

COPY

E 5 Ninghai Road,
Nanking
January 8, 1938

Mr. Tokuyasu Fukuda
Japanese Embassy
Nanking

Dear Mr. Fukuda:

The simple narration of "One Day at Shuang Tang" which accompanies this letter shows as clearly, I think, as anything could do the constant annoyance and mistreatment to which the people of Nanking are still subjected at the hands of the Japanese soldiers. Here are recorded thirteen instances within twenty-four hours when soldiers entered a compound where refugees are gathered. The soldiers did not always, on these occasions, as the record shows, do any harm to the people, but often enough they did, and in any case the soldiers should not have ~~even~~ entered this compound at all since it is foreign property, duly marked with the American flag and with American and Japanese Embassy proclamations.

For your information let me add that Shuang Tang is one of the properties of the American Presbyterian Mission, comprising a school and a church with certain subsidiary buildings. It is located in the southwestern part of the city.

Another instance of disorder has also been reported to me from reliable sources. Yesterday afternoon four soldiers took a Chinese woman and kept her for two hours in a house on Moh Tao Lu near where that road crosses Han Chung Lu. A foreign observer had been told of this abduction and was standing on the street when the woman and the soldiers came out. As long as conditions such as these described in this letter continue you will see that it is simply impossible for the people to return to their homes.

Once again let me emphasize that a return to normal conditions in Nanking, which we are told the Japanese authorities themselves desire, rests solely upon a strict and effective control of the troops.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Lewis S. C. Smythe

Note: The above was drafted by me, but for various reasons it was thought best that Lewis should sign it. I was "the foreign observer" mentioned on the page.
W.P.M.