ. There has been little difficulty over a considerable period. Now a group of nineteen men, whose return was promised within five days, has been kept full seven. This causes great anxiety among families, and is leading to friction when the military come each day for their usual truckload of casual laborers. Moreover, a soldier in the barracks of the Takakame (reading? characters are written 高亀) Detachment, which is the unit concerned, has accused the chief laborer Li Kwan-ch'uan (李權全) of taking a fountain pen -- which the others say is Li's own; and has tied him up after searching him, saying that he will kill Li. There is also a charge that a letter found in Li's clothes was written by a man in the air service. The whole case I am trying to have handled by Chinese, but report the facts in case of possible trouble. The labor question still seems difficult.

J. S. B.

20 March, 1938.

American Embassy,

Nanking.

Dear Mr. Allison:-

Yesterday between 3:30 and 4:00 p. m. a Japanese soldier committed rape upon a refugee, a nineteen-year-old girl, in our Hsiao Tao Yuan compound at 3 Hsiao Fen Ch'iao. The soldier came and went on a bicycle with yellow markings.

I arrived there about 4:05. As I approached the soldier, he brandished his bayonet and insolently said: "Want girls." The situation was uncomfortable for several minutes, but finally the soldier decided to withdraw. There was no indication of drunkenness.

Each day there are made known to us through direct personal contacts three or four cases of murder, wounding, or rape by soldiers. Many more must occur unknown to us, since regularly there are some which bring themselves to our attention. We have made no formal reports, since these cases seldom occur on our property. But they greatly concern our proper relief work, and they indicate a lack of order and discipline that has possibilities of more serious trouble. On March 11 Mr. Sone and I observed the completion to the raping of a woman by two soldiers in a hut just adjoining the wall of our own residence.

New military units have recently come into the city. Will not the Japanese authorities, for the sake of their Army's reputation, if not for humanitarian reasons, put a stop to these crimes continuing more than three months? If strict orders are not made plain to the soldiers, it is clear that the generals do not care about such crimes. If orders are made plain, it is clear that the soldiers show contempt for the generals. In any case innocent persons suffer and there is *insecurity.*

Yours respectfully,