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Boxer Indemnity

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January 22, 1923

My dear Dr. Stuart:

You may be interested in the enclosed copy of a clipping  
from the London Times of December 21, 1922, giving Sir William  
Brunyate's views on the Boxer indemnity and education.

Yours sincerely,

*Roger S. Greene*  
Director

Dr. Leighton Stuart,  
Peking University,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

RSG:ERH

E: Article from London Times

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The London Times, Thursday

December 21, 1922, p.9

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Boxer indemnity and Education

Sir W. Brunyate's Views

Hong-kong, Dec. 19 - Sir William Brunyate, vice-chancellor of the Hong-kong University, speaking with reference to the possibility of the surrender of the Boxer indemnity for educational and other purposes, said that the disposal of any money available for educational purposes raised most difficult problems, and he would view with grave concern any policy of sending young Chinese in wholesale fashion to be educated abroad.

There was a growing feeling along the coast that this education abroad unfitted the average youth for Chinese life, and fitted him for nothing else. He assumed that in any scheme full advantage would be taken of the facilities offered by the Hong-kong University. The atmosphere was a more natural one for the young Chinese. For the present, however, it would be unwise to attempt to provide full opportunities for post-graduate work, and he would unreservedly welcome the provision of facilities for sending selected graduates to Great Britain for further study.

Sir William Brunyate pointed out that one great difficulty which confronted them, and which would occur under any scheme, was that the number of Chinese with a sufficient knowledge of English to profit by the instruction given in that language was limited. That meant the problem of secondary education. The mission schools required all the financial assistance they could get, but the serious question was that of the machinery through which it could be provided.

One had to be careful not unduly to intrude in the proper sphere of the Chinese Government authorities, who would probably prove increasingly sensitive of any such intrusion. The university did not claim any monopoly. They had, in fact, at a meeting of the Associated British Chambers of Commerce last year at Shanghai, promised to assist in every way the establishment of university colleges by a grant and temporary affiliation, wherever that course would be useful.

(Signed) Reuter

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COPY

for Dr. Stuart

American Consulate General  
Shanghai, China.  
February 11, 1923.

Dear Dr. Hume,

Your telegram of the 24th January was handed to me just after the boat left the dock at Seattle. I am forwarding it by mail to Gage at Changsha.

I am very sorry that I was not in Washington when you came down. I would have liked to have talked over the indemnity business with you all. I have felt all along that it would be bad policy to make the return of the indemnity money conditional. Either the money is the property of the United States or it is not. If it is the property of the United States and it is desirable that it be returned or given to China as an Act of Grace the United States Government is of course acting within its rights if it chooses the time when it will make the gift, but I dislike the idea of giving the money to China to support institutions that we are not ourselves capable or willing to support. If the money is not the property of the United States then it should be given back with as little delay as possible, and the less said about the way the Chinese shall use their own property the better.

Your suggestion of the establishment of a Commission of Chinese, Americans and British to advise with the Chinese Government as to the distribution of returned funds is an interesting one. In the establishment of such a commission, however, would one not be running the risk of setting up a rather dangerously powerful machine which, while intended to serve as a kind of governor upon the great machine of the Chinese Government, because of its power, may become the football of political intrigue, not only in domestic Chinese politics but also in the competition of the nations? I want to give the subject a little more thought before I commit myself to it.

Very sincerely yours,

Nelson Trusley Johnson

I look forward with interest to my forthcoming visit at Changsha. Dr. McLean is on Board.

0 122

BOXER INDEMNITY

Resolution passed by Associated British Chambers of Commerce

February 23rd, 1923.

"That this Conference welcomes the announcement recently made of the intention of His Majesty's Government to devote the British share in the outstanding portion of the Boxer indemnity to purposes mutually beneficial to Great Britain and China.

That in the opinion of this Conference the purposes to which those funds can most usefully be applied in accordance with the above decision are the education of Chinese on British lines and the support of British medical work educational and clinical in China.

"That, as regards the application of the funds to be devoted to educational work, this Conference adheres generally to the view expressed in the report adopted by the last Conference of Chambers (as amplified by the memorandum received by the Conference from the invited educationalists), under which first place was given to the support of secondary schools in China under British control, with subsidiary provision for the development of feeder primary schools and with as ample provision as possible for scholarships from the feeder primary schools to the secondary schools, from the latter to the University of Hongkong, and in appropriate cases (more especially for post-graduate work-) to Universities in Great Britain.

"That, in view of altered conditions, this Conference is of opinion

- (a) that public monies, upon the scale contemplated, ought not to be devoted to any British school which is not, or is not capable of becoming, a really efficient school; and
- (b) that while grants both of a capital and of a recurring nature might properly be made, as a provisional measure, with a view to bringing a school up to the required standard, the ultimate object should be the creation of autonomous educational foundations, with adequate endowments, due regard being had to the purposes for which the school was originally founded.

"That this Conference would be glad to see the University of Hongkong placed in a position financially to meet the obligations likely to be placed upon it.

"That this Conference is satisfied that much of the work done by British agencies in "Union" institutions (under which heading there is included practically the whole of British medical educational work in China proper) is upon definitely British lines and is an almost necessary complement to the work done in British secondary schools, for both which reasons it is deserving of

financial support under the proposed scheme.

"That this Conference would approve the giving of financial support to technical education in China on British lines, or the provision of scholarships tenable in England for the study of special processes in cases in which the provision of facilities on the spot would be impossible or would involve unreasonable expense.

"That this Conference regards the provision of facilities for the education of Chinese girls and women as an essential complement to the education of Chinese youths on Western lines.

"That, finally, this Conference would welcome the creation of machinery in China to aid in the distribution of the monies available, and regards it as essential that such machinery should make provision for the adequate representation of Chinese opinion."

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Copy for  
Dr. Stuart

THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL  
of China

February 24, 1923.

Mr. Vreeland,  
5 Whitehall,  
New Haven, Conn.

My dear Mr. Vreeland:

Day before yesterday I received a cablegram forwarded to me from Hankow which I decoded it reads as follows:

"Received your message Fully appreciate it We are prepared to consider with you questions relating to international cooperation and higher education It will be difficult for Hume to leave until after April 1st of this year Let us know the result of the meeting to be held February 21st by telegraph as soon as possible Is Hume's presence essential immediately What is your advice or recommendation."

I had that same day received by mail from Dr. Warnshuis and Mr. Lobenstine further information showing why Dr. Warnshuis' cable of the latter part of January was sent, and giving a considerable amount of most important and interesting information concerning the possible plans for the administration of the Boxer indemnity from Great Britain and the United States. All this information, including your cablegram, I transmitted at once to Mr. Sparham, Dr. Harold Balme, Rev. Arthur Bonsey, head of Griffith John College, Wuchang, and Rev. H. S. Dixon, head of Wesley College, Wuchang, all of whom were sitting with the British Chambers of Commerce at their special invitation. The meeting of the Associated British Chambers of Commerce have been of an exceedingly encouraging nature, especially as regards their treatment of the questions involved in the administration of the British share of the Boxer indemnity. The resolutions on this subject which were adopted by the Chambers have been published in full in today's Shanghai papers and were ordered by the Chambers to be sent broadcast as news through Reuter's agency last night. In case you have not seen these resolutions, I enclose a copy herewith. All of them are interesting, but especially that part which deals with British support of "union" institutions and the creation of machinery in China to aid in the distribution of the moneys available having "adequate representation of Chinese opinion".

This morning Sparham, Bonsey, and Dixon met me here to consider what should be said in reply to your cable, and we have sent you a cable of which the enclosed is a confirmative copy. Let me comment on the three main portions of the cable. The first part concerning the suggestions for international administration of Boxer funds refers to the letters from Warnshuis and Lobenstine. I assume that you and Dr. Hume are fully acquainted with these. It is barely possible that if we had had these suggestions a little earlier, the Chambers of Commerce might have taken action even more favorable than that which they have actually taken. On the other hand, Sparham, Bonsey and Dixon agree in the opinion that the action actually taken was so far in advance of anything we had deemed at all possible even a few days ago, that it might have been a mistake to urge anything further. In any case it is a great satisfaction to them, and I believe may well be to us all, that the conference of Associated British Chambers of Commerce should have taken such sympathetic action quite independently of any suggestion that there would be indemnity funds from other nations in the administration of which such a sympathetic attitude towards the securing of an adequate representation of Chinese opinion, and possibly even wider international cooperation, would be advantageous.

The second part of the cable is intended to convey the news which we consider most important as affecting the Central China University plans. It gives hope that there will not only be no opposition which at one time was very much in evidence among the members of the British Chambers of Commerce, but that there may even be hearty support among them for proposals which would give a considerable amount of financial support from the British Boxer indemnity funds to the British element in the Central China University. I suppose this means primarily Wesley College and Griffith John College, but it presumably applies also to the British share in the central departments of the Central China University in which all of the several cooperating elements would share. It should be noted that the resolution does not specifically mention either existing union institutions, such as Shantung University, by name or union institutions now only projected, but it should also be noted that there was a long debate over the proposal to state in the resolution that its provisions applied solely to "existing union institutions" and that this proposal was turned down by an overwhelming majority. The door is thus left wide open for the proposal that the Central China University should share in the funds of the British Boxer indemnity.

I ought to note in this connection also that which is common knowledge among those who are acquainted with the situation at all from the inside, - namely, that the attitude of the commercial interests is very much less favorable as a rule to plans of British-American cooperation than is the attitude of the official and diplomatic

representatives of the British Government, and it should still further be noted that while commercial interests and the British Government will doubtless be the main determining factors in the administration of the British share of the Boxer indemnity, the missionary element has already been given a most sympathetic hearing and we have every reason to expect that if the several units in that element can come to a thorough understanding of one another they may exert a decisive influence on some of the most important questions involved.

The third point in the cable referring to Dr. Hume is intended to indicate the united opinion of us four that Dr. Hume's returning in April, according to the intimation contained in your cable, would to us be satisfactory. That is rather a cold way to put it, but having no representative of Yale in China here with us, we thought it best to put it that way. What we have in mind is that Dr. Hume's coming this spring will be exceedingly important as affording to the Central China University plan the kind of whole-time service which at the present it is almost impossible for anybody else to give. We hope that Dr. Hume will come as soon as possible and we have in mind his services to the C.C.U. mainly in co-ordinating information and securing sympathetic cooperation between a number of elements of which the following are immediately in our minds:

1. The Provisional Council of the C.C.U. as now constituted, familiarizing himself with all that has been done up to the present in that body and helping it to take such further steps as the rapidly developing situation calls for.

2. The responsible leaders in the several institutions whose cooperation in the C.C.U. is immediately sought, especially of course Griffith John, Wesley, Boone, and Lakeside, as well as Yale.

3. The faculty of Yale in China, especially those who have been unfavorable in their general attitude towards the C.C.U. plan. I think his influence with the Chinese members of the staff, especially with Dr. Yen, will be of decisive importance, and in any case he could bring directly from the Trustees, as well as from other quarters, new information in a personal way which might prove the turning point in the endeavor to secure the unanimity of the faculty in support of the C.C.U. project.

4. The American commercial and diplomatic representatives in China. This is very important in view of the possible relation of the American share of the Boxer indemnity funds to our C.C.U. plans.

5. The British diplomatic and commercial interests. It would probably be unwise to take any steps

in approaching them even in purely personal ways without most careful and circumspect consideration of the many prejudices which an American invariably arouses when considering such subjects with a Britisher. At the same time if due circumspection were observed it is not unreasonable to hope that Dr. Hume might import into the situation new elements of information and of sentiment which would help greatly to bring about thorough mutual understanding and ultimately whole-hearted cooperation between not only the British and American missionary forces but also the British and American commercial and diplomatic agencies whose support for the C.C.U. is so much to be desired.

If Dr. Hume can do something along these several lines, which we all feel sure that he can, we should then be in a position to take still further steps, possibly requesting the Yale Trustees still further to release him for this personal service in securing the cooperation of those to whom we look for support in England as well as in America.

As the four of us talked over the question of Hume's coming we felt that it would be a great assistance to the C.C.U. if he can come with a definite understanding that the Trustees would expect him to do anything he could, either himself alone or in consultation or cooperation with the governing board of Yale in China to negotiate with those who might be in a position to purchase Yale property in Changsha so as to release Yale for its part in the C.C.U. I do not mean of course that he should have any kind of authority to complete any transaction but that he would be expected to negotiate or that other representatives of Yale here in China would be given power to negotiate on this subject, - subject of course to ratification by the Trustees in America.

The immediate reason for mentioning this is that there are some fairly definite possibilities already in view. For example, the Union Theological School, which has now for some time been housed in the buildings of the Wesleyan Mission in Changsha, is proposing to build and in the near future expects to have at least five residences and other buildings for its work.

The Church of Sweden Mission, also which is at present located at Yiyang and which is serving the Lutheran interests in a fairly wide way, is also proposing soon to build on a fairly extensive scale. Doubtless other opportunities would also demand attention, and these are of course all in addition to the possibilities of using the most of the present Yale mission property in Changsha Union Middle School.

Vreeland - 5

In this connection I ought to mention what you will hear about more formally a little later, - namely, that it has been definitely proposed, and I think it is likely soon to be carried at least a few steps further, that the responsibility of the Yale Mission property in Changsha -- which we understand is valued at about \$150,000 G. -- be accepted as part of the responsibility of the proposed Central China University. This, it is thought, would be both an expression of bona fides on the part of us all and also might facilitate the more speedy arrangement such as would release Yale to take its full share in the C.C.U.

I hope you will pardon me for writing at such great length. I didn't see how to condense, and it is important to get this off by the Empress mail which leaves this afternoon. I hope it may reach you within three weeks.

Believe me, with warmest regards,

Most sincerely yours,

Logan H. Roots.

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*Confidential*

March 10, 1923

Notes of conversation with Sir John Jordan regarding Chinese Indemnity and the Opium Traffic. Sir John Jordan was present at the meeting of the Board of the Shantung Christian University. The following notes contain information obtained in the discussions of the Committee, and also in a private conversation which I had with Sir John, at his invitation, after the meeting adjourned.

#### CHINESE INDEMNITY

Sir John read to the Committee a resolution adopted on February 25 by the Associated British Chambers of Commerce in China, which recommends that the Boxer Indemnity should be used in aid of secondary schools under British control, and in support of the University of Hong Kong. There is no direct statement on the subject, but it would appear that no other university in China is contemplated by the resolution. Support of medical education is recommended and the work done by British agencies in union institutions is recognized as being along British lines and therefore worthy of support. Special reference is also made to the necessity of supporting schools for girls, and if sufficient funds are available elementary education may also be strengthened. Special emphasis is laid upon the necessity of providing scholarships for Chinese students in British universities. A request is made of the Government to consider carefully the organization that will be needed to administer these funds.

Sir John in private conversation indicated that the British Government would probably want to go slow in developing its plans. When the decision to release the indemnity was made, the Government greatly feared adverse criticism in the House of Commons. To its

surprise no criticism has been made, and it seems now that there is no opposition to the proposal. However, it seems advisable to let the plan simmer for a while lest opposition be aroused. The procedure will probably be the appointment first of a committee in London who will advise the Government how to proceed. This committee may then advise the appointment of a commission to proceed to China to determine the use of the funds. Sir John welcomed the suggestion of a resolution to be presented by the Conference of British Missionary Societies urging the Government to appoint a commission to go to China on this subject. He personally also favored the suggestion of a permanent joint commission for the administration of these funds. He could see no other way of deciding between the multitudinous appeals which are already coming in for grants from the fund.

In our conversation we also discussed the question of whether these indemnity funds were punitive. It was his impression that the British share had been restricted entirely to the re-payment of actual British losses. The question can be decided by discovering whether the decision of the amount of British losses was accomplished by the judicial authorities who had this matter in charge before the signing of the treaty or afterward. He agreed that all other shares of the indemnity were punitive indemnities and British would be the only exception, if it is an exception.

#### OPIUM.

Sir John showed his abiding interest in the opium problem and introduced this into our conversation. The notes of this are in a separate memorandum.

March 16, 1923

BOXER INDEMNITY

(Notes of conversation with Mr. Chao Hsin-Chu)

This talk with Mr. Chu came at an opportune time, for he told me of a more or less private meeting to be held the same evening under the auspices of some national women's league, which Mr. Bertrand Russell, several members of Parliament, and other important people had agreed to attend, to discuss the use of the Boxer Indemnity. Mr. Chu invited me to go with him to this meeting, but I declined on the ground that the presence of an uninvited American might be misunderstood and regarded as an intrusion.

Mr. Chu said that so far as he could learn, the British Government had not reached any decision regarding the use of the funds or how they would proceed to determine this. He had the impression that a committee would be appointed by the Government to study this question, and said he had been advocating the appointment of two committees to be composed of both Chinese and British members - one in London and the other in China.

As I told him of the plans we had been discussing in America for the administration of the balance of the American fund and the suggestion of a board like the General Education Board who would adopt some of the methods that have been found successful by that Board, he became very much interested; and then when I said that it had been suggested that the best procedure to decide these questions would be to appoint a commission to visit China to confer with the Chinese Government and educational leaders, as well as the British communities, he stated that he was persuaded that this was the better plan, and that instead of the two committees he had had in mind, he would now do all



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within his power in advocating the appointment and sending out of such a commission.

With reference to the use of the money, he understood that strongest support was being given to the support of three universities, namely, Heng Keng University, an industrial school near Shanghai (urged strongly by the Lancashire interests), and a school of technology in Peking. There seems to be very little support of the plan to establish a university in central China. He remarked that it was evident that the Shanghai interests were the strongest influence at work at the present time in determining the use of these funds.

In the course of the talk, at various times, he indicated clearly his regret because the idea of mutual benefit was being emphasized so strongly in some British circles. He feared that the expectation of securing friendship and commercial benefits in this way might be disappointed. It is disinterested service which in the end results in mutual benefit. At the same time, he recognizes the practical necessity of making statements of this kind in order that the proposal to release these funds may have the support of the commercial bodies. Still he hopes that more broad-minded counsels will prevail.

YALE IN CHINA

5 WHITE HALL, YALE UNIVERSITY

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

March  
23  
1923

The Rev. J. Leighton Stuart, D.D.,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Dr. Stuart:

At the request of Dr. Hume I am sending you herewith a copy of an interesting letter just received from Bishop Roots. It may interest you to learn that it has been practically decided by our Trustees that it will be unwise for Dr. Hume to return to China until after he has had an opportunity of conferring in this country with Mr. Gage who is expected in New Haven about June 15th. This will mean that Dr. Hume will probably not reach China before the last week of July. There does not at present seem to be the same need of his immediate presence in China as seemed to exist a few weeks ago.

Reports of actions taken at the recent meeting of British Chambers of Commerce in Shanghai indicate that these influential organizations will use their influence in securing the use of a large portion of the British Indemnity money for the development of educational work in China in which British interests participate. They also seem to be rather favorable towards using it in ways which would not be opposed to the establishment of British work in connection with a union institution in Central China.

With cordial greetings to you and assurances that we will keep you posted as the Yale situation develops, I am, as always,

Most cordially,

*Herbert A. Vreeland, Jr.*

Executive Secretary.

HHV :DIB

0134

Paper Insolvency

YALE IN CHINA

5 WHITE HALL, YALE UNIVERSITY

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

March 28, 1923.

My dear Leighton:

I am sending you a copy of an important letter received some months ago from Lord William Cecil. If his vision of the contribution China might make could be realized and if men about us could only see the challenge of the situation, they might be willing to think in larger terms. Mr. Vreeland tells me that only this week he has lunched with Jim Williams with whom you stayed at Changsha in October 1921, and with Veryard of the Changsha Y.M.C.A. and that "most of the opinions expressed by these men were entirely in favor of remaining at Changsha". It is easy enough to find support for doing the easy thing and much harder to find enthusiasm for attempting the difficult task.

Sincerely yours,

*Edward A. Hume*

EHH/C

Rev. J. Leighton Stuart, D.D.,  
Peking University  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, New York.

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*For your files  
slm*

27th February, 1923.

Rev. A.L.D. Warnshuis, D.D.,  
Conference of Missionary Societies,  
Edinburgh House,  
2, Eaton Gate, LONDON, S.W.2.,  
ENGLAND.

My dear Warnshuis,

I have just returned from Shanghai, from attending the Conference of the Associated British Chambers of Commerce on the subject of the Boxer Indemnity, and although you will probably have received a copy of their action long before this letter can reach you, I want to write and tell you as fully as possible about the situation there.

When I arrived in Shanghai, I found that the special committee of the Chamber of Commerce which had been considering the question of the Boxer Indemnity, were committed to a nationalistic policy, both as regards the administration, and also the allocation of the fund to be released. Whilst not unsympathetic with union institutions, they considered that these lay outside the scope of a purely British fund, and were frankly unconvinced that it was possible to maintain an Anglo-American College without the submergence of all that was characteristically British or American. They also felt that as the majority of union institutions were in reality predominantly American, both as regards financial investment and the personnel of staff, any subsidy to such a college would in reality be subsidizing American educational methods rather than those of Britain.

In the matter of the administration of the funds, the position which they adopted was even more strongly nationalistic than the one outlined above. Looking at China, as they necessarily do, from the restricted point of view of the Treaty Port business men, they considered that any opening of the door to Chinese co-operation was tantamount to placing these funds in grave danger of misuse by Chinese militarists or self-seeking politicians. In the original resolution which they had drawn up, therefore, they left no

0136

2/27/23

place either for Anglo-American co-operation, or for Chinese representation.

In general they followed fairly closely the lines of their previous action, recommended that the balance of the funds to be disposed of, should be devoted to British secondary schools and hospitals, but they also made special provision for a large allocation to the University of Hongkong.

When the matter came up for discussion, the Chamber was good enough to invite Sir William Brunyate, Mr. Sparham and myself, together with representatives from two or three other centres, to address them, and, as a result of our representations, they referred their original Resolution back to the Committee which had drafted it, at the same time making us members of that same committee.

Meantime we had had a long conference with Sir William Brunyate, who adopted on the whole a very considerate attitude. I think it is not unfair to say that his own personal preference would be in favour of secular education (with provision for religious hostels, etc.). Whilst not exactly opposed to union work, he is inclined to think that University education is outside the province or the capabilities of Missionary Societies, and as a result of its financial limitations and restrictions in the selection of staff, is always threatened with inefficiency. His attitude towards Chinese co-operation is also a very narrow one, and the farthest that he would go in our conference, was to admit the wisdom of consulting Chinese opinion in the allocation and administration of the fund.

When we came to meet in Committee, however, Sir William's attitude was a most conciliatory one, and he did his best to concede such points as we considered vital. Thus he made provision in the new draft (which he had himself been asked to re-write) for equal facilities for Chinese girls, and also for the support of union institutions. The only real fight came over the matter of Chinese representation. There he stuck out for nothing beyond consultation, as opposed to my demand for equal Chinese representation. At the other extreme were members of the Chamber of Commerce, who did not even wish Chinese to be consulted in the matter. It certainly seems incredible that men could take such an attitude, when one remembers that the main purpose for which this money is being remitted is the improving of relations between China and Britain, but one always has to make allowance for the strong

0137

2/27/23

prejudices of those who while in China, are certainly not of China. In the end I was placed in the embarrassing position of holding up the whole Committee by refusing to vote in favour of Sir William's suggestion, and finally they were good enough to accept as a compromise the words "adequate representation of Chinese opinion" in place of "consultation."

When you read the Resolution as passed, you will doubtless feel that it does not go anything like as far as you and I would wish, but if you could know the length which the Chamber of Commerce had to go, before they even got as far as that, I think you would feel that it is a really considerable source of gratification. With such prejudice and ignorance of conditions as exists in a body of that nature, it was plainly hopeless to attempt any very broad scheme along the lines of inter-national co-operation between Britain, America and China, such as I personally strongly favour, and I felt that our policy must be directed towards the adoption of such general principles as would prevent the door to wide co-operation from being slammed. I feel that the Resolutions as passed have at least done that, and I am sincerely hoping that the British Government will go considerably farther than the Chamber of Commerce, along those lines of co-operation, which as I see it, are so vitally necessary to the success of the whole scheme.

One of the most difficult subjects introduced in the debate was the proposed Wu-Han University. Mr. Bonsey, Mr. Dixon, of Wesley College, and Mr. Sparham, all spoke with regard to this new scheme, and I did my best to support the general principle upon which it is based. It was very clear, however, that if we had attempted to get any positive action through, we should have stood in imminent risk of wrecking the whole question of union enterprises. Sir William Brunyate is of course anxious to safeguard the position of Hongkong, and would not have given us much support, whilst the general attitude of the Chamber of Commerce is distinctly opposed to building up a new international University with British funds. Had we been in a position to speak officially of the share which the American Missions, or Yale, or the remitted American share of the Boxer Indemnity would take, in such a scheme, there is a bare possibility that the Chamber would have been prepared to discuss it; but thinking the matter over carefully, I came to the conclusion that we were far wiser, in that body, merely to get the general principle of union institutions recognized.

In the debate, one or two men said clearly that they could vote for the Resolution as passed, because it seemed to them to refer to existing union institutions, and not to any new ones which might be projected. Others, however, reminded the Chamber that the Resolution in no wise ruled out such new union schemes as might commend themselves to the Board of Trustees which would be set up

0138

2/27/23

to administer the Fund. I felt that that was the safest way to leave the matter.

I shall be disappointed if I do not find that the British Foreign Office and the British Legations are prepared to go much farther than that in the matter of co-operation than the Chamber of Commerce could have been induced to do; and they are the people who will eventually decide the point. I do not think that anything so far done by the Chamber will stand in the way of the wider co-operation which I am anxious to see carried through.

In that connection it was extremely interesting to me to hear from Bishop Roots of the letters and telegram which he had received from Lobenstine, speaking of the large measure of progress that had been attained in America with reference to the Wu-Han University proposition, and also with reference to the balance of the American Indemnity Fund. I need hardly say that those proposals have my warmest support, and I hope and believe that if a suitable body is set up in this country to deal with the British share in the Indemnity Fund, that body would be prepared to co-operate in the closest fashion with any similar body which might be set up from the American side. It is my opinion, however, that the matter would be prejudiced at this stage, by urging too strongly a triangular scheme of co-operation. It seems better to me to wait until we have the official action from the American side, and then to use all our weight in the attempt to form one International Board for those Indemnity Funds, rather than two separate Sino-British, and Sino-American organizations.

I am not writing separately to Oldham on this matter, but should be grateful if you would let him see this letter, a copy of which I am sending to my own Society, and also to Lobenstine. At the same time I am enclosing the exact wording of the Chamber of Commerce Resolution, in case by any chance it has been misquoted in the press.

The final question which is occupying my thoughts at the present time, is as to the composition of the body which will be set up to advise on the allocation of this money, and to control its administration. The possibilities of an unfortunate or unwise use of the funds is so serious that I earnestly wish that a Commission could be sent out on the lines of the Educational Commission, to study the Field of British education in China, in co-operation with some of the leading Chinese educationalists. Such a Commission would then be in the best position to advise as to which

institutions should receive financial help, and what form such help should take. They would also be able to set up a Board of Trustees in China, with attached secretariat and Inspectorate who would be responsible for the administration of the Fund. I fail to see any other method which would prevent a partizan use of these funds, or which would avert the risk of serious misrepresentation on the part of the Chinese.

I am sure you will have this matter much in mind, and that your advice, and that of Oldham, will go a long way in influencing the Home Authorities as to any action which they may think wise to take.

With warmest regards,  
Ever yours sincerely,

HB/FHM

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J. L. Stuart

Aug 18, 1924

Memorandum regarding Proposals for Returning to China the Remainder of the American Boxer Indemnity Fund.

Having seen the proposals of a well-known American lawyer for expending the remainder of the Boxer Indemnity under the direction of a group of American Universities, I venture to make a few comments:

1. The establishment of a new American University managed by or under the control of several American universities would undoubtedly ensure honest and efficient expenditure and would furnish to Chinese youth the highest standards and the best practical values in education without involving them in the expense and in the denationalizing consequences of studying in the United States. It would also create goodwill for American Commercial and other interests and further strengthen the friendship between the two countries. It is, however, precisely in this aspect of the matter that the objections lie. American educational experts could not possess the kind of experience that would give assurance that the curriculum and other features were the most suitable to Chinese students under present conditions. The tendency to Americanize them would be inevitable thus provoking a contrast not only with education under Chinese management but with British, French, Japanese, Russian and perhaps other national types. This might lead to similar projects by other countries with less disinterested motives, and would in any case aggravate the national rivalries which constitute one of China's most disturbing menaces. A much more serious objection is the resentment that high-spirited and intelligent Chinese would feel and the suspicion of many that underneath the disguise of control by American universities was the intention of national aggrandizement. I am entirely confident that, in view of the present nationalistic mood spreading throughout China and the sensitiveness of the thinking public to western interference, the proposal in question would, if put into effect, be regarded by Chinese generally with profound disappointment toward the one country they have learned to trust and would--all things considered--be an unwise settlement.

2. A suggested modification of the proposal to the effect that the American universities relate themselves to similar institutions established in China under American auspices has the same essential objections. All the American colleges in China are under missionary control and any allocation to them of Indemnity Funds by the American Government (however indirectly through educational agencies) would arouse again the old suspicion of political or commercial objections under the cloak of religious propaganda. Furthermore there is at present an intense and ably supported opposition to any educational enterprises conducted by organized religious bodies. The Christian colleges in China are all inadequately financed. They would perhaps get larger returns from any funds entrusted to them than could otherwise be obtained. Those in charge of them are familiar with Chinese life and they have an increasing number of Chinese in positions of executive responsibility. But--speaking as one who would benefit largely from this suggestion--I cannot but feel that its adoption would be detrimental to the larger and more lasting interests involved.

3. I am acutely conscious of the unfitness of the existing Chinese Government to receive or in any way act as custodian of this fund. Its authority is nominal and its personnel is constantly shifting. Unscrupulous militarists and other individuals or groups happening to be in power might be tempted to misuse of the money. While there undoubtedly are educational leaders of the highest integrity and ability who could be

trusted to carry out the wishes of the American people, yet their own positions are subject to political changes and to factional differences among themselves. There is no assurance of continuity or of honest and impartial administration if the money be paid directly to any organization of Chinese educationalists.

4. May I venture the suggestion that the American Government request a Commission with a majority of Chinese but with a number of representative American educationalists and publicists to act in apportioning the fund year by year? The Chinese members might be appointed by the Ministry of Education, and each country might possibly have the right of objecting to any one appointed by the other. This Commission might distribute the annual income among a list of institutions selected on merit regardless of whether government, private or missionary, and make a renewal of the grant conditioned on the maintenance of certain standards and requirements. In the case of institutions under Christian control it ought to be upon clear evidence of a policy to transfer the management to Chinese and to conform to regulations governing schools maintained by Chinese. Such a Commission could use its discretion as to whether any school under foreign control or maintained for religious propaganda should be included.

Some such plan as this would be criticized by those prejudiced or ignorant and by others whose selfish aims would thereby be frustrated. But I believe it would commend itself to right-thinking Chinese of all types as under all the circumstances the most equitable process for securing from the remission of this fund the largest benefit to the people of China.

(Signed) J. Leighton Stuart

Aug. 18, 1924.

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