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WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

Chengtu, Szechwan

January 24th, 1948

Dr. Robert J. McMullen,
West China Committee of U.B.C.C.C.,
150, Fifth Avenue, New York City, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. McMullen,

Your letters of December 19th and January 6th have both been received and read with interest.

Enclosed please find copy of the Minutes of the last meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors held on January 16th. Some of the items require comment.

Tuition Fees for the Spring Term

You will note that the Board did not mention a definite sum to be collected as tuition fee but left the President's Council free to make a choice between three alternatives. The Council has chosen the smallest amount, i.e. \$800,000. As you know, last term a strike against increased fees was barely averted, and the President fears that the agitators are preparing for another strike if the slightest cause is provided. He fears that if we do more than double the fees this will provide the ammunition they are looking for. As it has been decided that there will be no backing down from whatever fee is agreed upon, the lower amount was finally accepted. Our case for raising fees is very greatly handicapped at present by the fact that we have another Private University in Chengtu, namely Ch'en Hwa, the old Kwang Hwa, which we are told will not be increasing tuition at all this coming term, this because they have been having continual trouble during the past term over money and control. The students have been demanding that the School be recognized as a national school. The Government has been resisting because it does not have the money to add to the educational budget. You also know that the fees of national schools are purely nominal. To increase our fees very greatly might set off an agitation and cause disruption to teaching as in Ch'en Hwa this term. The requirement that fees be paid in commodities would be foresighted, because in that way the students would recognize that there had not been undue increase in fees, and we would not have to explain why in the future fees should be increased; but members of the Council were fearful of requiring fees in rice because this would certainly cause teachers to demand that salaries be reckoned in rice rather than in dollars. In Nanking, Shanghai and Peiping the National Government has assisted teachers by providing rationed commodities, but in this area this never has been and perhaps never can be done.

Salaries

You will already be informed to the effect that the National Government is planning to put into effect a new formula for paying salaries beginning with this January. In our case the formula will be 30 times the c.o.l. index, which for Chengtu is 65,000, plus (basic minus 30) times one-tenth the index. This will mean another 125% increase in salary costs over last quarter's increase which was 125% more than the cost for the previous quarter. But even with this increase our staff salaries will not equal prewar salaries, though in the case of junior people they will approximate 85% of that salary. One good point I see about the Government's present formula is that it takes care of the basic living of everybody, though of course it does not take into account the experience or prestige of key personnel. Whether we shall ever be able to do that until inflation ceases is a question. Something had to be done to give our staff more than bare subsistence, and we think that this present Government scale will help us to do this, but it will not help us to solve a very unfortunate division of loyalties. It will not assure our professorial group

giving its full service to the University. Teachers are at present taking two or three jobs, and the University is suffering as are all educational and research institutions. Through the year we have become convinced that something must be done to assure that next year our key and experienced people will be paid adequately, so that they need no longer sell time for money.

This will require a re-study of Departments and staff for the next academic year. We are assured that the Administration will have larger support for more drastic and realistic cuts than was the case this year. Nevertheless, we shall be glad to have a visit from you during the spring term in order that you may help by giving us the whole picture.

We are delighted to learn that your finance campaign has been successful. I shall hope to benefit and to be assured that our increased salaries will be met.

I am enclosing herewith some figures used in presenting the need for increasing salaries to the Board of Directors. These may be of interest to you.

Finance Campaign

You enquire concerning the success of our finance campaign. Mr. Fong has already given you some information. We hope to raise sufficient actual cash to meet our obligations towards the Central Committee's campaign. Up-to-date the main success of our campaign has come in the receipt of money for special projects, all very good, but not helpful to the general budget. One special gift called for the sending of our telegram reading: "Offered gift to complete West Wing Education Building if erected immediately. Please cable permission proceed."

General Liu Wen-hwei, Governor of the border province of Sikang, is particularly interested in the education of students from border areas. He has already made gifts to us towards the support of border students. To assure us of his continued interest he has now offered us one billion Chinese dollars for the erection of the uncompleted wing of the Education Building. He has done this with the promise that additional space in this building will contribute towards the education of border students. We expect to make use of the additional accommodation for the Departments of Education and Rural Reconstruction and Western Languages. We are, of course, anticipating that the reply cable will give us permission to erect this building. Unless materials can be bought and the work proceeded with immediately the money given will not complete the building. If we are expeditious in the carrying out of the work we are assured that General Liu will make additional contributions if needed.

Grant to Goucher Junior Middle School

The action of the Board in granting \$14,000,000 to the Goucher Junior Middle School this year may need explanation, this sum being a much larger grant than has been made in past years, though in real value \$14,000,000 would not be much more than the few hundred dollars usually given. Unless Goucher School received this grant at this time teachers could not be paid their salaries to the end of the term. This would have been unfortunate. The Board, therefore, decided to make the grant. I might point out that Goucher School is already closed for the term, much earlier than usual, but this was necessary because the students had already eaten up all the Board money and it was too difficult to secure extra money to carry on for the three weeks to complete the term.

Natural History Museum

You may perhaps remember that in May 1946 the Board of Directors sent a minute to the Board of Governors (D-270) asking for general approval of including grants for this Museum in our budget. We have never had any word from the Governors one way or the other regarding this minute. We have taken this to mean that we are at liberty to go ahead. Up-to-date we have not used budget money. Prof. C. C. Liu, well fitted to act as Director of this Museum, has just returned from America where he has spent a year under the auspices of the U. S. State Department. He is willing to give supervision to the building up of the Museum and to give considerable of his time in order to make it function as a teaching project. Lack of care has resulted in the loss of many very valuable museum specimens through fungi, moths and unfavourable climatic conditions. The President's Council considering a five year plan passed it on to the Board of Directors, who in Minute E.323 agreed to adopt the plan and forward it to the West China Committee for information and endorsement. This does not mean that the Board is seeking agreement to have a Natural History Museum. This has been in existence for more than twenty years; but rather it is looking forward to an accelerated program. Being in such a favourable area for the collection of flora and fauna the responsibility of the University to have a good collection is a real one. I enclose Prof. Liu's plans for the development of the Museum.

University Hospital

The resolution passed by the Board deserves very careful and sympathetic attention. The Hospital has been keeping pace with the University's salary scale during the past year, but the Superintendents of the various units have now pointed out to the central authorities that no longer are they capable of meeting the increasing costs; that the fees of the hospital cannot be increased with sufficient rapidity, as salaries have since last October been raised over 125%. The Superintendents assure the authorities that they will do everything in their power to raise fees, but it is not possible to induce the public suddenly to pay higher fees when they themselves do not receive commensurate increases in income. Further, Government hospitals are not making any large increases in fees. Their doctors are paid for from Government funds. Our Hospitals are losing patients when they should be in the increase. Unless our Hospitals are filled to capacity they do not have sufficient income to keep up with increase in salaries. Without the help of Red Cross and other philanthropic agencies in providing medical supplies, fees could not meet operational costs. The Christian character of our institutions presupposes that medical care shall be given to the under-privileged. This is greatly jeopardized.

Though University authorities are very sympathetic with the Hospital's very serious predicament, yet funds cannot be allocated for increasing salaries. With this in mind the Board of Directors passed Minute E-325, asking the West China Committee to make every effort to raise special funds for the use of the Hospital. This is a real need.

We shall be sending you soon a list of Hospital Staff in order to indicate the seriousness of the need for help.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Ashley W. Lindsay

Secretary, Board of Directors

AWL/MR

NOTES ON TALK GIVEN BY COMMISSIONER REN, OF THE BUREAU OF
EDUCATION, PROVINCE OF SZECHWAN - TO THE CHENG TU ROTARY
CLUB, ON FEBRUARY 24, 1948.

Szechwan has more schools than any other province in China. There are 759 Secondary Schools with approximately 290,000 students and thirteen thousand teachers. The City of Chungking is not included since it is directly under the Central Government. There are four special schools including one College of Education. There are 46,000 primary schools, with 3,500,000 students and 110,000 teachers. There are 4 Universities, 3 in Chengtu and 1 in Chungking; 2 are national and 2 are private. Of the secondary schools, 586 are middle schools, 101 are normal schools and 72 are technical schools.

The secondary schools are the only ones directly under the control of the Provincial Bureau of Education. Universities are under the Ministry of Education of the Central Government and Primary Schools are under the control of the County or Municipalities. Of the 759 secondary schools, 73 were established and are maintained by the Province. 353 were established and maintained by the County Governments and 333 are private institutions. But, all are under the general direction of the Bureau of Education. In the opinion of the Commissioner, Szechwan now has enough middle schools because as it is, there is not sufficient outlet for the graduates.

The number of primary schools in the Province is approximately that recommended by the Central Government authorities, that is 2 schools for every 3 bao, but the number is slightly less than it was five years ago. The decrease has been due to inflation which has caused amalgamation of the neighboring schools and also the closing of others.

The Commissioner feels that the number of technical schools, but particularly the quality of the schools, should be increased. At the present time, the equipment is meagre, the teaching is poor, they attract only the most poverty stricken students, and, he feels that the entire traditional attitude of the people toward technical education must be changed. Too often the graduate of agricultural school will have nothing to do with agriculture but feels that his education should be made a reason for seeking a Government job. Furthermore he feels that an intimate connection should be encouraged between technical education and other Government Departments, such as the Bureau of Planning and Construction, which could provide openings for many of the graduates of the technical schools.

About one-quarter of the Provincial Government's budget is spent for education and slightly over 50% of the Counties' and Municipalities' go for education. In a few counties, over 70% of the budget is spent for education. The Commissioner was not very proud of these figures since they did not indicate that education was flourishing but rather that the Government was spending very little money for anything else. He was also critical of the small amount of adult education which was being undertaken at present. Less than 2% of the money spent was being used for this purpose. He was also very critical of the lack of control over the counties and municipalities education. Primary schools were entirely under local groups, many of whom knew nothing whatever about modern education. The Commissioner felt that it was almost certain that there was a considerable amount of inefficiency and dishonesty in the use of educational funds. He also criticized the high percentage of the educational budget that went for salaries and for the feeding of students. Almost nothing was left over for construction and maintenance of buildings and very little was spent for equipment and for libraries. As a result many of the buildings were in an exceedingly bad state of repair and students had even been known to attend classes holding umbrellas over their heads in rainy weather, books were blown off the desks when the wind blew, dormitories invested with bed bugs and toilet

facilities were entirely inadequate and very primitive.

In spite of the high percentage of the budget spent on teachers salaries, most teachers were still underpaid so they took jobs in 2 or 3 schools; as a result they were nearly always late to classes and frequently left classes before the time was up.

There were almost no extra-curricular activities and students were left to their own resources out of school hours. As a result, the Commissioner felt that the entire morale of the schools was very poor and they were an easy prey to all kinds of political agitators.

Even though inflation was a major cause for many of these unfortunate results, nevertheless he felt that much could be improved even under present conditions. For example in the City of Chengtu, the Bureau of Education is now building several science centers in which they hope to have adequately equipped chemistry, physics and biology laboratories and students of all middle schools will take their science course in these science centers.

There are scattered throughout the Province, 8 middle schools which have fairly large endowments in land. The Bureau is trying to persuade these 8 schools to set up adequately equipped science laboratories.

They are trying now also to promote the Boy Scout Movement, to try and provide some extracurricular activity for the children. They are trying to emphasize teachers training in the Normal Schools and College of Education, hoping that by providing better teachers, to gradually improve the schools.

* * * * *

Dear Dr. McMullen:

I have been very grateful for your efforts on our behalf in Pathology, even though nothing resulted. We have been left in a very difficult situation by Dr. Hou's very sudden departure, and so far have nobody in sight for most of the work normally carried on by this department.

As you know, Pathology is one of the most fundamental subjects in the medical curriculum, and also plays a very big part in the work of any good hospital. And here our tissue diagnostic work had been expanded to include many hospitals all over China. During the latter part of the war we regularly did the tissue diagnosis work for over fifty hospitals. This has been reduced because of the absence of staff, but specimens are still coming in in considerable numbers.

For the immediate future we have been able to secure the services of Dr. Huang Ke-wei, a man with a good training in Pathology but who prefers clinical work. He has taken a short-time appointment with us, and has agreed to teach pathology this Fall, if we will use the block system and concentrate the term's work into the first six weeks or two months of the term. This we have agreed to do. We still do not know what to do for the Spring Term, and our diagnostic service will be sure to suffer. But under the circumstances this is the best we can do.

I have written to Mr. Sellery of the Canadian Red Cross to see if they can do something to help Dr. Sadie Kiang. Now that she has made up her mind to remain abroad for another year I hope that they will give her assistance. So far they have been very generous to our staff studying in Canada.

The speed of inflation is giving our hospital a very bad time. Salaries and other expenses are increasing far more rapidly than hospital income. At present the only regular grant we receive from abroad is U.S.\$300.00 per month from the American Women's Hospital Association. But the hospital loses from \$500.00 to \$2000.00 (U.S. currency) per month. We have reduced staff and carried out other economies, and now have a committee at work going over every department to recommend further reductions. But it is very doubtful whether they can effect enough savings to offset the constantly rising costs. Hospital fees are being increased so rapidly that there is a drop in in-patients immediately after each increase.

8/13/48

The situation has really become desperate, and we would very greatly appreciate any help that you can find for us. Personally I feel that a self-supporting hospital is an un-Christian institution, and I fear that we are often driven to un-Christian commercialism in our attempts to make ends meet. Can you help? Ours is the most nearly normal medical college in China and it would be an unpardonable shame to see it wrecked from lack of funds to maintain the hospital. For some reason the United Board has excluded the hospital from its field of work, and yet the hospital is an essential part of the teaching program of any medical school.

In my last letter to you I tried to outline some of the difficulties we are facing from shortage of missionary staff. Part of our financial difficulties are also due to the same reason, for when we do not have missionary doctors whose salaries are supplied we have to engage Chinese physicians and pay for them out of hospital income. Again I would like to point out that of the five churches which are supposed to be supporting this university only two are at present supplying any medical staff, with a third giving us a hospital business worker. Here is the list

Canadian Mission: 5 medical doctors on the field, plus
one wife in full time work.
2 dentists on the field
3 nurses on the field
1 occupational therapist on the field
1 medical secretary on the field
1 medical doctor on furlough, but
promised for WCUU on his return

Methodist Mission 3 doctors on the field
C. M. S. 1 business woman on the field

The American Baptist Mission has always been a strong supporter of this College, and for many years contributed two doctors and a nurse, and at one time two doctors, a dentist and a nurse. Surely a big strong church like the Baptist Church can send us someone. And cannot the United Board help to persuade them.

I don't want you to think that we have nothing but difficulties out here. But when one is in an administrative position they inevitably bulk large. And that is why I seem to always write in this same way. But I do hope that somehow, somewhere you will be able to find us a few hundred dollars each month for hospital maintenance.

Again my best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ LeWlie G. Kilborn

WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

Chengtu, Szechwan

October 6th, 1948

Dr. Robert J. McMullen,
United Board for Christian Colleges in China,
150, Fifth Avenue,
NEW YORK CITY, 11, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. McMullen,

I am sorry that I have not written you as often as I should. We all had a very busy summer. Soon after Commencement, a full account of which appeared in the University Bulletin, recommendations of the Planning Committee and decisions of our Board of Directors regarding Retrenchment Policy were carried out. Then came the Entrance Examination, and I had to go to Shanghai for the special conference called by the Council on Higher Education. When I returned to Chengtu it was time to prepare for the opening of the Autumn Term.

Dr. Li Hen, our former Dean of Studies, left for further study in Princeton. He has been succeeded by Dr. T. H. Lan, Professor of Biochemistry. It was very kind of Dr. Li to remain here until the term opened to have everything well organized for his successor.

The tuition fee for the fall term was fixed by our Board of Directors at GY35.00 for new students and GY25.00 for old students. Last term the fee was CN\$800,000 in the old currency, which was equivalent to about seven deo of rice. This term's fee was considerably higher if reckoned on the basis of the official price of GY2.30 per deo. However, it has not been possible to purchase rice at this price in anything but minute quantities. Chenhwa and Minhsien (Oberlin-in-China), the other Private Universities in Chengtu, are charging much lower tuition fees than we are. Our list of fees is as follows:

Tuition for old students	GY 25.00
" " new "	35.00
Laboratory	5.00
Health	3.00
Library	3.00
English materials	1.50
Athletics	1.50
Microscope	2.00
College Fee	1.00
Student Association	1.00
Supplemental Examinations	3.00 per course

We have had practically no difficulty in collecting these fees; but we have had more difficulty in maintaining our academic standards by refusing many to enter or to return.

Out of five thousand five hundred students taking our Entrance Examination in two centres, Chungking and Chengtu, 259 were admitted. We cut out the supplementary list altogether. From old students we eliminated about sixty whose term examination results showed them to be below our requirements. It is difficult to express how strong was the pressure which the Administration faced from outside as well as inside; some of the children of our own teachers, members of the Board of Directors, Church pastors, were among those not admitted, or allowed to continue in the University. My house and Dr. Lan's were picketed by some of the students for several days and nights. However, the Administration stood firm in its policy of

high standards and of justice, and the battle is now almost over. The total enrollment up to Monday, October 4th, was 1477, a drop of about three hundred as compared with an enrollment of 1784 in the fall term last year.

Classes opened on September 20th. Registration went on very smoothly, better than at any time during the last few years. Students seem to be applying themselves more seriously to their studies.

On September 25th, we held a Faculty Retreat in a hall connected with Marshall Liu Hsiang's tomb. Pastor Li of the Methodist Church and I spoke on the subject: "The Contribution of a Christian University to China during her present crisis." This was followed by discussion and tea. It was a very helpful gathering.

Committees on Religious teaching and Religious activities, together with the University Church Board, are busy working out their autumn programmes.

Just before the opening of schools in Chengtu, an arrest was made by the Provincial Government of people suspected to be Communists. Four were arrested from our University, two of whom graduated in the summer. More were arrested from the Government University of Szechwan. A few days later we were informed that about twenty of our students were summoned by the Special Court for questioning. We understand that this was a nation-wide procedure; very likely other Christian Universities had the same experience. We have tried hard to maintain contact with the arrested students. In general they have not been badly treated. One student wrote me saying that he was ill. I sent a doctor to him through special arrangement. The doctor could not find anything seriously wrong with him, merely a little pain in his mouth. Those who answered the summons of the Special Court attended on the day set; they all succeeded in clearing up their cases and so are now studying in the University as usual.

As the Chinese currency was changed suddenly, for a few days there was some disorder in the market, chiefly on account of the use of nickels - a small dollar in units of 5, 10 or 20 cents, formerly regarded as of no value. It happened that many such coins remained in Chengtu, mostly in the hands of small merchants and farmers. Due to some Government red tape or "slip", official announcement concerning the validity of these coins was delayed for several days during which those who had inner knowledge sent men out to buy the nickels at a cheap rate. Every street turned into a black market for nickels. When at last the official announcement was made, those possessing nickels all rushed to the shops to buy anything they could lay their hands on. These were, naturally, all poor people. Store owners became frightened with the result that they opened for a few hours only each day; some actually closed. Rice and wheat flour dealers were no exceptions. Our teachers and students were left in a desperate situation. We might try to live as vegetarians, but we could not live without rice or wheat. However, the general condition soon became settled. We can now purchase household commodities and other things, but the prices have all advanced so much that visitors coming to Chengtu by plane often remark that the cost of living here is in many respects higher than in Shanghai or Nanking.

Now I must tell you something about our Retrenchment Policy for the present year. Following last year's action we again appointed a Planning Committee consisting of one representative of our Board of Directors, the Dean of Studies, Vice-Chancellor and myself. We commenced to work in April and continued until the middle of the summer vacation. The following are some of our proposals which were accepted by the Board of Directors:

1. All Freshman Courses in Arts, Science, Pre-Medicine and Pre-Dentistry, shall be taught in common. No separate time-table for Freshmen is allowed to any Department.
2. The University shall be responsible for providing only such minimum courses as are required by the Ministry of Education Curriculum; this means about four full-time teachers for each Department; no office assistance to be allowed unless this can be covered by special funds.
3. Every effort to be made to reduce the total enrollment of students to 1500 or 1600; this to be achieved by giving Entrance Examinations in two centres only, Chungking and Chengtu; keeping the number of Freshmen to 300; strict observance of academic standards in the selection of suitable students; only one list of students to be admitted shall be published; no second examination shall be given; no transfers shall be permitted except into the College of Medicine and Dentistry.
4. The Agriculture Special Course shall be closed.

You will see that we have done very well in cutting our student enrollment. However, we have not succeeded so well as we had hoped in reducing our staff. All our key people remain with us, and we are very glad to have some of our able alumni and former teachers return to us from abroad. This term our staff totals:

Paid from budget funds	216 10/12
" " special funds	34 11/12
" " Missions	<u>36</u>
Total equiv. full-time	<u>287 9/12</u>

This covers 332 individuals, i.e. 253 full-time and 79 part-time. The reduction as compared with last year is about 10%.

As the cost of living has gone up we are paying our staff on the scale adopted by the University of Nanking and Shanghai University; this is about the same as the Government scale if research grants and other factors are taken into consideration. At present prices soar up every day. Unless the Local Government does something to stop the "free" rise in prices and to protect the new currency, greater confusion in our currency and in our society will result.

Five Cheeloo girls have just come to us from Shanghai recommended by President Wu. We have accepted them into our Nursing Department.

You may have read the address given by Dr. Silow, Director of the British Council Science Office, on Commencement Day. In this he spoke of our University as "one of the finest universities in this country." We have had such good words from many of our visitors and friends. They are, indeed, very encouraging. We want to build up this University to be counted among the best in China and abroad, worthy of the great mission entrusted to us by Churches in China and the United Board for Christian Colleges in China, in America, and the China Christian Universities Association in Great Britain. It is a difficult task, but like Christian soldiers we must march on with our standard, putting all we have, our backs and our souls into serving our Lord and Saviour, trusting that He will protect us and guide us through this period of chaos and turmoil.

With kind regards and all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

S. H. Fong, President

SHE/MR

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WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

Administration Office

Chengtu, Szechwan

November 25, 1948

Dr. Robert J. McMullen
UBCCC, 150 Fifth Avenue
New York City, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. McMullen,

I wrote you on November 7th and in that letter stated that we had heard that those foreigners in East China who wished to move out in the face of the Communist threat should do so. A similar message reached American and Canadian missionaries in West China on the 18th and 19th. Since then several Missions have held meetings to consider the situation. No definite recommendations have been made to or from Mission Executives advising people to go, but those individuals who are fearful, who have children or are not in good health, will act on their own initiative. On Tuesday last the President's Council considered the situation and I enclose the gist of the discussion and action. Dr. Fenn in answer to my letter of a fortnight ago informed up that Ginling and the University of Nanking both planned to remain put. We have heard further word from Tsinan and the consensus of opinion is that we here should remain until it is clear that should not or cannot stay.

As far as we can gather our Chinese staff as a whole are anxious that we should stay, and certainly President Fong and some of the older staff have indicated clearly their hope that western staff will remain. It may interest you to have a quotation from President Fong's statement to the Council: "If our western friends leave it would be impossible for us Chinese to carry on; particularly is this true in the case of the College of Medicine and Dentistry. We hope that they will stay and face with their Chinese colleagues any situation which may develop. We recognise that the final decision must be left to individuals. Careful consideration must be given to the cases of some wives and children. The continuing of the western staff will have a very important bearing on the keeping alive of Christian influence. This will not only benefit the University but the Christian work of the whole Province. This was proved in the 1926-27 evacuation. It is important to have a strong centre in Chengtu in the WCUU because all Christian people of the Province look to us for help and guidance." As is so usual in China, what seemed to be an impasse has not eventuated, and the Government has been given a new lease of life. The monetary condition is again being stabilized and the military situation has turned in favour of the Government. Should success for the Government along these two lines continue it may be that the Government will outlive the storms. Should the American Government be able to step in with relief and military supplies, and most of all with a psychological boost, there is every good reason to believe that the Government can hold the Communists and eventually ease them out of China, south of the Great Wall. It is clearly recognised here that the Government's mis-direction of its military campaign has been responsible for the Communists' advance rather than the strength of their armies. I have heard very few people in the last three years express the belief that any coalition Government could successfully carry on in China. It is generally believed that any attempt at such a Government would merely mean the turning of the Government over to the Communists, this in spite of the fact that you hear in the papers that certain individuals in Nanking proposing such a coalition. Such people are usually interested in a Communist Government rather than in a coalition. It is because of this belief that few people have any hope of compromise.

11/25/48

We are glad to learn of the new finance campaign which you are undertaking, and we are hopeful that you will be successful. Should the new currency regulations prove successful we perhaps can carry on as we did last year with approximately the same budget, but we have been going through a time when we feared the worst. Our payroll for October was a way out of line with exchange. Should we have had to continue to pay on as poor an exchange we could hardly have been able to carry on for even half a year. Fortunately the exchange is rising, and we hope we shall find ourselves in about the same position as we were last year, although this morning's paper informs us that we should pay for this month five times what we paid in the previous month. Should this prove to be the case we shall be in trouble again, and the payroll combined with the high costs of transportation may sink us. I was awakened at 2 o'clock in the night a couple of nights ago to receive a telegram from Shanghai asking whether we were willing to pay the sum of GY65,000 for shipping to Chungking approximately 50 cases of supplies. We figure that having to pay this will mean doubling the cost of the purchase price of the goods plus transportation from New York to Shanghai! We hope that transportation prices will not remain so out of line, but we have been informed that the Ming Sung Company's ships are booked until next March - you can see that there is little competition and high prices will be inevitable.

Mr. Fong has just written a letter in which he has given you other information, and as the situation progresses I shall continue to provide you with side-lights.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

AWL/MR

/s/ Ashley W. Lindsay

COPY

WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

Administrative Office

Chengtu, Szechwan

November 24th, 1948

Dr. Robert J. McMullen
UBCCC, 150 Fifth Ave.
New York City 11, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. McMullen,

Thank you very much for your letter of October 27th, also for the printed sermon; both are very helpful to us in our present situation. We have been watching its development closely and are grateful to friends in Shanghai and Nanking for supplying us with information regarding conditions in their areas as well as in occupied areas in which our associated institutions are situated. Yesterday, in our regular meeting of the Council, this very problem of the political situation was formally brought up for discussion. It was unanimously felt that we Chinese and Westerners should stay on here in the University no matter how the situation develops, with the understanding however that the final decision will have to be left to the individual concerned, and that wives and children of our western staff may leave, taking advantage of the present available facilities if they wish to do so. We have at present a few western members who are either in poor health or due for furlough. They may leave soon. It is still too early to say how many of our western staff can stay on, but our feeling and hope is that a good number of them will do so. So far as I know all of our Chinese staff will stay on. I must say that we are very grateful for your letter and also for one from Dr. Fenn assuring us of your assistance.

The general condition here is still quite quiet, although any serious change in the situation down river may affect us here. The prices of commodities are rising every day, but not on such a scale as we experienced a short time ago. There is certainly no panic in the minds of people. We were told that many in Shanghai and Nanking are planning to come to Szechwan. The Ming Sung steamers have been booked up until March. Seats on the two Air Lines - CNAC and CATC - are booked till April. We have had letters from Yenching and St. John's asking if we would help them by taking some of their students at Loan Students. Szechwan at present seems as safe as it can be in any part of China, but as I have just mentioned, if the war situation deteriorates further, we shall be affected, but just to what extent nobody knows. You will be interested to know that we have today received a telegram from Nanking asking if we can accept two American advanced students and one Professor under the USEFC. Of course we shall do our best to accommodate them. You probably know in addition to these two American students who may come soon, we have among our students one German and three Swedes, though two of the latter have just left for field study in Sichang.

Everything is going on quite well in our University. The Religious Life Committee headed by Mr. Stinson and Mrs. Meuser is pushing on a vigorous programme. We are also considering laying the foundations of the University Church regardless of the present disturbed conditions, because, as some say, this is the time for aggressive Christianity to take the initiative. They quote the following inscription in an English Church erected in 1653: "When every holy thing was threatened, the land being destroyed or profaned, this Church was built to the glory of God by -- whose singular praise was to have done the best things in the worst times and hoped-for in the most calamitous."

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We have had visits from several prominent people this autumn - Canadian Ambassador Davis; Mrs. Lapham and others of ERC, and a couple of weeks ago Mr. Slater of CCUA who stayed with us about a week. It so happened that it was raining all the time he was here - I told him that he had brought English weather with him! He had a very busy time seeing our buildings and talking with our administrative heads. He gave a very good address to our faculty one afternoon, making suggestions from his observations. We are looking forward to the visit of Dr. Fenn in December and hope he can carry out his programme as planned.

As the Christmas Season draws near, may I take this opportunity to send you and other friends of the United Board our warmest Christmas Greetings. Living in the midst of the present world of chaos and disorder, we are faced with immense difficulties in every direction, yet if we are true to the teaching of our Saviour Jesus Christ and to the faith we all profess, we shall be able to exercise our active force in making the happy tidings of the Christmas Angels "on earth peace and good will toward men" a reality.

With our best wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

/s/ S. H. Fong
President.

SHF/MR

LETTER TO DR. MCMULLEN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE FROM DRYDEN L. PHELPS

January 12, 1949

The President's Council and President Fong have asked me to write you concerning your letter containing your recent action (WC-75) "expressing the judgment of the Committee that this is not a favorable time to build in view of the unsettled conditions in China." Your letter goes on to say "that it is felt that nothing is to be gained and much might be lost by failure to be guided by probable developments in the situation in West China." To the first of these quotations, there is, on the part of West China Boards, Field Committees, University authorities, Chinese Christians and missionaries, unanimous dissent. To the second quotation, there entire agreement: there is nothing to be gained, and there is the possibility of irreparable loss to the whole Christian enterprise, by failure to be guided by probable developments in the situation in West China. I need hardly say that the men and women who compose the Boards, Councils, and Reference Committees which have decided to go forward with the Church building at this time are people of mature experience and immediate knowledge of the fluid situation. Many of us for thirty to forty years have had our hand on the pulse of China. It would be an extraordinary thing, would it not, for a Committee in New York, half a world away, to contravene the considered judgment of every one of the Mission Reference Committees, University Board of Directors, President's Council, and Church Board composed of representatives of the cooperating Missions, Chinese and western Christian faculty members?

But we wish to deal very realistically with all the considerations - so far as we can envisage them - which have been contributive to your thinking. Why waste materials, time, energy, and money, building a new church at so uncertain a time, with a possibly anti-Christian regime looming? The continuance of the Christian Movement in China is precarious; let us therefore decrease, rather than increase our involvements. Let us save our money. Let us avoid the possible misuse of the building. If the project goes forward, the United Board, the WCUU Committee, and the Missions, may become financially involved. Many reports describe "a steadily deteriorating situation in China." These perhaps are the main arguments?

It will be recognized that these arguments are all negative, and rest upon uncertain and inconclusive evidence: negative considerations when the actual situation demands of the Christian enterprise the most positive strategy of initiative. Shall we waive the vital position we have won, and allow the Communists to assume the moral initiative?

The site on which the church is to built is Baptist property, allocated solely for this church. If it is not so used, it reverts to the Baptist Board.

With the exception of two small gifts (Canadian \$10 from Dr. Arnup; and £40 just arrived from the Henry T. Hodgkin family in England), the entire Building Fund has been raised in China: US\$23,500 from a Chinese Christian layman (who has been assured that the building is going up at once); and US\$1,000 and more from the missionary community in Chengtu. Not one dollar has been given by the United Board or the WCUU Committee. Indeed, both the cooperating Missions, and the United Board, have been assured that they will be liable to no financial involvement. This Building Fund, therefore, has not been given by, and does not belong to, the United Board. The Treasurer of the United Board, solely for facility of bookkeeping and the safeguarding of the funds, was asked to handle the Fund.

1/12/49

A considerable amount of the Fund has already been spent for lumber, bricks, and other building materials, which have already been delivered on the site. Should they remain loose in these piles, and not incorporated in a building, they would indeed be a temptation, to be carried away by people who would use them for constructive purposes.

Because of the present inflation, and the Exchange situation of US to Chinese currency, in terms of US money, building materials and labour are cheaper than they have been for years. It is predicted that they will never be so cheap again. The Church is possible at the moment. Delay of even a few weeks may make it forever impossible.

It is the unanimous consensus of opinion of informed Chinese and westerners that we should build at once, while we may; that a new regime might not allow us to initiate a new church building, and use valuable materials for it, but that a building once up has an immeasurably augmented chance of being allowed to function according to its purpose if it has a full and vital program: we will see to that!

Before your letter arrived, announcements concerning the building of this church had gone out to editors and churchmen and pastors in England, Canada, the United States, and China. Plans are drawn, materials purchased, contracts given. Missionaries, Chinese Christians, churches, and friendly laymen all over West China await the rising of this unique University Church. The wood-carvers are carving the panelled doors right now. This Plan is the result of 18 years of prayer and determined planning. Visualize the impact, just at this time, on the Christian Movement in China if word gets about that a Committee in New York takes negative action, halts this work. If the Reds were deliberated to obstruct such a project, it would be in the headlines. If a Christian Committee does so, at the moment of utmost need for the aggressive vitality of the Christian religion to be unmistakably demonstrated, the effect on the continuance of Christianity in China is not hard to imagine. Twelve outstanding Chinese Christian statesmen in Shanghai have issued a proclamation calling upon all missions and missionaries to carry on. Yesterday at its annual meeting on this campus, the United Church of Canada Mission voted to carry on. Baptist missionaries, with one exception, who had started to evacuate - because of "orders" and rumours now judged immature - have returned to their stations. There is considerable hope now in many quarters formerly despairing.

Let us go back for a moment to your own words: "Nothing is to be gained and much might be lost by failure to be guided by probable developments in the situation in West China." If we halt the work now, here are some of the losses we would immediately sustain:

We would probably permanently lose the opportunity to build this University Church, which we have been planning for 18 years.

With a certain change in the currency situation, our funds would be insufficient.

We would probably lose all the materials we have bought, and ordered.

We would lose the services of our Chinese Christian architect, Canning Young. He remains now here chiefly to complete this work. He then goes abroad for study. We probably could never find another Chinese Christian architect his equal.

The University would lose a core and center for its religious life and activ-

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ities. Our students and most of our Chinese faculty would be deprived of personal membership in and experience of a regular functioning Church, so that when they graduated or left this campus, they would have little experience, loyalty, or inclination to join and serve a church elsewhere. To deprive us of a church on this campus is to paralyze the Christian Movement in West China at its initiating center where young Christian leaders are trained.

But what is perhaps most grave of all, we would lose the respect and loyalty of the Chinese, both Christians and non-Christians, not only in Chengtu, but throughout the province, and indeed throughout China. For the long planning of this church has been no small thing: a union of some 8-10 denominations, many nationalities and countries. In the face of a challenging crisis, for Christians ourselves to scuttle our own plans would lose for us many many times US\$25,000 in respect and allegiance. That is a pretty high price to pay "for failure to be guided by probable developments in the situation in West China."

Your Statement of Policy assures us of your determination to stand by us. We ask you now to implement those words by uniting with us in love and faith and courage. At a recent meeting of the President's Council, President Fong said:

"We should be prepared for a kind of life different from anything we have known up to the present; it may be that we should be more Christian than we have ever dared to consider possible. During crises the life of the Christian Church has been raised to a higher level. We should not be afraid if we have a solid foundation. It would be a period of testing our strength. Are we ready for hardships and trials? We may have to face greater difficulties than we can imagine. How are we going to face them?"

We have a definite, concrete, immediate, vital plan. Of you we ask no sacrificial gifts, no financial involvements. But we do ask and expect of you a measure of Christian faith and realism consonant with the challenge and opportunity in West China.

With cordial good wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dryden L. Phelps
Executive Pastor
University Community Church
of the West China Union University

LETTER FROM S. H. FONG AND A. W. LINDSAY TO R. J. McMILLEN

January 14, 1949

Your letter of December 27th detailing the policy adopted by the Trustees of the United Board has come to hand and been presented to the University Administrative Council. We propose to confine this letter to the matter of the University Church.

The Trustees' action in regard to the Church reads: "WC-75 VOTED to affirm previous action in regard to the Church Building (WC62 and WC63) and to send a letter to the administration expressing the judgment of the Committee that this is not a favourable time to build in view of the unsettled conditions in China."

This action was taken in response to Board of Directors' minute D327 asking for permission to lay the foundations of the Church.

We have never received a copy of the Minutes of the Trustees, so we do not know what actions WC62 and WC63 refer to, though we assume they are the Minutes quoted in your letter of May 13th. We have proceeded with the plans for the erection of the Church on the understanding that the Board had approved its erection on the Baptist College playing field provided sufficient funds were in hand to complete the main unit. The University, therefore, approached the Baptist Church through its West China Mission, and secured from the Church Board agreement to transfer to the West China Union University title deed to the section of the Baptist College campus necessary for the erection of the Church Building. We trust that this matter was reported to the Board of Trustees by Rev. Raymond Schaefer, who acted for the Officers Council of the ABFMS in New York City in May 1948.

At the beginning of last summer the Church Board agreed on building plans believing that there was sufficient money to complete this main unit, but the change of currency made this impossible and the University Building Committee required the Church Building Committee to reconsider its plans. This was done and plans for a much smaller building were presented and the University Building Committee required the Church Building Committee to reconsider its plans. This was done and plans for a much smaller building were presented and accepted, as it was quite evident that there was sufficient money to complete the main unit of this building. The main unit will seat three hundred in the nave and in the transepts and narthex and a possible rear gallery four hundred. The reduction of the seating capacity met the approval of most of those interested in the Church. The University then gave permission for the architect to proceed with the purchase of building materials and ordered the digging of foundations immediately after Chinese New Year. Large quantities of materials have now been purchased, work sheds have been erected and all preparations made for the digging of the foundations.

In his letter to you of November 24th Mr. Fong stated: "We are also considering laying the foundations of the University Church regardless of the present disturbed conditions because, as some say, this is the time for aggressive Christianity to take the initiative." A copy of this letter was sent to Dr. Arnup and in his reply he commended the University for "the detached attitude which our West China missionaries are achieving towards the situation. It is not easy to view it impersonally. For my own part I do not know what course we ought to follow but so far as I can see now I shall content myself with backing your decisions. I had an extract made from your letter which reported the laying of the foundations of the University Church."

1/14/49

The University has approached the building of this Church with a very realistic attitude and it is the belief of all members of the University Council that though the times are disturbed there are no adequate reasons for deferring erection of the Church. It is considered that if we believe in our programme we should so act as to convince others that we hope to put it over under any political regime. Chengtu is not in an area of war, and there is little likelihood of there being any fighting in this area; it is also believed that any turn-over which may take place will be a comparatively peaceful one for Chengtu, though there is always the possibility of interim disorder. It is true that buildings might suffer, but there is no feeling that another regime would permanently refuse the Christian educational programme. Individuals may be discredited and plans disrupted, but time would again permit the programme to be carried out. The University needs a Church Building and fortunately its erection is not at the cost of homeside donors or the University budget. It is sincerely felt that for the sake of the morale of the staff and community we should continue with its erection. To stop now would raise doubts and emphasise the rumours and propaganda of those who are anti-Christian. From past experience of political disturbances in China we should not give much credence to feared anti-Christian attitudes. Nor should we mark time; we must either be positive or follow a negative policy.

We therefore trust that you will bring before the Trustees of the Board the University's request that we be permitted to push on with the erection of the building without any delay. The Church Board is, of course, very anxious that the building should go on, and Dr. Phelps' letter which we are enclosing indicates their views on the matter.

As implied in our opening paragraph we shall in a later letter take up with you the matter of the Music Department and the Biochemistry Institute, and other problems.

We have just had a wire from Bill Fenn to the effect that he expected to arrive in Chengtu yesterday by the Lutheran plane. Unfortunately the plane did not arrive, but we anticipate it will come in today or tomorrow. We shall be very glad to have Bill Fenn with us again, and I am sure that after his visit he will be able the better to make comments on our situation and work.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ S. H. Fong, President

/s/ A. W. Lindsay, Vice-Chancellor

UNITED BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN COLLEGES IN CHINA

150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N. Y.

Tel. WAtkins 9-8703

Cable: ABCHICOL

January 21, 1949

Members of the Board of Trustees and
of the West China Union University Committee.

Dear Friends:

Enclosed you will find mimeographed copies of letters just received from Vice-Chancellor Lindsay and from Professor Dryden Phelps regarding the action taken by the West China Union University Committee and the Trustees in reference to the erection of a University Church. In order that you may have all the facts before you I would like to quote from correspondence with them on this subject.

After the meeting of the West China Committee in May I wrote on May 13th to President Fong as follows:

"The West China Committee met Tuesday morning. The meeting was well attended and the matters before it were given very careful consideration. Upon their recommendation the following action was taken by the United Board:

'The United Board approves the erection of the West China Union University Church on the Baptist College playing field provided first, this site is donated for this purpose and provided further that the main unit can be constructed with church building funds in hand.

'Consideration of the other items of the church building program is deferred until the United Board has received plans of the building with a careful estimate of costs and details of plan proposed for financing the program.'"

These are the actions referred to by Dr. Lindsay as WC62 and WC63 which he didn't know about. As you recall, the policy of the Trustees is that their minutes shall not be sent out to the field but actions taken by them regarding any institution are transmitted in a covering letter by the Executive Secretary. The above was an attempt to do this. No plans or other information has since been received.

When action was taken on November 17th I was in the hospital. As soon as I returned to the office and received the minutes from Mr. Corbett I wrote on December 27th as follows:

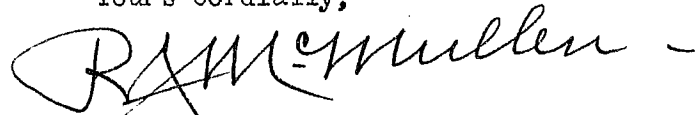
"In connection with D327 requesting permission to lay the foundation for the Church building and for assistance in raising funds for its completion, the West China Committee voted

'to re-affirm previous action in regard to the Church Building (WC62 and WC63) and to send a letter to the administration expressing the judgment of the Committee that this is not a favorable time to build in view of the unsettled conditions in China.'"

You have all the facts before you. I suppose no action can be taken, even if desired, by the Trustees until they meet next month. No doubt both the West China Committee and the Trustees will have to take up this matter and do something about it. In the meantime I suppose that the erection of the building is proceeding. Dr. Fenn was in West China last week. We may hear from him regarding this matter within a few days. I will keep you informed as to the situation and will be glad to receive suggestions from you.

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Yours cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "RJMcmullen", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert J. McMullen
Executive Secretary

RJM:D

Encls.

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Yours sincerely,

/s/ S. H. Fong, President

/s/ A. W. Lindsay, Vice-Chancellor

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Executive Pastor
University Community Church
of the West China Union University

WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

Chengtu, Szechwan

February 1st, 1949

Dr. Robert J. McMullen,
United Board for Christian Colleges,
150, Fifth Avenue,
NEW YORK CITY, 11, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. McMullen,

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors held on January 19th, 1949, the following minute was passed:

"Voted that a letter of explanation be written to the West China Committee urging that permission be given to proceed with the immediate erection of the Church Building at this time."

I was instructed to prepare and forward to you such a letter.

The Board of Directors and its Executive have been very careful in giving sanction to the erection of the Church. The Executive in November 1947 referred back to the Church Board consideration as to whether it was the appropriate time to build; in January 1948 the Executive agreed to an appeal on behalf of the Church for funds to be raised abroad; in March 1948 the Church Board again approached the Executive regarding the Church site and plans for raising money to complete the whole plant. The Board resolved to recommend that the Church be located on the present Baptist playing field and the launching of a financial campaign to raise additional funds, but requested the Church Board to revise plans so that the cost of erection of the main building could be completed within the money already in hand. With this understanding the Executive requested the West China Committee for early permission to put down the foundations. The Board of Directors at its meeting in June 1948 supported the action of the Executive asking West China Committee for permission to put down the foundations of the main building and at the same time asked for assistance in the raising of funds for the completion of the Church.

Then University Administration, in the Fall Term, was presented with revised plans of the Church, and made sure that the main body of the Church could be built within the amount of money now in hand, and gave permission for purchase of materials.

The Executive Committee of the Board at its meeting on January 1949 carefully considered minute WC-75 of the West China Committee and the Trustees, expressing it as their best judgment that the present "is not a favorable time to build in view of unsettled conditions in China".

Fortunately, Dr. Fenn was present at the meeting. After examining conditions and the situation, he was of the opinion that there was more to lose than to gain by putting off the erection of the Church to another day. The Committee was of the same mind, and passed its resolution supporting the University Administration, and associating itself with the arguments presented in the letters written by the University Administration and Dr. Phelps on January 12th and 14th respectively. The Executive, therefore, urge the West China Committee and the Trustees to reconsider, and to agree that there are more and better reasons for proceeding immediately with the erection of the main body of the University Church than for delaying its erection till some indefinite future.

In regard to the raising of more money to complete the Church it may be wise not to expect money from abroad; but it is hoped that gifts will come from Chinese sources.

To recapitulate reasons for building at once, the following are pertinent:

1. No local prejudice against erection of a Church.
2. The University needs a Church building.
3. A large quantity of materials has already been purchased.
4. It is generally known that the building is to be erected; not to go forward would raise doubts as to our expectations of continuing our programme.
5. Its value as a morale booster.
6. The relative cheapness of materials at the present time.
7. The cost of the buildings as now contemplated has come from donors in China who would like to see the building erected at once.
8. None of our Chinese associates question the advisability of building at present.

Will you be so good as to bring to the attention of the members of the West China Committee and the Trustees the request of the Directors, the Administration and the Church Board for permission to proceed with the building without delay. A cable would be appreciated. Foundations should go in very shortly, in order that the roof may go on before the summer rains. Another factor to be taken into consideration is that if the foundations are not put in during the winter, nothing can be done for another year.

I trust that I have made sufficiently clear the mind of the Executive. If not, let me know.

I hope that you have fully recovered from your Hospital experience and that you are now in good health.

With our best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Ashley W. Lindsay,
Secretary, Board of Directors.

AWL/MR

United Board for Christian Colleges in China

One Hundred-fifty Fifth Avenue . . . New York 11, N. Y.

March 29, 1949

President S. H. Fong,
West China Union University,
Chengtu, Szechwan, China.

My dear President Fong:

You perhaps are quite familiar with the fact that Syracuse University at Syracuse, N. Y. has been sending a teacher to your campus each year. Recently the United Board held a conference at Syracuse University attended by 75 representatives of 30 American institutions which are interested in having their alma maters linked with one or another of our China Colleges. While at Syracuse I met Mr. David John Bauer and his fiancée, Miss Joyce Eileen Jones.

Since the conference I have received from Mr. Bauer a statement that he has applied to be sent to West China during the coming year as the representative of Syracuse and that the Syracuse Committee is anxious that he represent them. He and Miss Jones are engaged to be married and wish to go to China together. The Syracuse Committee feels that they will not be able to support both of these young people but are quite prepared to support one. Their problem of course is getting support for the other.

Miss Jones would like very much to secure a position either on the West China campus or in the middle school there or in the school for foreign children or some other nearby institution which would provide her expenses to China and her salary while there. If such can be arranged Mr. Bauer would represent Syracuse and Miss Jones, who would then be Mrs. Bauer, would receive support from this other position.

Enclosed you will find their statements. As usual, the Methodist Board will be pleased to make a study of these records in case a way can be found to finance Miss Jones. Naturally the young people are quite anxious to get this matter settled and we would like for you to cable us your decision. Please do this at your earliest convenience.

Dr. Fenn has closed the China office and is now in the United States. On next Monday, April 4th, he will begin to do his work from the New York office. Mr. Lovejoy has been asked to join the Methodist Mission in Shanghai. You will therefore please address all communications to our office here.

During the next month Dr. Fenn and myself will be making a very careful study of the financial condition of the various colleges in China. The annual meeting of the United Board on May 9-11 will wish full information regarding these matters as the basis of the allocation of funds. We hope that the data requested by us and Dr. Fenn is already on the way. We are anxiously awaiting its arrival. Without it the United Board will perhaps hesitate to make any allocation. This would be most unfortunate for all concerned.

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Yours cordially,

Robert J. McMullen
Executive Secretary

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WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY
Chengtu, Szechwan, China

June 21st, 1949

Dr. Robert J. McMullen
United Board for Christian Colleges in China
150 Fifth Avenue
New York 11, N. Y., U.S.A.

Dear Dr. McMullen:

The 1949 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors was held on June 3rd and 4th; and since that time there have been two meetings of the Executive, one on June 9th and the other on June 14th. Minutes of all three meetings are enclosed herewith.

The Roll Call indicates a fair attendance, although it should be noted that the chairman, Mr. Chang Kia-ngau, and the honorary members of the Board were not present, neither were the co-opted members, with the exception of Dr. Lincoln Dsang. For one reason and another the absentees, with the exception of Mr. Ren Shih-shang, were not in town. Mr. Ren was unable to attend because, being the Commissioner of Finance, he was very busy with the question as to whether or not to mint silver in place of the present paper currency. This matter is still under advisement. The old Mint has been dismantled for many years and it would be a somewhat lengthy process to put it into efficient operation. However, it may be found necessary to do so, and if so, the Oberlin-in-China (Minghsien) College may have to move. They are occupying the property and buildings of the Mint.

Minute D-385 indicates that should it be necessary for Minghsien College to move, the Administration is given permission to open the doors to the College. As yet there is no definite plan as to how this might be done, but from our past experience we would, of course, prefer to accept them as one of the Colleges of our set-up; this would simplify administration.

You will note that our Alumni have now elected their three members to the Board. The three who sat were well-known and respected members of the community. Their presence on the Board was helpful.

You should note that the coming year's membership of the Board does not include any honorary members. It was felt that it would be wiser not to have on the Board for this coming year persons knowingly unacceptable to a new regime. It has been the Board's policy to invite well-known and respected officers of the Government as honorary members. Mr. Chang Kia-ngau who has represented the Board of Governors for many years was not re-elected. You will note that Bishop Song was elected chairman. The Executive of the Board has been increased in size this year in order to secure a wider representation during these days of uncertainty.

At this point we draw your attention to minute D-371, in which the Board forwards the request of the Women's Field Committee for a larger representation on the Board. The Board did not take any action one way or the other. The following is a quotation from the letter covering the request of the Women's Field Committee:

"The reason the Women's Committee feels two representatives on the Board of Directors would be better than one is because the Women's Committee represents three separate Women's Boards of America and a total of Five Cooperating Missions and Five Cooperating Chinese Churches."

Personally we are not impressed with the validity of the reasoning underlying the request. This in view of the fact that the present constitution of the Board permits only one representative between the American Baptist Missionary Society and the Methodist Church, and one between the Church Missionary Society and the Friends Service Council. If there is any validity in the request the Women's Field Committee then it should have thirteen members not two!

You will notice that the Board had before it letters from President Fong and myself. We both informed the Board that thoughtful care should be taken in its choice of President and Vice-Chancellor; that in view of the information now available regarding the policy of the coming regime, officers of the Administration should be chosen to best assure the University's readiness to meet whatever may come. The Board re-appointed us for the coming year not because it could foresee the future, but rather because no reason could be adduced for believing that other appointees would be any more likely to weather a storm.

Following President Fong's Report there was a long and full discussion covering preparations which had been made by the University for the protection of the University during an interim crisis, and generally on the problems of a future under a Communist regime. The Board, as you will note, approved the emergency plans that had been made and appointed a special policy committee, reserving the right to be called should conditions change to such an extent as to make it impossible for the University to carry on under its present objectives. It was generally felt that it was still too early to lay down exact plans. No one was willing to predict the day or the hour or the special conditions which must be met. Should the time be delayed for another six months the experience of the Christian Universities in Central and Eastern China may give a good lead as to the organization we may be permitted to have.

The Board again struggled with Retrenchment. The Administration was finally requested to assure a retrenchment figure of 25% over the 1947-48 staff. In order to secure this cut the Board maintained its action of last year requiring the Departments of Rural Reconstruction and Agronomy not to receive Sophomores.

Perhaps this will be as good a place as any to present the sequel to the Directors' action. The students and staff of the two Departments concerned interviewed members of the Board and the Administration to protest and to request that the action be rescinded. The Executive of the Board met twice to consider the matter and here follow the minutes of the two meetings:

"E. 383. Rural Reconstruction and Agronomy.

After a very full discussion of Dr. Fugh Bao-shen's petition regarding the Rural Reconstruction Department, and a similar petition from Dean Ho regarding Agronomy, it was

RESOLVED that in view of the fact that a year ago it was considered necessary in the interests of economy to curtail the work and personnel of the Departments of Rural Reconstruction and Agronomy; that the financial situation

is becoming even more difficult than it was a year ago; that the University is now faced with uncertainty in the general situation as well as in the financial situation, the Executive reaffirms the policy indicated in minutes D-335 and D-337, to the effect that this coming year no new students be received into either of these Departments, but that if next year the general situation warrants it the Board will reconsider permitting the Departments again to admit Freshmen. It was further agreed that Dr. Luke Hsiao, and if necessary Bishop Song, meet with Dr. Fugh and Dean Ho to express the sympathy of the Executive with their point of view and with their keen desire to continue their Departments at full strength, but to point out that under the present circumstances it is not possible to reverse the decision of the full Board as set forth in minutes D-374 and 373 respectively."

"E. 384. Rural Reconstruction and Agronomy.

Dr. Luke Hsiao reported on interviews with staff and students of the Departments of Rural Reconstruction and Agronomy.

Correspondence and memoranda were presented from staff and students of the Departments of Rural Reconstruction and Agronomy are in agreement, to the effect that for this year these Departments do not add further financial burdens to the University budget, and further that if next year there should be insufficient funds to support the work of these Departments, they are agreed to be closed;

RESOLVED that the Executive advise the Administration to accept a class of Sophomores in the Departments of Rural Reconstruction and Agronomy for the year 1949-50.

It is understood that this action does not affect the decision of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors regarding the staffing of these two Departments, i.e. that only one member of staff of Rural Reconstruction and three members of the staff of Agronomy may be paid from the University budget."

You will note that the action of the last meeting of the Executive permits the two Departments to have Sophomores. The premise on which this agreement was finally reached is that should there be insufficient money next year they will be closed.

It is not possible at present to give an over-all picture of our retrenchment prospects, but there is some hope of making the cut which the Board has requested. There is a feeling amongst the staff that the University is unfair in demanding retrenchment at the present time, as those who are not given contracts for the coming year will find difficulty in securing positions elsewhere. Teachers cannot move away from Szechwan and there are no institutions here that are likely to provide them with positions with adequate salaries. Many of our staff have the feeling that all should continue to suffer together on inadequate salaries. This is a very good spirit, but practically if we have not sufficient money to pay a living salary we shall suffer severe criticism.

Music. The Board of Directors acted on the assumption that the West China Committee and the UBCCC would permit the raising of the Division of Music to the status of a Department, and therefore passed minute D.375. They will certainly be very pleased to learn that their premonitions were well founded and that the UBCCC

has agreed. Miss Ward has assured the Administration that the present staff is capable of giving Music Majors. She, of course, has been expecting and still expects that the Women's Boards will appoint more staff to the Department of Music. She does not ask the University budget for larger expenditures than provided at present for some time to come.

Home Economics. The Board received the report of the Department of Home Economics but did not pass on its request for raising the central section of its new quarters as it was not thought to be an immediate necessity, but since the meeting of the Board Dr. Stella Cheng, Head of the Department, has been pressing very hard for this additional space. She is proposing to give up her position as Principal of the Hwa Ying Girls Middle School (UCCM) and to give full-time to the Headship of the Department of Home Economics. In doing this she is planning to push the development of the Department. She is a very active, progressive woman who is not held up for small details. We are very anxious to have the Department of Home Economics take its proper place, as it has a great sphere of usefulness now that we have such a large proportion of women in the University. The architect estimates the raising of the central section of the building will cost approximately US\$2,000.

University Church. A careful reading of the preamble and minute will reveal to you the fact that some questions are being raised regarding the place and status of the University Church. In this letter we will not discuss this matter, hoping that the two minutes of the Board will have their desired effect.

The items - Pension Scheme, Mr. Hwa's Sick Leave, Alumni Wing - do not need any comment, but something should be said to clarify the action D.384, Leper Colony.

It was only when the University was about to be lined up with the Provincial Government in the allocation of a piece of land for the Colony that this matter came to the attention of the Administration. The Head of the Provincial Social Welfare Department was under the impression that the US\$50,000 were to be placed in his hands, and that two or three members of our College of Medical Sciences would be invited to become members of a Board of Management. As this meant that the University would have no control, but a considerable amount of responsibility, the genesis of the project were investigated. It was found that the Directors had never been informed of the project. When the project was presented to them, they agreed that a Leper Colony would be a good thing but they were not sure that it was good policy to be too closely linked with the Provincial Government. It has been suggested that instead of asking for a grant of land from the Government it would be wiser to make an outright purchase of land at this time when it is selling at such very low rates. In fact, at present country land, not so far from our campus, is today selling at about US\$75. per Chinese acre. You will be hearing more about the matter when the College brings the project back to the Administration for action.

Church of the Brethren. The invitation to the Church of the Brethren to continue its contribution of personnel to the University should receive the UBCCC's blessing. It is expected that you will write a letter of thanks for the contribution of Rev. and Mrs. Calvin Bright, Mr. Bright being the Acting-Curator of our Archaeological Museum and Mrs. Bright teaching in the Department of Home Economics. The Church of the Brethren has taken over a part of the MEM territory on the great road between Chungking and Chengtu and will be working in close relationship with

the Methodist Church. Therefore, we can expect that the Brethren will have a permanent set-up in Szechwan. It is thought that it would be wise to invite them to active participation when better times are here again.

We note by your letter of June 1st that Dr. Kilborn has been in New York for the meetings of the Boards and we are sure that he made a good presentation of our work and needs. We are expecting him back this September. We shall need him because Dr. Wilford who has been acting for him while he has been away is leaving by the Lutheran Plane with others this coming Monday, June 27th. There is, of course, hope that there will not be any great urgency this summer, and Dean Tsao and I have been asked to divide up Dr. Kilborn's responsibilities until he returns, with Dr. Crawford assuming responsibility for incoming IRC supplies.

We note what you say about Dr. Li Hen. We were surprised a short time ago when we received a cable from Dr. Beech that Dr. Li was visiting him in Chicago and that he was returning. We had a telegram from him when he reached Los Angeles and we now have a telegram from Hongkong that he expects to arrive in Chengtu tomorrow, June 24th. Personally I am pleased that Dr. Li is returning. From letters I have received from him, I know that he was much disturbed and that it has taken a considerable amount of courage to make the decision to come back at this time. But I am sure that he has made the right decision. Mr. Fong and I were delighted with a postscript in Dr. Li's letter written from Chicago to the effect that Dr. Beech had baptised him while he was there. Li Hen has always been a supporter of the Christian cause here, but not being a baptised Christian he did not participate in many of the activities which we would like to have had him take part in. To have chosen this moment for baptism is all the more outstanding, no one knows what Christians will have to put up with in the future.

Conditions at present are not as bad as Dr. Li pictured them. Since writing this sentence Dr. Li Hen has arrived apparently in good health.

The University, particularly the Department of Western Languages, is delighted to know that Mr. Tom Scott has been appointed by the Syracuse-in-China Association to replace Don Flaherty; the Department is particularly pleased because he is to arrive here before the opening of the fall term. We hope that Mr. Scott will prove as acceptable a personality as Don Flaherty. The Council has instructed that a letter of thanks and appreciation be written both to Don and to the Syracuse-in-China Association. We hope that when you have opportunity you will add the thanks and appreciation of the West China Committee.

We are delighted to learn that you have met Mr. Pu Bao-min and that you recognise his ability and personality as we do here. We are glad that he has made a real success of his work, and trust that the opportunity of staying another year will be well repaid.

I will not hold up this letter any longer, so will close with an expression of good wishes to yourself and to your colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Ashley W. Lindsay, Vice-Chancellor
Secretary of the Board

AWL/mr

CONFIDENTIAL

15 JULY 1949

A LETTER, DATED 2 JULY, FROM PRESIDENT FONG

WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

"We have just completed the work of the Spring Term. The University closed on Tuesday last, June 28th, as scheduled. The whole year 1948-49 has been an unusually quiet one. We have been able to carry on our work without any disturbance. The Graduation Exercises as well as the Baccalaureate Service were successful. There was a large attendance of students, teachers, guests and families of the students.

"The National University of Szechwan on account of lack of funds to provide even examination paper decided to let their students go home without taking the term examinations. At the same time there was a rumour that after the end of June all buses on the public road would be reserved for military use. This was discovered to be untrue and notices were posted to prove that the Government had never thought of using buses for that purpose; in fact, because of the situation in Sian more buses and trucks have been transferred to Szechwan from that area for the use of the public. However, the students were stirred up by a small group of agitators to such an extent that it was impossible to change their mind. Finally, our Administrative Council agreed that those whose homes were a long way from Chengtu might ask permission to go home, provided they promised to come back to take the Supplemental Examinations to be given two weeks before the opening of the fall term. The majority of our students left with this condition. Only about one hundred took the examinations.

"Regarding the Retrenchment Policy approved by our Board of Directors, Dr. Lindsay has commented in his letter of a few days ago. It is, of course a difficult thing to do in any University, especially at the present moment. People are so afraid of creating enemies or divisions among our own people. I had this matter brought up before our General Faculty meeting early in the Spring Term. A Committee on Policy was appointed by the General Faculty to work with the Central Administration on this matter. After many meetings and conferences with Deans and Heads of Departments during the Term we have succeeded in cutting the personnel roughly by about 14% from Arts, 14% from Science, 15% from Medicine and 17% from Dentistry; Administration will probably be cut about 20%, but we are still thinking how to achieve this by a new set-up. Together with last year's cut of approximately 10% the total cut will amount to about 25%. This is probably the best we can do at present.

"As early as last Christmas great concern was shown by our people concerning the safety of the University campus during a time of emergency. A start was made by getting our Experimental 'Bao' organized for an emergency. Things went so well that the people of the Eleventh 'Chu', which is a larger group than the 'Bao', became so interested in this work that they asked us to join with them, to have the whole area outside the Old and New South Gates organized into one group for mutual protection. One interesting thing was that as we met together and tried to tackle the problems facing the whole community was the surest foundation of security. Therefore, we felt that the first thing to be done was to find out how many poor people there are in our area and then to do as much as we can to help them through education, public health, relief and what not. (It is estimated that in our area there are about 15,000 very poor people.) One leader remarked, "This is the kind of thing we should do in ordinary times." As I am chairman of the relief committee which is responsible for the kind of work outlined above I got our University's Extension Committee to work with the local leaders. In the present situation nothing is more important than the cultivation of friendship with our neighbors. Many of our students in Sociology, Rural Reconstruction, Home Economics, Education, Agronomy, Medicine and Dentistry, have offered their services for such projects as conducting even classes, visiting homes, giving treatment to sick people. Up

to today 329 homes have been visited by them, 243 homes have been sprayed with D.D.T., 1,700 have been given anti-cholera injections. We are also going to start two clinics for poor people, one near the West China Theological College and the other outside the New South Gate.

"The registration of students for Entrance Examinations began yesterday. Probably there will be about 4,000 students taking examinations. We have decided to give the examinations in two centres: from July 14th to 15th in Chungking and July 18th-19th in Chengtu. For the convenience of the Mission Middle Schools away from Chengtu we are sending them the examination papers.

"Everything is going on quite peacefully so far. People here seem to think that they still have a few more months before any political changes take place. If a change comes it may be only a peaceful turn-over, without any fighting.

"We hope that before long we shall have the new set-up ready. We can assure you that the utmost care will be given to ensure the Christian character of the University and the choice of suitable people on the Administrative Council. We shall always appreciate your advice and information regarding the Christian work being done under the new regime in other parts of China.

"It is needless for me to say how we have been touched by your kind words assuring us of your continued confidence in and prayers for us. As you know, the Chinese term for crisis is wei chi meaning risk and opportunity. Yes, the Christian Church in China is facing a new situation full of risks ahead, but looking back over the history of the Christian Church during the past two thousand years, each period of danger and persecution has proved to be a great opportunity for further advance in her vitality and spiritual experience, and amid the rise and fall of many competing and mighty empires she alone has survived with a richer heritage and more followers than ever before. This is the time for us as Christians to reconsider our weaknesses and our work and to endeavour to be true to the living example of Jesus Christ our Saviour, Who alone is the Way and the Truth."

CONFIDENTIAL

20 SEPTEMBER 1949

EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER DATED 7 SEPTEMBER 1949
FROM DR. LINDSAY, WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

"Mr. Fong and I have already told you of the variation in plan adopted this year in our attempt to secure reduction of staff, -- namely the appointment of a Faculty Planning Committee. In the previous two years a special committee of the Administrative Officers did all the work that eventuated in any reductions that were made. Fearing that we would not be any more successful this year than last, the President took the whole Faculty into his confidence and suggested the appointment of a Faculty Committee to propose changes and reductions of staff and how the University should make a reduction of at least 15%, i. e. to fulfil the aim of last year of reaching a total reduction of 25%. Our last year's reduction was approximately 9%. The Faculty appointed a Committee composed of members entirely outside of the Administration. They met several times, interviewed Deans, Heads of Departments, Administrative Officers and then made the following proposals:

1. Following the procedure of 1948 each College should offer a common freshman course, for all departments.
2. Courses of combined departments should be simplified.
3. The decision as to departments to be cut shall be made by the Board of Directors.
4. Apart from those paid from special funds, the staff should be reduced to two-thirds of its present size; those retained should be chosen according to the need for their services and to their attitude to the University.
5. Each department should be asked to make a plan of its curriculum for the year 1949-50, together with a list of staff proposed; this to be done in consultation with the College concerned and the Administration.
6. Office staff shall give 39 hours service per week. Teachers for whom the teaching load (is light ?) shall also give assistance with office work.

"The actual result after all the work was completed is as follows:

General Administration	23%
Library and Museums	9%
College of Arts	7%
College of Science	16%
College of Medical Sciences	
Medicine	15%
Dentistry	17%

"You will note that the reductions are both spotty and limited. Arts Departments have not reduced comparably. Unless we can reduce Departments I believe it will be impossible to make any realistic reduction!

"We had hoped to begin closing up the Department of Rural Reconstruction and Agronomy this year, but the Joint Commission of Rural Reconstruction came along with a grant of US\$10,000 to these Departments; the money has largely been put into special staff. This is not particularly helpful because it has meant the continuance of all the classes in Rural Reconstruction and Agronomy. We had hoped to retain only two years in each of these Departments.

"Home Economics Building

On receipt of your telegram informing us that the Board was not in favour of the plan of raising the middle section of this building, Dr. Stella Cheng was very unhappy and dissatisfied. She immediately went out to friends and secured gifts sufficient to do the job. On the basis of this the Council and the Board's Executive believed that you would not object. Construction is going on and the new addition will be ready for occupancy by the opening of school. You in New York may consider that we are blind to the situation and unwise in our continued building up of plant, etc. but, as yet, the members of our staff are not worrying too much about the future. There is a very general feeling that the University will be permitted to function much as usual. I do not mean that they believe there will not be changes in work and personnel, but rather that the organisation will carry on without undue interference.

"In the last few days we have been hearing of the possibility of the Hongkong airfield being taken over by the military, thus making it impossible for commercial planes from China to land there. This we hope will not prove to be true. If and when Canton falls we shall be depending upon plane service to Hongkong. We do not plan to bring any large quantity of supplies in this year, but as long as the way is open we shall be sending for a limited quantity of chemicals and equipment.

"We are glad that Prof. Ho Wei-fa was able to get his visa and to get away from Hongkong

"Besides him, the following members of our staff have left recently for the States and Canada:

Dr. Wang Kueh-sen, Surgery, Sioux Falls Hospital, Dakota, U. S. A.
Dr. Wang Min-fan, Odontology, Toronto
Dr. Hu Yin-chen, Oral Surgery, Columbia, N. Y.
Dr. Den Shu-kao, Oral Morphology and Physiology, Eastman Dental Dispensary,
Rochester, N. Y.
Dr. Chang Wkang-ru, Internist, Blumgart Bethisrael Hospital, Harvard Medical School,
Boston, Mass.
Dr. Peter Kao, Dental Clinician, Guggenheim Dental Clinic, New York
Dr. Chi Hsiu-hsiang, Ophthalmology
Dr. Lee Ch'ang-lin, American Hospital of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

"Others of our Alumni have gone abroad this year, but apart from Dr. Marian Cheng, Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, we have no record of their whereabouts. We trust that you will meet some of these young people during the year.

"I must not close this letter without a word as to present conditions. Locally everything is quiet and peaceful. Monetary conditions have been comparatively stable for the last two months. The issue and use of silver dollars which have been followed by silver note issue has stabilised the cost of living. Banks are again beginning to function as people are gaining some confidence in the currency. The US\$ / Silver \$ exchange rate is not very favourable. The highest we have been receiving is 1.00:1.70. Gold bullion fluctuates up and down as the Government has a surplus or requires a supply of silver which is being used for minting purposes. The Chengtu Mint is in full operation and is producing a very good looking silver dollar. Life seems tame again when you dare to keep a dollar over night!! Before the old GY currency became completely worthless it was possible to lose up to 90% of your money overnight. Early in June the US\$1.00 was equal to GY\$500,000,000.

The American and British Consuls are again becoming agitated about their citizens and subjects in China and have been warning us that unless we are absolutely essential we should leave as soon as possible. This latest warning I fear is going to affect a number of those who had planned to remain, but to many the warning means no more than previous warnings. Few have believed that the Consuls would be able to do much for us after the change-over, certainly not until such time as the new Government becomes recognised. Many have believed that this would be a reality within a very limited period. It is now felt that recognition may be delayed. As the great body of westerners in China will be missionaries without political or economic influence the feeling is that we shall be left alone. Just how much we shall be discriminated against in Szechwan is a question, but it is felt that by the time the province is taken over the need to demonstrate against westerners will have greatly diminished.

Our entrance examination is over. We had over four thousand candidates writing the examination in Chengtu, Chungking and Mission Schools in Szechwan. The best students applied for entrance into Medicine, Dentistry, Maths-Physics and Western Languages. We are going to have difficulty in holding down the size of the entrance class. We are, of course, to face the problem after our students take the regular term examinations in early September. How many will be flunked out? The University will open later than usual this year, September 26th. The National Universities will not open until the middle of October; they plan to eliminate the winter vacation!"

CONFIDENTIAL

27 SEPTEMBER 1949

A CABLE, DATED 26 SEPTEMBER, FROM DR. LINDSAY

WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC CONDITIONS NORMAL. CLASSES OPENED SEPTEMBER TWENTY SIXTH.

APPROXIMATE REGISTRATION TWELVE HUNDRED. FORTY FIVE PERCENT WOMEN.

CONFIDENTIAL

7 NOVEMBER 1949

CABLE DATED 30 OCTOBER 1949

WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS STEADY: ALL USEFULLY BUSY: HOPEFULLY EXPECT/NT

LINDSAY

CONFIDENTIAL

12 DECEMBER 1949

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS DATED 8 AND 31 OCTOBER
FROM WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

8 OCTOBER 1949

"We are now beginning our Fall Term. All classes started on Monday, September 26th, as announced. The enrolment for the University totals 1,393, with 22 in the School of Hospital Technology. This is larger than we anticipated. We aimed at 1,200. Here are the details:

	University enrolment				Freshman Class		
	Men	Women	Total		Men	Women	Total
College Arts	306	205	511	Arts	54	37	91
Science	214	173	387	Science	56	32	88
Med. & Dent.	276	219	495	Med. & Dent.	72	32	104
TOTAL	796	597	1393		182	110	283

"Among students registered we have taken in 44 Loan and Transfer students from other Universities, ten of whom came from Northwestern University (Government). Most of the others came from other Christian Universities (Shanghai, Nanking, Ginling, Huachung) and the Catholic University, Peiping. Out of 349 on the published list of those who might register 292 came, including nine for the School of Hospital Technology.

"On account of the political situation some of our missionary colleagues, especially those with large families, have left China. We are glad, however, that most of our missionary colleagues have decided to stay with us. We are also glad to have the help of those who came here from other parts of China and have now settled in our University to work with us, at any rate for the time being.

"With the departure of the Stinsons we are short of strong and efficient leadership in religious work. We are turning over this phase of our activities to the University Church, hoping that before long a Chinese pastor will be appointed who will give his time to this work. For the time being a temporary Religious Life Committee is carrying on.

"We are glad to welcome back several of our Chinese teachers who have spent several years of further study abroad. Dr. and Mrs. Li Anche arrived here a couple of days ago. Mr. Kuan Hsiang-huan who studied Agronomy in America returned about ten days ago. He is now Head of our Agronomy Department. Mr. Yu Wen-hwa has been studying in England for about two years; he is now back in Chengtu working in our Department of Education. Mr. and Mrs. Sewell arrived about two weeks ago. We expect the Kilborns shortly; also Mr. Tom Scott to replace Mr. Donald Flaherty.

"It is good to be able to report that Mr. Fu Tze-liang, a member of the local gentry, has donated a farm of 51 meng to our University, the income from which is to be used for a scholarship fund for medical and dental students.

"We had a very quiet summer this year. Most of us of the Administration wisely, or unwisely, stayed here through the summer months without a break. We did a good piece of extension work in public health and social survey in cooperation with the local people. Teachers and students all worked together as a team and seemed to enjoy it very much. We wonder if the failure of our present-day education is not due to the barrier set up between the community and the schools. If no consideration is given to the welfare of the people around the schools and to the fact that students from

them are to work among the people, no matter how much we achieve in our academic work we shall fail in our religious work in the school for the welfare of humanity. During these unsettled days it is of great importance that we of the Christian Universities should keep in mind the message of love and peace and do everything we can besides our busy duties in some work which is or benefit to the people around us.

"It has become increasingly clear to us that in our Christian University we should stress high quality in academic achievement and character-building without betrayal of the Christian objectives for which this University was founded. We should let the vitality of the teaching of Jesus Christ permeate every aspect of our lives. However, there is every temptation to be carried away by the social trend and to become ultimately, if not immediately, involved in political or party struggles. If the history of our Christian Church for the past nineteen hundred years should be a vivid lesson to us all, we are sure that as we consecrate our service to our Lord for the advancement of His Kingdom He will always give us His guidance and strength."

/s/ S.H. FONG, PRESIDENT

31 OCTOBER 1949

"When the University Board of Directors met last June conditions in the north and east of China indicated that changes might be necessary in University administrative set-up, but that so far as the Board was able to judge there was no better procedure than to carry on and make changes as required and as events dictated. From information we are gathering from many areas taken over since last summer we are led to believe that the new regime will not at the outset require any drastic upset in the administration nor in the work of the University. Much useful work has been done to establish a pattern of control acceptable to the larger number of people.

"The University has joined the district protection group which has been organized by the local community, and Mr. Fong as our representative attends regular meetings. The University has provided money and persons for the training of a district police. Rice is being stored to take care of a possible period of disturbance during which the poor of the district may not be able to purchase rice on the street. Our Department of Public Health has operated a regular service for the benefit of the poor of the neighborhood, not waiting for them to come to a clinic, but going into the homes. A large amount of DDT has been used in preventive work, and vaccination, cholera injections and other preventive measures instituted. Our Agricultural and Rural Reconstruction Departments have offered their services to the farmers in the fighting of insect pests and smut. Much is being done to put the University into the life of the surrounding community and from what we can learn the farmers and the neighbors have a very satisfactory attitude towards the University.

"We have an internal University protection group which has considered emergency conditions and has provided ideas and suggestions to the House Committee of all the academic buildings and dormitories. The students are contacted through the Dormitory Principals in order that they may be intelligently active during any period of upset. A Welfare Committee has been set up, consisting of administrative staff, students and servants.

"From the experience of other cities that have been 'liberated' little disturbance of the normal life has been permitted, even in those areas where there has been fighting. There is a very general belief that there will be no fighting in Chengtu.

"Our telegram indicates that the University is proceeding normally as far as staff and students are concerned. Students are working hard both at their studies and at their

studies and at their play. This is the time in the term when they are putting on their Association and extra-curricular class meetings. On a guess I would say that on Saturday evening last a thousand students were attending some kind of class or college entertainment on the campus. Those of us who must attend many of these functions are kept busy going from one to another. The elections for the University Student Association take place this week. We shall be interested in the outcome of the elections. Last year the officers of the Association were largely National Government sympathisers and therefore were interested in keeping the students from upsets and agitations."

/s/ ASHLEY W. LINDSAY
Vice-Chancellor

CONFIDENTIAL

3 JANUARY 1950

THE LATEST WORD FROM WEST CHINA

The New York Times of December 26th reported the fall of Chengtu after heavy fighting outside the South Gate. In view of the location of West China Union University in the south suburbs, this item naturally causes us concern. The same day brought a cable, dated December 24th, asking for emergency aid for the University Hospital, which is caring for civilian and military casualties. While confirming the fact of military action in the vicinity, this cable is somewhat reassuring in its absence of reference to damage or danger to the University and its personnel.

As background for the events of the past few days, I am quoting from the most recent letters from President Fong and Dr. Lindsay. W. P. F.

November 7th

"People in the city are making plans 'secretly' to meet such a time of emergency in order to prevent looting, chaos and fire. We hope that if such a time comes it will be a peaceful turnover.

"People in this Province are now bitterly complaining against the heavy taxes imposed on them by the Government and the corruption involved. The recent action taken by the Government to reduce 25% on farm rent has done more harm to the people--especially the small landowners--than good because big land-owners refuse to follow this order and the small landowners, because of the small rent received, are trying to get the farms back. The tenants are afraid of losing their farms or because of the threat of landlords are not at all willing to take this advantage because of the insecurity involved. On the other hand, the Government has put some other taxes on the farmers direct.

"It is too bad that this sort of thing should happen at the present critical time. This may help to speed up the coming of the Communist Army or create serious chaos in this Province before the Communist Army comes. We only hope and pray that such a time of chaos and looting will never come."

/s/ S. H. Fong

November 23rd

"A protection committee is functioning, and the whole of our campus area has been divided into six districts and slowly there is evolving a plan of action. Both students and staff have signed up for different duties such as meeting looters, relief, fire-fighting, Red Cross. Our local district which is called the experimental district has been making preparations for an emergency. In all probability we shall also be contributing rather largely to their plans. The district which is responsible for our main thoroughfare outside the campus is also making preparations which include the barricading of the street. It is proposed that barricades be erected through the city if found necessary. The Mayor is raising a force of a thousand men drawn from all of the districts composing the city. The city guards are expected to remain at their posts. The Communists have informed them that should they desert and allow looting they will be punished. Unofficially we understand that plans are in hand for one or more of the generals in this area to take over control of forces when the National commanders leave. It is always possible that some of these plans may go awry, but it is hoped that the turn-over will be a peaceful one. There are no plans for troops in this area to fight.

"The annual elections of the Student Association took place a week ago. Everything went off very quietly. It is believed that the Chairman of the Association is at least a sympathiser with the new regime, which may be a good thing for the University.

"Classwork continues without a break. Students are showing good spirit, paying strict attention to their studies. The staff show no signs of anxiety and are sticking to their teaching. We paid November and December salaries this past week in order to distribute our supply of silver and get it into the hands of the staff.

"The present administration will apparently carry on into the new regime. Ample opportunity has been given to accept the resignations of Mr. Fong and myself, so that responsibility might be taken over by those who could handle the situation more satisfactorily, but here we are. What will eventuate is in the lap of the Gods! We do not hear so much destructive criticism as we did six months ago. We hope that the change-over may be made without too much upset and disturbance."

/s/ Ashley W. Lindsay

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December 1st

"You will be wondering what we are doing to meet the emergency. Our Protection Committee of which I gave you a few details in my last letter has become a very active, and is mapping out plans for the protection of the University. It is working in conjunction with the Experimental Division of which we are a part and with the No. 6 'Bao' in which we have part of our property on the street. We have been paying our share of the expenses for the erection of barricades and other preventive measures. Before we get finished we shall have spent a respectable sum of money, but if the result is a sense of security in the minds of our staff and students it is worth it.

"We have not been able to publicise the fact, but we have it from fairly reliable sources that during the turn-over protection will be given to the area by the groups that will be turning over. We expect that officials who have defended us in the past will be amongst those who will have troops protecting the area.

"In a trip in and out of the city yesterday I found that at all the important street junctions there were heavy and well-made barriers. These have been erected to discourage looters of any ilk from being able to pass from one area to another, and for the same reason that our staff and students wish to make preparations for local protection; prevention is considered to be cheaper than a chance of looting.

"There is no hysteria amongst our staff and students though there are many who are fearful, but as this is the end of the road we must take what comes. We are hopeful that we shall be here and able to carry on as usual, and will be writing of our experiences before long. I will also try to get a cable to you within a few days."

/s/ Ashley W. Lindsay

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December 17th

"We have just been informed that the Post Office is accepting air letters abroad via Formosa. I am therefore sending you a brief word today.

"Chengtu is still in Nationalist hands, i. e. Fu Lsung-lan's troops are in control of the city and the Commissioner of Finance is the acting Provincial Governor. The

Commissioner and his family are Christians who attend our University Sunday morning services.

"Up to date conditions in the University have been quiet and with very few exceptions we have not been bothered. Many houses on the street running through the University property, east to west, have been requisitioned by the military; off and on soldiers have occupied Goucher School, but have always been exemplary in their conduct.

"On Wednesday, December 14th, just after 4 a. m. we were awakened by the sound of gunfire, the beginning of a battle. Stray bullets fell over the campus area. We discovered in the morning that the cause of the battle--which lasted until daylight--was the taking over from Liu Wen-hwei's troops the Wu Ho Si temple area, about a mile and a half away from the campus, to the west. Liu has occupied that temple for a long period. This temple has been known as the inspection station for his opium trade. There have been many minor incidents in that area when unauthorized trucks attempted to sneak opium into the city. Fu Dso-lan's troops are under the control of General Sen. He was anxious to consolidate his position by forcing away local Szechwan generals who have troops in and around Chengtu. He was not at all sure that these troops would be true to the nationalist cause.

"Perhaps we know more about the Szechwan situation than you do because no authentic news is going to the American press at this time. Nevertheless we have no positive knowledge of actual conditions. We anticipate that there will be no material change in the situation for a time.

"As conditions became critical at the end of last week and the beginning of this, a large number of our students left the University, particularly the girls. We now have about one-third of the student body in residence. This week we have not been able to carry on regular classwork, but general lectures are being given and we hope next week to carry on a considerable amount of laboratory teaching.

"On December 8th we sent you a cable reading: THIS IS IT ALL POSSIBLE PREPARATIONS MADE COPE WITH INTERIM PERIOD. LARGE PART STUDENTS ATTENDING CLASSES. CHRISTMAS GREETINGS; and did not expect to be able to get anything more to you until conditions have settled down again.

"Because the Choir has lost a good many of its members we shall not be able to have 'The Messiah' sung this year, and our Christmas Services will have to take on a different character."

/s/ Ashley W. Lindsay

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December 19th

"For more than a week now the situation here has been very critical. Only a few classes have been going on in our University. The number of students remaining has been reduced to about four hundred. In the evening our teachers, students and servants are on duty by turns for three or more hours. Every important entrance is guarded by a mixed team together with the guards of the experimental 'Bao'. I was much touched when I went round the campus one cold, wet evening to see the teams standing in their assigned places, just as loyal as could be expected.

"As reported by Dr. Lindsay, last Wednesday gunfire started at about 3:30 a.m. a short distance from the University. The whole thing was over by about day-break, when we learned that it was the National Army trying to disband the soldiers of General Liu Wen-hwei, Governor of Sikang, who was reported to have turned over to the other side. Liu's houses in the city were all searched by the National troops, but Liu himself had escaped a few days earlier. For the time being the situation seems to have been

improving. Many shops are open again; today we have almost all our classes started again with a large attendance of students. We do not know how long this period of tension will last. Most of our students whose homes are away from Chengtu are now in financial difficulty. We have had this matter brought before our Council meeting, and the general decision was that we should do our best to help those who are in real financial need.

To live through such a time of uncertainty and disturbance is quite a new experience to many of us. Christmas will come on Saturday. We have just decided to stop carol singing that evening on account of being under martial law. Other activities in connection with the Great Festival may have to be curtailed. You can imagine what sort of a Christmas we may have on the campus, but in our small circles the message of Christmas will be remembered perhaps more vividly than ever before as the saving power of this suffering world.

"With best Christmas Greetings to you and all our West China friends."

/s/ S. H. Fong

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

15 APRIL 1950

LETTER DATED 7 MARCH 1950 FROM
PRESIDENT FONG, WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

I am sorry I have been silent for almost three weeks since I wrote you last. The reason is that during these weeks many things have been happening and we have been so busy with different meetings held by teachers and students to discuss what changes are required in the University administration and teaching. I wanted to wait until such discussions reached a certain stage when I could give you some definite report about them. However, I understand that Dr. Lindsay has written giving you some idea as to how things have been going in the University, so that you will have some understanding of our situation and how things have been developing during these fermentation days.

At the direction of the Military Government Representatives three Associations were organized: (1) for the students; (2) for the teachers; (3) for the servants. Great care was taken to ensure that progressives would be elected as officers of these associations. At the same time many meetings were held first by students of each year in each Department to examine the courses offered, their contents, teaching methods, University administration, and to suggest changes required. Later on the students and teachers met together to go over the suggested recommendations, then they were sent on to the College meetings for further consideration; after that they were passed on to the University Administration to be presented to the new University Council which, as reported to you before, consists of University Administrative Officers, Academic Deans, Department Heads, 5 representatives from the Student Association, 5 from the Teachers Association, one from the Servants Association. Altogether there were about three hundred recommendations from these meetings, covering almost every aspect of the University's work and life. At the suggestion of the Military Government Representatives, preparatory meetings consisting of two from the Teachers Association, two from the Students Association, one from the Servants Association, in addition to Deans and Administrative heads, met to go over all these recommendations first. This proved to be very helpful, to thrash out those which were not practical, which of lower importance and which required immediate action. We were able to do a lot of ground work of preparation in order to put all the recommendations in good shape for presentation to the new Council Meeting.

I shall now give you my brief comments on the Council and the recommendations passed by it.

Organization of the Council. You will remember we wrote last time about our "Enlarged Faculty Meeting". This is now called in English "University Council", in Chinese "Hsiao Wu Hui Ni". It is a large body consisting of about sixty people. The duties of the Council are similar to those of the General Faculty which we had in the old days, except for the opening statement that "this is the highest policy decision body (jui tseh) of all University affairs". It is still a debating point as to what the Chinese term "jui tseh" really means. Most members of the Council seem to think it has no reference to "the making of the policies" of the University; this belongs to the Board of Directors. This point needs to be clarified. There is also one new duty of the Council, namely that the appointment of the President by the Board of Directors should be approved by the Council meeting. You will notice in the minute passed by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors that the Directors would like to delete the whole sentence or

to change it to read thus: "Before the President is appointed by the Board of Directors consultation should be had with the University Council."

As to the method of voting in the Council meeting, the Directors were not in agreement with the one suggested by the Council, namely, if there is one unit voting against any matter brought up for consideration at the Council meeting no decision can be reached without reconsideration of the whole matters; if two units vote against it then decision on the matter should be delayed for further study. The Directors think this way of voting is not practical. It may prove difficult to secure agreement on some important issues, which need immediate action, but this is of course a question concerning the place of the minority in a large meeting like our Council. It all depends, of course, on the character and attitude of the members of the Council. If the opinion voiced by one unit or, indeed, by any one member, is based on facts and honesty, I see no reason why we should not allow more time to reconsider the matter involved.

By the way, I must explain that the membership of the Council is divided into nine units: Administration (1); Deans and Heads of Departments of four Faculties (4); Teachers Association (1); Students Association (1); Servants Association (1); Extension Projects (1).

You will notice that the question of western teachers joining with the Teachers' Association is not settled; the reason given by the Military Government Representatives was that this Association is part of the National Association of Teachers which, according to the Government regulations, has the power to elect members of the Municipal Council and the Local Government, so no western members would be qualified to become regular members of the Association. However, it is also the body to elect representatives to the University Council and to discuss problems relating to our University work. It would be too bad if all our western teachers were absent when election and discussions take place in meetings of the Association. Fortunately, some of our western teachers being Heads of Departments and Academic Deans are automatically members of the Council, so they have a chance to voice their opinions at the Council meeting.

The tuition fee has been reduced to 4 teo of rice for old and new students alike. As you will remember, last term the tuition fee was fixed at 1 tan of rice for new students and 9 teo for old students. At the preparatory meeting the fee was fixed 8 teo, but at the Council meeting the student representatives changed their attitude and voted for a lower fee, or no fee at all. It was with much arguing and persuasion that we were able to arrive at the present figure. To be frank, it is a new experience for teachers and students alike to join together in the meeting of the Council to discuss affairs of the University. The students naturally were inexperienced and they sometimes demanded unreasonable things from the University, while teachers were afraid to say anything at all to offend the students in the presence of the Military Government Representatives. We hope that this sort of situation will not be repeated and the students will know that there is much for them to learn from the administrative side. I must say that when the Military Government authorities in the city learned later of our reduced fee, they also thought it was too low, but it was too late to make any change. The middle schools in the city are charging a fee amounting to 1 tan of rice.

As the Office of Student Guidance was abolished, the Deanships of Men and Women have also been abolished.

With some Departments the question of discontinuing certain teachers is quite a serious one, e.g. in the Chinese Department three senior teachers were opposed by the students as being oldfashioned, and in the Maths-Physics Department four teachers were opposed as lacking suitable qualifications and teaching ability, yet these teachers all hold our year contract.

The above is just a brief picture of how the whole reorganisation work was carried on. It was studied right from the bottom and every aspect of the University has been subjected to severe criticism by the students, servants and staff. To be sure, there are shortcomings both in the discussions and decisions of the University Council meeting, but in many ways they certainly indicate a healthy growth. Now we have passed the initial stage of change. As we look back on these days of uncertainty and anxiety, we begin to feel that we are now really in the opening of a new age, with new hope and new courage for a bright future.

Registration for the Spring Term begins today; classes open on Friday, March 10th. Students in general are financially in a desperate condition. Different kinds of work have been planned for the needy ones, such as farming, hair-cutting, making Chinese bean curd and sauce, and so on. Some are taking over the servants' work, even such work is hard to find as the Servants Association is strongly protesting giving such work to the students.

The prices of commodities here are soaring. Some think that the cost of living in Chengtu is the highest in China at the present moment. There are ever so many poor people in the country, as well as on the street in the city. The problem of poverty has never been so acute as it is now. Communications between the surrounding hsien and Chengtu are often interrupted by bandits. It may take some time to have the condition here really settled.

We hope that our Spring Term will be a successful one and that the reorganisation work started last term will prove to be a great help in making all groups in the University work together as one big family.

P.S. The Military Government Representatives have all left the University campus now. They seem to be very pleased with our work of reorganisation. Both Mr. Wen and Mr. Cheng have been very friendly and cordial to us. It is largely due to their help that we were able to pass through this difficult initial period of reorganisation peacefully and to a large extent successfully.

CONFIDENTIAL

2 June 1950

EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER DATED 19 APRIL FROM
DR. LINDSAY, WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

"In order that you may be advised of future possibilities, in this letter I will tell you what I know of a report which has come to us of a meeting held in Chungking at the end of last month and of special information secured after that Conference by one of our doctors who attended it.

"Neither our College of Medicine and Dentistry nor the University was specifically represented at this Conference, but three of our graduates were delegates. The reason given for our school not having representation was the fact that we are a private institution and therefore not under the direct control of the Government.

"The information gained through the discussions and information handed out is to the effect that medical education and practice are to undergo very drastic reorganisation and that medical education will no longer be under the Ministry of Education. The main emphasis in education and practice will be on prevention and health. In the country as a whole there will be five University medical educational centres, but many centres of College grade. The University centre is one in which all phases of education are taken care of. Institutions of College grade will be those specialising in one, or two, or three phases of education. The area in which we live is called the South-West Area, including the four provinces of Szechwan, Sikang, Yunnan and Kweichow.

"As mentioned previously, one of the reasons given for our not being invited to the Conference was that we are a private institution, and this same reason may hold good for our future share in the organisation. As a private institution we are supposed to be dominated by western money, western personnel and to have peculiar objectives.

"If our College of Medical Sciences comes into the scheme the centre for the South-West Area will be Chengtu; if not, possibly Chungking will be chosen. The questions we shall have to face are:

- "1. As a Christian medical institution can we cooperate intimately with the Government?
- "2. If we do not, is there hope of any future place in medical education?
- "3. Will western money be forthcoming when it is understood that no Christian propaganda will be permitted in the classroom or directly with patients, and that western staff will be eliminated from all positions of administration?
- "4. How can part of the University which would be under the Ministry of Education, i.e. Arts and Science, cooperate with the part which would be under the Ministry of Health?

"Our Chinese colleagues in the College are, of course, very anxious that we express our willingness to enter into the Government scheme.

"It is known that all medical service practitioners will be required to join the Government services. Private practice will perhaps be a thing of the past. This being so, our group naturally would like to have our institution assume a place of leadership and maintain as high a quality of education as will be permitted. To my best knowledge all of the western members of the College feel that it is a foregone conclusion that we must cooperate with the Government. As to how and to what extent cooperation can be effected is something that will have to be considered carefully. We understand that a high ranking officer responsible for the plan will be in Chengtu some time this month, and it will be necessary for us to present some kind of a proposition to him. Should it be thought unwise to join, many feel that it would not be long before our College would be forced to close, perhaps because of lack of students, or maybe lack of teachers. At best the College would be a very small and unimportant project.

"With such a proposition before us the University is also faced with the need to make drastic retrenchment. Many believe that this year's Planning Committee will be able to carry the institution in any retrenchment programme they may present. It is, of course, believed that the retrenchment can only be real if we reduce Departments, and because of the peculiar temper of the times it may be that both students and teachers who have demanded that their departments be retained can be persuaded to accept the will of the group. The Committee has had several meetings and at present is considering the closing of Departments of Economics, Rural Reconstruction, Education, Music in the College of Arts; Agronomy and Home Economics in the College of Science; and the moving of the Department of Pharmacy to the College of Medical Sciences. I give you this information not as an accomplished fact but to indicate the trend and hopes of the Committee.

"The Training Week which has just passed has given an opportunity for the Committee to present some of the reasons for retrenchment before the whole group of staff and students. This was done with the hope of convincing as many people as possible of the need to reduce numbers of staff which mount so rapidly and which cannot be so easily reduced.

"In my last letter I failed to comment on the item in the Board of Directors Minutes which states that 'A Westerner cannot hold the title of Honorary President.' This was included because the Government informed the Board that Dr. Beech could not be an Honorary President. The temporary University General Faculty had decided that the positions of Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors should be done away with. In the case of Dr. Beech, they suggested the title of 'Honorary President': in the case of the Vice-Chancellors they decided to put them under a new office: 'Chung Ren Beh Shu Chang' and 'Wai Ren Beh Shu Chang'; in English, 'Chinese and Western Executive Secretaries'. The Executive Secretaries' duties are to assist the President. To assure that they do not usurp any of his powers it is required that all official documents prepared by them shall become legal only when signed by the President.

"Before liberation our discontents planned that the Western Vice-Chancellor should be eliminated; it was therefore a surprise to many when the Government inspectors vetoed the idea and ruled that the office be retained. I personally was pleased when one of the inspectors took occasion to visit me to inform me that he had not agreed

West China

- 3 -

with those who wished to put me out of office.

"I have done everything possible to make clear the fact that the President is not dependent upon the westerner for his position, nor is he controlled from the UBCCC, except in so far as it is necessary for him to carry out the Christian purposes and high standards of the University. In order to sustain this position I have done my best to hold my peace in many of the committees of which I am a member; for this I am blamed as well as complimented.

"Most of our Western staff try to take a detached and objective position in committees.

"I believe that Mr. Fong has informed you that Earl Willmott has accepted the position of University Registrar on the resignation of Dr. Lan T'ien-ho. Dr. Lan, who held the position during Dr. Li Hen's absence abroad, was forced to resign in the early days of liberation. Earl Willmott was invited to act because we had no person on the staff with an aptitude or ability in office business. When temporarily serving as Bursar during the absence of William Small, Earl Willmott made a good impression through his alert business ability. His progressive political attitude is also well received by the students. He therefore fits well into the temper of the present regime."

To (A) Counselors - Oct 13, 1950

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

28 SEPTEMBER 1950

A LETTER, DATED 1 SEPT., FROM PRESIDENT FONG
WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

(The following letter is such a clear statement of reactions which are shared, to greater or less degree, by Chinese in other institutions that it is being sent to all board members and counselors. WPF)

Thank you very much for your letters of July 26th and August 8th. As the latter has only just come to hand and it is already the last day of August, I am replying right away, hoping that my letter may reach you in good time. On account of the uncertainty of the mail between Chengtu and Hongkong, it may be delayed en route.

It is needless for me to say how much we all appreciate the kind help and prayer which many of our friends in Britain and America have given us during these difficult days. We can assure you that we shall do our very best to live up to the high standard which we have been able to build up, and to be true to the Christian cause which you and the other friends have entrusted to us.

The Christian Universities and Colleges in China have in the past made notable contributions towards the training of leaders and the promotion of scientific studies for the upbuilding of the New China. No doubt they will continue to render such service in the future for the Christian Churches and for the good of the Chinese people as a whole. People still admire the efficiency of administration, high standard of teaching, up-to-date equipment, good care of student activities of the Christian schools, such as is not generally found in Government schools.

The new Government policy concerning Private Schools has definitely given them an important place in the whole system of education in China. The Government has promised to give them positive help, time for change and reorganisation, financial aid for special work. At the Conference of Higher Education held in Peking, a special meeting was arranged for representatives from Christian Universities to meet with the Ministers of Education of the Central Government. Again, assurance was given that the Government will still depend on the Christian Universities for their contribution towards the reconstruction work of the nation. Again they make it quite clear that the Government recognised the contribution made by the Christian Universities in the past and hope that they will continue them. They hope that they will follow the general Constitution of the Chinese nation (Kung Tung Kang Li) and the regulations and policy as issued by the Government.

It was reported that in Peking some high officials of the Central Government were even prepared to make the course on Social Evolution not a required course in Christian schools, in order not to create conflict with certain elements of the Christian teaching. As to the missionary staff in the Christian Universities, the Government authorities made it quite clear that they would welcome them, especially those with professional qualifications, provided they are sympathetic with the Government's policy. Of course the claim for special privileges and the position of superiority as granted by the old political treaties are now gone. It is a good thing for the Christian Church to get rid of such political complications which have been most unfortunately quoted as an example that the Church has been used as a tool for im-

perialistic design.

The singular achievement made by the Christian Universities and Colleges in China within a comparatively short period is entirely due to the team work of the Christian missionaries and their Chinese colleagues. Such Universities and colleges may be regarded as the best example of Christian internationalism and the most vital link of culture between the East and the West ever established in the East. To continue such work the presence of missionary staff in Christian Universities and Colleges is not only essential but inevitable. The Government has already given their assurance that missionary help would be welcome; from the point of view of the Chinese Church such a welcome to missionaries to stay on has been strongly voiced in many quarters; in fact, some feel so strongly about the matter that they feel that if the missionaries would like to show their true intention of helping the people of China as international ambassadors and disciples of Jesus Christ, this is the time to show their spirit of love and sacrifice, not to leave their Chinese colleagues alone to face the crisis.

The above is just a blunt summary of the reaction of the Chinese members of our University, both Christians and non-Christians, to the question as to whether the missionary staff should stay on here or not. If I had more time I might go into the matter more thoroughly and carefully; but I hope I have given you some general idea about it.

Indeed, these are not easy days and we shall all - Chinese and Westerners - depend more and more on the spiritual guidance from our Lord, Jesus Christ, to meet challenges and perplexities which come up almost every day unexpectedly. As we are sure of His Presence among us, we are sure of His help. "Go and make disciples of all nations.... And I will be with you all the time."

CONFIDENTIAL

3 JANUARY 1950

THE LATEST WORD FROM WEST CHINA

The New York Times of December 26th reported the fall of Chengtu after heavy fighting outside the South Gate. In view of the location of West China Union University in the south suburbs, this item naturally causes us concern. The same day brought a cable, dated December 24th, asking for emergency aid for the University Hospital, which is caring for civilian and military casualties. While confirming the fact of military action in the vicinity, this cable is somewhat reassuring in its absence of reference to damage or danger to the University and its personnel.

As background for the events of the past few days, I am quoting from the most recent letters from President Fong and Dr. Lindsay. W. P. F.

November 7th

"People in the city are making plans 'secretly' to meet such a time of emergency in order to prevent looting, chaos and fire. We hope that if such a time comes it will be a peaceful turnover.

"People in this Province are now bitterly complaining against the heavy taxes imposed on them by the Government and the corruption involved. The recent action taken by the Government to reduce 25% on farm rent has done more harm to the people--especially the small landowners--than good because big land-owners refuse to follow this order and the small landowners, because of the small rent received, are trying to get the farms back. The tenants are afraid of losing their farms or because of the threat of landlords are not at all willing to take this advantage because of the insecurity involved. On the other hand, the Government has put some other taxes on the farmers direct.

"It is too bad that this sort of thing should happen at the present critical time. This may help to speed up the coming of the Communist Army or create serious chaos in this Province before the Communist Army comes. We only hope and pray that such a time of chaos and looting will never come."

/s/ S. H. Fong

November 23rd

"A protection committee is functioning, and the whole of our campus area has been divided into six districts and slowly there is evolving a plan of action. Both students and staff have signed up for different duties such as meeting looters, relief, fire-fighting, Red Cross. Our local district which is called the experimental district has been making preparations for an emergency. In all probability we shall also be contributing rather largely to their plans. The district which is responsible for our main thoroughfare outside the campus is also making preparations which include the barricading of the street. It is proposed that barricades be erected through the city if found necessary. The Mayor is raising a force of a thousand men drawn from all of the districts composing the city. The city guards are expected to remain at their posts. The Communists have informed them that should they desert and allow looting they will be punished. Unofficially we understand that plans are in hand for one or more of the generals in this area to take over control of forces when the National commanders leave. It is always possible that some of these plans may go awry, but it is hoped that the turn-over will be a peaceful one. There are no plans for troops in this area to fight.

"The annual elections of the Student Association took place a week ago. Everything went off very quietly. It is believed that the Chairman of the Association is at least a sympathiser with the new regime, which may be a good thing for the University.

"Classwork continues without a break. Students are showing good spirit, paying strict attention to their studies. The staff show no signs of anxiety and are sticking to their teaching. We paid November and December salaries this past week in order to distribute our supply of silver and get it into the hands of the staff.

"The present administration will apparently carry on into the new regime. Ample opportunity has been given to accept the resignations of Mr. Fong and myself, so that responsibility might be taken over by those who could handle the situation more satisfactorily, but here we are. What will eventuate is in the lap of the Gods! We do not hear so much destructive criticism as we did six months ago. We hope that the change-over may be made without too much upset and disturbance."

/s/ Ashley W. Lindsay

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December 1st

"You will be wondering what we are doing to meet the emergency. Our Protection Committee of which I gave you a few details in my last letter has become a very active, and is mapping out plans for the protection of the University. It is working in conjunction with the Experimental Division of which we are a part and with the No. 6 'Bao' in which we have part of our property on the street. We have been paying our share of the expenses for the erection of barricades and other preventive measures. Before we get finished we shall have spent a respectable sum of money, but if the result is a sense of security in the minds of our staff and students it is worth it.

"We have not been able to publicise the fact, but we have it from fairly reliable sources that during the turn-over protection will be given to the area by the groups that will be turning over. We expect that officials who have defended us in the past will be amongst those who will have troops protecting the area.

"In a trip in and out of the city yesterday I found that at all the important street junctions there were heavy and well-made barriers. These have been erected to discourage looters of any ilk from being able to pass from one area to another, and for the same reason that our staff and students wish to make preparations for local protection; prevention is considered to be cheaper than a chance of looting.

"There is no hysteria amongst our staff and students though there are many who are fearful, but as this is the end of the road we must take what comes. We are hopeful that we shall be here and able to carry on as usual, and will be writing of our experiences before long. I will also try to get a cable to you within a few days."

/s/ Ashley W. Lindsay

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December 17th

"We have just been informed that the Post Office is accepting air letters abroad via Formosa. I am therefore sending you a brief word today.

"Chengtu is still in Nationalist hands, i. e. Fu Dsung-lan's troops are in control of the city and the Commissioner of Finance is the acting Provincial Governor. The

Commissioner and his family are Christians who attend our University Sunday morning services.

"Up to date conditions in the University have been quiet and with very few exceptions we have not been bothered. Many houses on the street running through the University property, east to west, have been requisitioned by the military; off and on soldiers have occupied Goucher School, but have always been exemplary in their conduct.

"On Wednesday, December 14th, just after 4 a. m. we were awakened by the sound of gunfire, the beginning of a battle. Stray bullets fell over the campus area. We discovered in the morning that the cause of the battle--which lasted until daylight--was the taking over from Liu Wen-hwei's troops the Wu Ho Si temple area, about a mile and a half away from the campus, to the west. Liu has occupied that temple for a long period. This temple has been known as the inspection station for his opium trade. There have been many minor incidents in that area when unauthorized trucks attempted to sneak opium into the city. Fu Dso-lan's troops are under the control of General Sen. He was anxious to consolidate his position by forcing away local Szechwan generals who have troops in and around Chengtu. He was not at all sure that these troops would be true to the nationalist cause.

"Perhaps we know more about the Szechwan situation than you do because no authentic news is going to the American press at this time. Nevertheless we have no positive knowledge of actual conditions. We anticipate that there will be no material change in the situation for a time.

"As conditions became critical at the end of last week and the beginning of this, a large number of our students left the University, particularly the girls. We now have about one-third of the student body in residence. This week we have not been able to carry on regular classwork, but general lectures are being given and we hope next week to carry on a considerable amount of laboratory teaching.

"On December 8th we sent you a cable reading: THIS IS IT ALL POSSIBLE PREPARATIONS MADE COPE WITH INTERIM PERIOD. LARGE PART STUDENTS ATTENDING CLASSES. CHRISTMAS GREETINGS; and did not expect to be able to get anything more to you until conditions have settled down again.

"Because the Choir has lost a good many of its members we shall not be able to have 'The Messiah' sung this year, and our Christmas Services will have to take on a different character."

/s/ Ashley W. Lindsay

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December 19th

"For more than a week now the situation here has been very critical. Only a few classes have been going on in our University. The number of students remaining has been reduced to about four hundred. In the evening our teachers, students and servants are on duty by turns for three or more hours. Every important entrance is guarded by a mixed team together with the guards of the experimental 'Bao'. I was much touched when I went round the campus one cold, wet evening to see the teams standing in their assigned places, just as loyal as could be expected.

"As reported by Dr. Lindsay, last Wednesday gunfire started at about 3:30 a.m. a short distance from the University. The whole thing was over by about day-break, when we learned that it was the National Army trying to disband the soldiers of General Liu Wen-hwei, Governor of Sikang, who was reported to have turned over to the other side. Liu's houses in the city were all searched by the National troops, but Liu himself had escaped a few days earlier. For the time being the situation seems to have been

improving. Many shops are open again; today we have almost all our classes started again with a large attendance of students. We do not know how long this period of tension will last. Most of our students whose homes are away from Chengtu are now in financial difficulty. We have had this matter brought before our Council meeting, and the general decision was that we should do our best to help those who are in real financial need.

to live through such a time of uncertainty and disturbance is quite a new experience to many of us. Christmas will come on Saturday. We have just decided to stop carol singing that evening on account of being under martial law. Other activities in connection with the Great Festival may have to be curtailed. You can imagine what sort of a Christmas we may have on the campus, but in our small circles the message of Christmas will be remembered perhaps more vividly than ever before as the saving power of this suffering world.

"With best Christmas Greetings to you and all our West China friends."

/s/ S. H. Fong