

Telegrams and Dispatches from "Correspondence American Embassy, Nanking, 1930, Volume 9"

No. 1143

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,

Shanghai, China

January 5, 1938

Confidential

SUBJECT: Flag Incident at Wuhu and Conditions There and in Nanking After the Japanese Occupation.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's telegram No. 687 December 23, 1937, 7 p.m. and to my telegraphic reply No. 1219 December 23, 1937, 9 p.m. concerning reports of an insult to the American flag by Japanese armed forces at Wuhu. The Consulate General was informed of the incident by a letter dated December 17, 1937 from Dr. Robert E. Brown, Superintendent of the Wuhu General Hospital, which was received on December 21, 1937. Dr. Brown stated in his letter, copies of which are enclosed, that on December 13, Japanese pulled down the American flag from a junk belonging to the Wuhu General Hospital and threw it into the Yangtze. The flag was rescued by Dr. Brown and taken, according to his letter, to "two Japanese commanders" who "expressed regrets". Dr. Brown's letter also reported (reproaches by Japanese soldiers at Wuhu in respect of American property and described conditions in the city after the Japanese occupation.

On December 23 the Consulate General addressed an official communication to the Japanese Consul General in Shanghai concerning the alleged insult to the American flag and enclosed a memorandum covering reports of disregard of American interests at Wuhu after the occupation of the city by the Japanese military. The Japanese Consul General was requested to have an official investigation of the reported incidents made. He was informed that an early reply would be appreciated in order that the Consulate General might report to the American Government. Copies of the Consulate General's letter mentioned above and the memorandum that accompanied it are enclosed with this despatch.

A copy of the Consulate General's letter and the memorandum were sent to Admiral Farnell with a letter requesting that if the U.S.S. OAHU went to Wuhu the commanding officer be requested to see Dr. Brown and investigate his report of the flag incident.

The Japanese Consul General in a letter dated December 30 stated, as reported in my telegram No. 1255 December 31, 12 noon, that upon receipt of this Consulate General's letter of December 23, 1937, he immediately ordered a consular officer to proceed from Nanking to Wuhu to investigate the reports of the flag incident and abuse of American property. The consular officer, according to the Japanese Consul General, was unable to get in touch with the military unit stationed at Wuhu when the alleged incidents occurred because of the heavy transfers of Japanese military units since that time. The Japanese Consul General also stated that efforts to locate the military unit concerned were continuing and that he hoped to present additional information "before long." In conclusion he stated that the necessary instructions had been issued to prevent the occurrence of a similar incident in the future.

A copy of a letter dated December 25, 1937 from Dr. Brown to Consul Edwin F. Stanton is enclosed with this despatch. It will be noted that Dr. Brown stated that all the Americans in Wuhu were well.

Mr. F. C. Gilmore, Acting Treasurer of the American Church Mission, forwarded to the Consulate General on December 22 a copy of a letter from Mr. L. R. Craighill dated December 17, 1937, concerning conditions in Wuhu. Mr. Craighill was in charge of the American Church Mission in Wuhu during the Chinese retreat and the Japanese occupation. A copy of his letter is enclosed. It will be noted that he reported that Japanese soldiers on two nights entered the mission school, the office, the Bishop's house, and the house of a Mr. David Lee and that "They were looking only for jewelry and women."

A resume of the available information on conditions in Nanking after the Japanese occupation of the city was sent to the Ambassador at Hankow in a telegram dated December 24, 6 p.m. in reply to his telegram to this office dated December 23, 3 p.m.

Copies are enclosed of a memorandum written by Dr. Cyril Bates, professor of sociology and history in Nanking University, concerning conditions in Nanking after the Japanese occupation. A copy of the memorandum was handed to an officer of this Consulate General by Mr. Archibald Steele, correspondent of the Chicago Daily News. Mr. Steele and other newspaper correspondents who were in Nanking when the Japanese captured the city confirmed in general the information presented in Dr. Bates' memorandum.

On December 22 Mr. Hidaka Counselor of the Japanese Embassy, and Mr. Okamoto, the Japanese Consul General, in Shanghai called at this office. Mr. Hidaka said he had returned from Nanking where he had been for about twenty-four hours during the formal entry of the Japanese military and naval command. He related efforts he had made to have the American Embassy property in Nanking properly protected and finally admitted that through Mr. George Piche he obtained a loan while in Nanking of three automobiles belonging to members of the American Embassy. He said he thought one of the cars belonged to the Ambassador and another to Mr. Pack. I expressed surprise and when Mr. Hidaka requested our Ambassador's approval of the loan I said I could give no approval but that I would report the matter to the Ambassador. On December 21, the day before Mr. Hidaka and Mr. Okamoto called, a letter was addressed to Mr. Okamoto informing him that reports had been received that Japanese soldiers had several times attempted to enter the property of the American Embassy at Nanking, that they had entered and pillaged other American property at Nanking and disregarded notices on American property describing it as such. Mr. Okamoto was requested to bring the matter to the attention of the Japanese military authorities and to have them issue strict instructions to cease such activities and to see that American property was properly protected.

Respectfully yours,

G. E. Gauss  
American Consul General.

Enclosures:

- 1/ - Copy of letter from Dr. Brown, dated December 17, 1937.
- 2/ - Copy of letter to Japanese Consul General, dated December 23, 1937.
- 3/ - Copy of letter from Dr. Brown, dated December 25, 1937.
- 4/ - Copy of letter from Mr. Craighill, dated December 17, 1937.
- 5/ - Copy of memorandum by Dr. Bates.

RE COMMUNICATIONS

Copy to Embassy, Nanking  
Copy to Japanese Consulate  
Copy to Japanese Embassy

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 1142 of C. E. Gauss, American Consul General, Shanghai, China. Dated January 5, 1938, on the subject: "Flag Incident at Wuhu and Conditions there and in Hankow after the Japanese Occupation".

( COPY )

THE WUHU GENERAL HOSPITAL

WUHU, CHINA

December 17, 1937.

Consul General C. E. Gauss  
Shanghai

Dear Sir:

Since the arrival of Japanese troops on the 10th there has been established a ruthless reign of terror which has far exceeded anything ever achieved by any Chinese soldiers in my experience. From the hospital windows we have seen them stop unarmed civilians on the road, search them, and finding nothing calmly shoot them through the head. We have seen them firing at fleeing civilians as a hunter would at rabbits. We have had cases after cases brought into the hospital slashed with sabers or stabbed with bayonets because they had nothing more to give the robbers, having already been robbed many times, or because they did not produce some of their women folk on demand. This morning such a pathetic case was brought to us with his head half severed from the neck at the back, his throat cut through the trachea in the front, and his left cheek slashed through to the mouth, all because he did not produce any women on their demand.

During this war Chinese soldiers have not entered foreign property in Wuhu, but the Japanese have not hesitated to invade foreign property flying the American flag and with Japanese posters on the gate forbidding them to enter. On the 13th they pulled down the American flag from a junk belonging to this hospital and threw it in the river. I rescued the flag and took it to two Japanese commanders. They "expressed regrets." About the same day they broke into our Methodist mission residence at Green Hill, ransacking the house and taking what they wished. On the 15th they went to the Wuhu Academy, an American mission school and ordered the caretaker to haul down the American flag, then disregarding a Japanese military poster forbidding them to enter, went in and searched the buildings and blasted open the school safe. They have treated the British flag and property in a similar way. So far there has been no attack or injury to foreign nationals. I have contacted the Japanese military authorities and they have assured me that they do not allow their soldiers to do these things.

A Japanese consul arrived yesterday on a naval plane. He called on me and we hope that he may do something to help restore order and give protection. There has been no police or postal service in the city since the 5th, and no electric lights since that date. The hospital depends entirely on its own light and other service utilities. The Japanese plane which brought the Japanese consul said they would like to take Messrs. Marshall, Vince, and Hodge back to Shanghai, as the men were eager to get there. The Japanese had plenty of photographers at the plane to "record the rescue of these Americans from the Chinese!"

I have continued to drive about the city in my car when necessary, and have made many trips to bring in Chinese women whom we have learned about. They are living in daily and nightly horror of being discovered. Many of them of course have been discovered.

We now have something over 1,000 on the hospital hill for whom we are trying to provide protection. I will list herewith the Americans still at Wuhu helping to carry on the work. If any letters come to you for Associated Press or United Press, will you kindly see that they are delivered, but not through the postoffice?

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Robert E. Brown  
Robert E. Brown, M.D.

U.S. If you wish me to act in any official capacity in Wuhu in dealing with the Japanese kindly give me further instructions. I am keeping in close touch with the military commanders as they come to the city giving them the location of American nationals and property and requesting their protection.

R. E. B.

Copied by Jm (True copy  
Compared with (of signed  
(original).

( C O P Y )

THE WUHU GENERAL HOSPITAL  
WUHU, CHINA.

December 17, 1937.

List of Americans still in Wuhu.

At the Wuhu General Hospital

Dr. Robert E. Brown	
Dr. L. S. Morgan	
Dr. Ruth Morgan	
Dr. C. L. Hagan	
Mr. Frank G. G.	
Miss Frances Galley	
Miss Florence Sayles	
Miss Margaret Lawrence	} leaving for Shanghai via Suifu
Mrs. Elizabeth O'Hanlon	
Mrs. Wilma S. Key - two children	R. E. B.

At The Sisters of the Transfiguration

Sister Constance  
Dr. James Anderson  
Father Morris  
Mr. B. W. Langhear (American Church Mission)  
Rev. Lloyd Creighton (American Church Mission)

(Signed) Robert E. Brown

Copied by Jm (A true copy  
Compared with (of signed  
(original).

Enclosure No. 2 to despatch No. 1142 of C. E. Geuss, American Consul General, Shanghai, China, dated January 5, 1938, on the subject: "Flag Incident at Wuhu and Conditions There and in Hankow After the Japanese Occupation."

( C O P Y )

Shanghai, December 23, 1937

Sir and dear Colleagues:

I regret to have to inform you that I have received reports of depredations by Japanese soldiers at Wuhu in respect of American property. I enclose a memorandum which embodies the essentials of these reports. I particularly direct your attention to the report that on December 13th soldiers of the Japanese detachment then at Wuhu pulled down the American flag from a junk belonging to the American hospital and threw the flag in the river. An American missionary rescued the flag and took it to two Japanese commanders. This report appears already to have reached the press in the United States and I have been asked for a report by my Government. It seems further that Japanese soldiers entered various mission properties

notwithstanding that notifications were posted presumably by the Japanese military authorities, forbidding their entry.

I note that a Japanese Consul and Japanese military police have now reached Wuhu; also that the original Japanese detachment which perpetrated the depredations complained of an ears to have been removed elsewhere. I sincerely hope that the situation at Wuhu will improve, and that the Americans there and American property will be fully protected, and that the American flag will be carefully respected.

I must ask for an official investigation of the incidents recorded in the enclosed memorandum. Your early reply will be appreciated so that I may report to my Government.

I have the honor to be,

Sir and dear Colleague,

Your obedient servant,

(signed) C. E. Gauss  
American Consul General.

S. Momoto, Esquire,  
Japanese Consul General,  
Shanghai.

Copied by: JW (True copy  
Compared with: { of signed  
(original.

( C O P Y )

#### MEMORANDUM ON WUHU

Reports received by the American Consul General at Shanghai indicate that there has been a serious disregard of American and other foreign interests at Wuhu in connection with the Japanese military occupation of that place.

The conduct of Japanese soldiers in reference to the noncombatant Chinese population has been made the subject of comment.

With respect to foreign property:

1. One report states that the Japanese have not hesitated to invade foreign property flying the American flag and with Japanese posters on the gate forbidding them to enter.
2. One report details the following incident, which has already reached the press in the United States:

On December 13th, they (Japanese soldiers) pulled down the American flag from a junk belonging to the American hospital (Wuhu General Hospital) and threw it in the river. An American missionary rescued the flag and took it to two Japanese commanders. They expressed regrets.

3. A report stated that on December 13th, Japanese soldiers broke into the American Methodist Mission school and ordered the caretaker to haul down the American flag; then, disregarding a Japanese military poster forbidding them to enter, went in and searched the buildings and blasted open the school safe.
4. On the two nights before December 17th, Japanese soldiers entered the American Church Mission school compound, and went through the school, the office, the Bishop's house, and one other residence; they were looking for jewelry and women; they found neither and little was taken away. On December 16th, a drunken Japanese soldier brandished a sword at an American woman missionary

at the gate of the mission; in the face of her courage the man desisted and neither the American missionary or the gateman was harmed.

5. Reports state that the British flag and British property was treated in a manner similar to the American.

It appears that the first detachment of soldiers who took Wuhu have now been moved elsewhere; that a detachment of military police has arrived; also a Japanese Consul; and that American missionaries at Wuhu have called on the Japanese commander and the Japanese Consul, to whom the depredations of Japanese troops have been reported. They expressed regret and promised protection.

December 23, 1937.

Enclosure No. 3 to despatch No. 1142 of C. E. Gauss, American Consul General at Shanghai, China, dated January 5, 1938, on the subject: "Flag Incident at Wuhu and Conditions there and in Hanking after the Japanese occupation."

( COPY )

THE WUHU GENERAL HOSPITAL  
WUHU, CHINA.

December 25, 1937.

Mr. E. F. Stanton,  
American Consul,  
The American Consulate General  
Shanghai.

My dear Mr. Stanton:

Thank you for your kind letter of December 17th which was handed me by the Japanese Consular Police. Mr. Robert Y. Horiguchi, representative of Domei, also called to bring your kind greetings. We appreciate your kind interest in us at this time.

All Americans in Wuhu have safely survived the trying days of the past month. The Chinese soldiers gave no trouble whatever to foreigners or foreign property and, as there was no fighting at Wuhu, we were in no danger from gunfire except on the morning of December 12th when the newly arrived Japanese battery located just above the hospital fired directly over the hospital at the British "Ladybird" and other ships located at the A.P.C. Installation below the hospital. We were greatly puzzled as to what it might mean and anxious lest one of the shells should come too low and strike some of the hospital buildings. I went out on the foreshore to see if I could get in touch with the Japanese officers at the battery and found from them that they thought the ships were Chinese ships leaving Hanking. I assured them they were British ships which had been located here in Wuhu for a long time. I have kept in close contact with the Japanese officers as they come to Wuhu and they have assured us it is their intention to protect foreign nationals and property. We hope they will be able to control the soldiers some of whom tend to be rather unruly.

Whenever you know of any ship coming up to Wuhu, will you kindly notify Rev. Glenn Fuller, our Mission Treasurer, so he may send mail and any important small supplies we may be urgently needing. I am trying to keep in touch with him regarding these matters. He is located at the Associated Mission Treasurers, 169 Yuen Ming Yuen Road, telephone number 16018. His residence telephone is 76881.

Herewith a list of names of Americans in Wuhu. We are all well and expect to carry on our work as usual. We believe the worst is over. With kind personal regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Rob't E. Brown, M.D.  
Superintendent

Copies by Sys (True copy  
Compared with (of signed  
original.

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January 20, 1938

TRUE READING  
CODE GRAY  
DECODED BY AAM

AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY

PEIPING

HANKING

HANKOW

January 20, 10, a.m.

Following from Tokyo "40 January 19, 7, p.m. Hanking's twenty seven January 18, 3, p.m. Illegal entry into American property.

(one) I sent Dooman to see Yoshizawa and to read to him the telegram above mentioned. Dooman then reenforced in the strongest possible terms the statement which I made to the Minister for Foreign Affairs (see my thirty four January 17, 1, p.m.)

(two) Yoshizawa said that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had yesterday laid before the Cabinet the note mentioned in my 34, and that a drastic measure to assure compliance by forces in the field with instructions from Tokyo is being considered. He said that he would probably be in a position tomorrow to inform us of the measure to be taken.

Repeated to Shanghai for relay to Peking, Hanking, and Hankow Grew"

GAUSS

AAM

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NAVAL RADIO

AAM

FROM: HANKOW

RECD: HANKING

January 22, 1938

GRAY

Japanese atrocities in Hanking  
and Wuhu

AMEMBASSY HANKING

January 21, 12 noon. Following from Tokyo:

"39 January 19, 12 noon Confidential My British Colleague has given me for my confidential information a paraphrase of a telegram dated January 15 from the British Embassy at Shanghai reporting actions of Japanese troops at

Nanking. As we have had no detailed reports on this subject from Shanghai or elsewhere I am calling the text which was furnished to me as follows: "I have been supplied confidentially with two separate and (apparently) reliable reports from an American missionary at Nanking and missionary doctor at Wuhu who remained at their posts when the Japanese entered these cities regarding the atrocities committed by the Japanese army. Reports 'approximately one hundred authenticated cases of rape in the American University buildings in Nanking in the first part of the occupation.'

The Reverend Boynton of the National Christian Council who brought me these reports stated that the Japanese Embassy officials who reached Nanking shortly after the entry of the Japanese troops were horrified when they saw the orgy of drunkenness murder rape and robbery which was going on openly in and around the refugee zone. Failing to make any impression on the military commander, whose attitude of callous indifference makes it probable that the army was deliberately turned loose on the city as a punitive measure, and despairing of getting cables through to Tokyo owing to army control, Embassy officials had even suggested to the missionaries that the latter should try and get publicity for the facts in Japan so that the Japanese government would be forced by public opinion to curb the army.

I have been promised eyewitness reports from Soochow and Hangchow where the behavior of the Japanese troops was equally bad and stories, apparently authenticated, regarding their behavior in the neighborhood of Shanghai are now coming in. Repeated to Peiping for relay to Hankow."

Please let me have any information available to you in connection with the above report. Sent to Nanking repeated to Shanghai.

JMA

JOHNSON

\* \* \* \* \*

Nanking, January 25, 1938.

Subject: Conditions at Nanking.

The Honorable

Nelson Trusler Johnson,

American Ambassador,

Hankow, China.

Sir:

- 1/ I have the honor to submit the enclosed report by Vice Consul Ezy on the conditions at Nanking since its capture by the Japanese army on December 13, 1937. The information given is based on the investigations the Embassy staff and the accounts of American residents who have remained here since the fall of the city. A brief account is given of the happenings in this city from the time that the victorious Japanese armies entered it; observations of the present situation of the city; and a summary report of the work of the American residents and the "International Committee for Nanking" to ameliorate the effects of the military occupation and their efforts to protect lives and property within the city.

Respectfully yours,

John M. Allison,  
Third Secretary of Embassy.

Enclosure:

1/ As stated.

## The Conditions at Nanking

January 1938

American Embassy, Nanking

Prepared by

James Eddy, American Vice Consul

Approved

John M. Allison, Third Secretary of Embassy.

Date of Preparation: January 15-24

Date of Mailing: February 2, 1938.

On our arrival at the Embassy at Nanking on the morning of January 6th we were greeted by the two Chinese members of the Embassy staff, Mr. Teng and Mr. Wu, who had remained here since the capture of Nanking by the Japanese armies. Mr. Teng showed us about to make a preliminary inspection of the buildings in the two compounds. The buildings were found not to have been damaged except for the cut of a bayonet in a door of the Chancery. The effects of the American members of the staff left in the buildings were all intact. Mr. Teng explained the happenings to the Embassy since December 9th and presented a daily report that he had kept. He informed us that there were five Japanese gendarmes and twenty Chinese police stationed at the two compounds and that two hundred and forty Chinese had taken refuge on the premises, which number was made up of coolies, servants and other employees attached to the Embassy together with their families. some

We were immediately called upon by the fourteen American residents who had remained in Nanking. Although they had been subjected to some unpleasant incidents none of them nor of the other fourteen foreigners still here was harmed and all were well. Their every thought seemed to center about what had occurred to Nanking and they related to us a series of most appalling stories of the horrors and atrocities that Nanking had been through since the entry of the Japanese armies. They felt that the worst had passed but advised that incidents were continuing to happen and that the situation in the city was still bad.

The picture that they painted of Nanking was one of a reign of terror that befall the city upon its occupation by the Japanese military forces. Their stories and those of the German residents tell of the city having fallen into the hands of the Japanese as captured prey, not merely taken in the course of organized warfare but seized by an invading army whose members seemed to have set upon the prize to commit unlimited depredations and violence. Fuller facts and our own observations have not brought out facts to discredit their information. The civilian Chinese population remaining in the city crowded the streets of the so-called "safety zone" as refugees, many of whom are destitute. Physical evidences are almost everywhere of the killing of men, women and children, of the breaking into and looting of property and of the burning and destruction of houses and buildings.

In subsequent sections of this report the representations to the Japanese authorities concerning the violations of American property made by the International Committee for Nanking and by the Embassy and the representations of the International Committee regarding the conditions of the city are submitted and present in greater detail the occurrences in Nanking. There are also submitted the requests and petitions made by the International Committee for the moderation of the actions of the Japanese military in their dealings with the city. But a summing up of these requests and petitions which in themselves reflect the conditions in the city is made here to bring out in relief the situation in Nanking.

Thus, at the end of our first meeting with the American residents they were asked what--setting aside the past occurrence as things that had happened and could not now be obviated--they particularly desired be brought to the attention of the Japanese authorities regarding the conditions in Nanking. Their reply was: "To have the Japanese authorities get their soldiers under control and put an end to the horrors and atrocities now occurring". Or, the meaning of such a statement may be more specifically given as: In the name of humanity, the Japanese authorities should put an end to the disorderly conduct of their soldiers, stop the killing, looting and burning and restore normal conditions of civilian life to the city.

### I. Brief Account of the happenings to Nanking Since December 10th.

According to available information, before the fall of Nanking the Chinese armies and civilians had been steadily getting out of and away from Nanking. In the neighborhood of four-fifths of the population had fled from the city and the main body of the Chinese troops had been withdrawn while taking with them most of their military supplies and equipment. The city was left to be defended by not over fifty thousand men if, in fact, that many. A considerable number of these even managed to escape through the north and west gates and over the walls after the city had fallen and fight their retreat through the Japanese lines. The Chinese armies had burned large sections of the city outside of the city walls to clear the land for military purposes. But, the American residents who remained here insist that little burning, destruction or looting of property was done within the city walls by the retreating Chinese soldiers.

Therefore, when the Japanese armies marched into the city they found it practically intact, four-fifths of its population gone, with a large part of the remaining inhabitants seeking refuge in the so-called "safety zone", which the International Committee for Nanking was attempting to establish, and instead of huge numbers of trapped Chinese troops only a comparatively small number. The number of Chinese soldiers that did remain is not known, but there must have been some thousands of them who discarded their military uniforms to put on civilian clothing and mingle with the civilians or hide wherever they could in the city.

The American residents feel that the Japanese did not realize how many Chinese soldiers had gotten away and in their "mopping up" campaign to kill all Chinese within the city who had been soldiers they expected to find over a hundred thousand and that when they set about ferreting out throughout the entire city all former Chinese soldiers it is possible that their exasperation or disbelief of the comparative few numbers identifiable as such led them to execute many innocent civilians together with the ex-soldiers that they did find and to carry on the "mopping up", accompanied by terrorism, a longer time and to greater excess than they otherwise would.

Mention should be made here, however, that the Chinese themselves are not altogether exonerated of depredations, at least to some extent, before the entry of the Japanese. During the last few days some violations of people and property were undoubtedly committed by them. Chinese soldiers in their mad rush to discard their military uniforms and put on civilian clothes, in a number of incidents, killed civilians to obtain their clothing. Retreating soldiers and also civilians were known to have carried on sporadic looting during that period of disorder. The complete break down of the city government with the stopping of the functioning of all the public utilities and services and the utter confusion and disorder that the city was thrown into by the withdrawal of Chinese government and most of the Chinese population left the city open to any act of lawlessness. It should be brought out that there was even a feeling of welcome by the remaining population for the hoped-for restoration of order and control under the Japanese.

However, no sooner had the Japanese armies gotten into Nanking than instead of a restoration of order and an end made of the confusion that had come about, the reign of terror for the city really began. By the night

of December 13th and the morning of December 14th acts of violence were already occurring. Detachments of Japanese soldiers were first of all sent out to round up and "sweep up" Chinese soldiers left within the walls. Careful search was made throughout all the streets and buildings of the city. All ex-Chinese soldiers and persons suspected to have been such were systematically shot. Although no accurate records are obtainable, it is estimated that well over twenty thousand persons were executed in this manner. Little effort appears to have been made to discriminate between ex-soldiers and those who had never, in fact, served in the Chinese armies. If there was the slightest suspicion that a person had been a soldier such person was seemingly invariably taken away to be shot. The Japanese determination to "wipe out" all remnants of the Chinese Government forces was apparently unalterable.

Several of the innumerable reports of executions that have been made are cited as examples. Fifty four employees of the Hanking Electric Power plant had taken refuge in the plant of the International Import and Export Company at "Ho-Gee". A detachment of Japanese military called at that plant on December 15th or 16th and demanded to know whether any Chinese were staying there who had not been employees of the company. They were informed that there were these fifty four former employees of the electric power plant but that eleven of them had been employed part time by the company. The Japanese military thereupon took away the forty three former full time employees of the electric power plant saying that as they had been under the employ of the Chinese Government they were "to be shot." At the same time, the American residents state that Japanese officially were constantly asking the International Committee where the Japanese could obtain trained public service electricians and employees in order to be able to restore the electric power and light service throughout the city.

Another report is of an incident that happened in the grounds of the University of Hanking on or about December 25th. The Japanese military had just started to register all Chinese residing in the city. On or about December 25th some military officers called at the University preliminary to starting in with the registration of the thirty odd thousand Chinese who had taken refuge in the University buildings. Around two thousand men refugeeing in the buildings were mustered out and in a talk given them by the Japanese military they were told that if those of the refugees who had formerly been serving in the Chinese armies would make themselves known they would be protected - it was reiterated several times that they would be protected - although they would probably be put to work for the Japanese, but if they did not make themselves known and were later found out to have been Chinese soldiers they would certainly be shot. With these assurances of protection approximately two hundred men disclosed the fact to the Japanese that they had been former Chinese soldiers. Thereupon they were marched away. Four or five badly wounded men returned later and told the story of the two hundred having been taken off in units, together with other Chinese that were picked up enroute, to various isolated places where they were then either bayoneted or shot to death by squads of Japanese soldiers. Only these four or five wounded survivors who were left for dead escaped from the executions.

Besides the hunting down and execution of all former Chinese soldiers by detachments of Japanese military, small bands of two or three or more Japanese soldiers roamed at will the entire city. It was the killing, raping and looting of these soldiers that perpetrated the worst of the terrors on the city. Whether carte blanche was given to these soldiers to do anything they like or whether the Japanese armies got completely out of control after they entered the city has not been fully explained. We have been told that at least two orders were sent out by the Japanese high command to get the soldier under control and that before the armies entered the city strict orders were issued that no property was to be burned.

It remains, however, that the Japanese soldiers swarmed over the city in thousands and committed untold depredations and atrocities. It would seem according to stories told us by foreign witnesses that the soldiers were let

loose like a barbarian horde to desecrate the city. Men, women and children were killed in uncounted numbers throughout the city. Stories are heard of civilians being shot or bayoneted for no apparent reason. We were informed by Japanese themselves on the day of our arrival at Nanking that many bodies had to be cleaned up the day before. However bodies are still to be seen in houses, in ponds and along the sides of by-streets. We have been informed by an American citizen that a house containing fourteen Chinese in the south city was entered by Japanese soldiers. He said he saw the bodies of eleven persons, the women amongst whom were said to have been raped before being killed. Two small children and one other alone survived. A small pond nearby the Embassy was dragged the other day for corpses. It disgorged some twenty or thirty bodies of Chinese dressed in civilian clothing.

The soldiers are reported to have sought out the native women wherever they could be found to violate them. Reference is made to the enclosures of this report for descriptions of such occurrences. During the early part of the Japanese occupation over a thousand such cases a night are believed by the foreigners here to have occurred and one American counted thirty such cases in one night in one piece of American property.

At the same time that killing and raping was going on the city was completely culled over by the marauding troops. Nearly every house and building was entered, ransacked and looted of what articles the soldiers chose to carry off with them.

The International Committee for Nanking has kept a record of the incidents which have come to its attention which occurred in the "safety zone." That Committee regularly reported the incidents to the Japanese Embassy, bringing them to its attention as a matter of record and at the same time protesting their occurrence and requesting that steps be taken by the Japanese authorities to prevent their repetition. Upon our arrival copies of the reports and cases of the incidents were submitted to the Embassy. Up to January 10th one hundred and eighty eight cases were recorded. The copies of the Committee's despatches and cases are enclosed herewith.

#### Looting of Property

From information tendered by the International Committee and the American residents individually and from investigations made by this Embassy staff, it is believed that there is scarcely a single piece of property in Nanking that has escaped entry and looting by the Japanese military. Whether the compound, house, shop or building be that of a foreign mission or that of a foreign or Chinese national, all have been entered without discrimination and to a greater or less degree ransacked and looted. The American, British, German and French Embassies are known to have been entered and articles taken therefrom. It has also been reported that the same thing has occurred to the Italian Embassy. The Russian Embassy on January 1st was mysteriously gutted by fire. Without exception, every piece of American property inspected by us or reported upon by the American residents have been entered by Japanese soldiers, frequently time and time again. This has occurred even to the residences in which the Americans are still living. These American residents and the other members of the International Committee have been and up to the time of this report still are constantly driving Japanese soldiers out of foreign properties who have entered in search of loot or women.

Every sort of thing that the soldiers could carry off was seemingly fair prey to their pillage. With specific reference to foreign houses, it would seem that automobiles, bicycles and liquor together with whatever small sized valuables that they could pocket were particularly sought. But any property, foreign or Chinese, was looted of whatever the trespassers desired. What remain of the stores, shops in the business section of the city show that they had all been pretty well emptied of their contents. In a number of instances there is evidence that where too much that was desired was found that could not be carried away by hand, truck had been brought up to cart it off. Foreign residents have reported that they saw on several occasions stocks being taken away in truck

loads from stores and warehouses. The warehouse keeper of the Texas Corporation (China) Ltd. reported that the Japanese soldiers who removed some stocks of gasoline and oils from the warehouse used the company's trucks which they had taken to effect the removal.

The extent to which the houses were looted varied greatly between one premises and another. Various properties have been investigated so far which though entered were not greatly damaged or badly pillaged. A few articles were taken and that was all. Some properties outside of the "safety zone" have not been greatly molested but particularly in the zone have depredations to property been committed to the least extent. These cases compare with those where the utmost of looting and destruction has been administered to the premises. In the case of the house of Mr. Douglas Jenkins, a member of the Embassy staff, not only -- after his servant was killed -- was everything inside the house thoroughly ransacked and badly looted but as well there is ample evidence of wanton smashing up and breaking of his furniture and other effects. Another example of such treatment of American property is that of the Gilling Garage at the corner of Shanghai and Chung Shan Roads. The two doors of the garage had been boarded up and gate grills locked outside of the boarding. On each of the boardings there had been placed an Embassy proclamation setting forth the American nature of the property. When an inspection was made of the garage after our arrival it was found that one of the boardings had been broken loose from the walls and pushed aside. On the boarding still was attached the proclamation. The garage had then been entered. It had been thoroughly ransacked. The only piece of equipment besides two old tires, some rods and bits of wiring that was left in the garage proper was one air compressor unit. On the floors of the offices files and papers were scattered about, one table taken away to be used for fire wood and the two safes had been broken into by having the tops smashed in. Whatever was in the safes was gone. A small shed behind the garage which also had been locked had been entered. There were papers, parts of machinery and equipment littered six inches deep on the floor. Amongst the mess were found the parts of a valuable full-sized motion picture projector which had been broken to pieces.

#### Burning of Property

But the worst that the real property of Nanking has suffered is the destruction by fire. At the time of writing this report fires can still be seen in a few places in the city. In the "safety zone" no fires have occurred. Nevertheless, except for this zone, burning through arson or otherwise has been committed at random throughout the city. On many streets there are found houses and buildings that are burnt down, intermittently among others that were not burnt at all. A street will have one, two or more buildings with only charred walls standing while the rest of the buildings along it have not been touched by fire.

The southern end of the city has suffered the worst of the ravages by fire. An inspection of that part of Nanking where the business and commercial section of the city is located showed block after block of burnt out buildings and houses. Many blocks are left with only a dozen or less buildings still standing. Instead of the nearly complete destruction by fire of the entire section of the city such as occurred to Chapel in Shanghai it could be seen that usually just the buildings facing onto the main streets were destroyed while the structures behind had mainly not been burnt.

Some argument has been forthcoming from the Japanese authorities here that much of the burning of Nanking within the walls was done by the retreating Chinese or by Chinese plainclothes soldiers after the fall of the city. Some perhaps may have been done by the Chinese, but every reason is given to believe that it was infinitesimal in comparison with what was brought about deliberately or through negligence by the Japanese troops after they had taken Nanking and after the fighting here had ceased. Either the buildings were deliberately set on fire after they had been entered and looted or through carelessness small fires were left burning in the buildings which set the buildings ablaze or the buildings caught fire from nearby burning structures. No attempt is known to have been made to extinguish the flames of any building on fire.

There is submitted herewith a memorandum drawn up at the time of the 2/ worst of the destruction to the city by fires and signed by members of the International Committee setting forth their observations and findings as to the cause of the conflagrations and as to what source in the main the fires were attributable. In the first section of the memorandum the observers set forth how much of the city they knew had been burned before the Japanese entry and they testify that little damage by fire had actually occurred by that time. In the second section they present the conditions that they found in Nanking on the night of December 20, at which time many buildings on fire were seen with Japanese soldiers watching the burning buildings from nearby, clearing out and trucking away goods from the stores, and in other buildings "making bonfires on the floors."

#### Happenings to the so-called "Safety Zone"

The so-called "safety zone", of which more will be said in a subsequent section of this report on the work of the International Committee, generally fared much better than the rest of Nanking. Although it was not kept inviolate from the marauding Japanese soldiers and from their depredations, it did not suffer anywhere near in like proportion the damages done to and the terrors occurring in the other sections of the city. In it there occurred innumerable cases of rapine, killing and premises therein were all entered and to a greater or less degree looted. But the fact that the majority of the Chinese civilians remaining in Nanking fled to it for refuge as the place of greatest safety in the city demonstrates in itself that better conditions prevailed in the zone than elsewhere. These civilians were not molested to such an extent as in the other sections of the city and they were not driven away from the houses and camps of refuge. Most of the houses were not so badly violated as in the rest of the city. Above all, no burning was done in the zone.

#### Happenings since our arrival at Nanking

Since our arrival at Nanking, in spite of the fact that the worst of the violence in Nanking and the violations to people and property was said to be over, incidents have continually been occurring. The American residents have almost daily brought reports to the Embassy of the entry of their property by Japanese soldiers, the looting of buildings and the carrying off of Chinese civilians from their compounds. Twenty four cases of irregular entry into American property by Japanese soldiers have occurred since January 10th. Three of these cases involved the forceful and unauthorized entry by Japanese military police.

Mr. George A. Fitch, Associate General Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association of Nanking has reported that his house at 7 Pao Tai Chieh has been entered and things pilfered from it by Japanese soldiers seven times since January 4th.

Two cases which were reported on January 13th were made the subject of a written protest to the Japanese Embassy on January 13th. Reference is made to this office's telegram to the Department, No. 31, January 13, 1938, reporting the protest. A copy of the protest is enclosed herewith. 3/ These incidents involved the entry on January 11th of the Nanking Theological Seminary by Japanese soldiers and their taking thence some articles and the forcible entry by Japanese military police on that same day into the house of Dr. M.S.Bates and removing therefrom a Chinese employee of the Nanking University.

On January 14th another letter was received from Dr. M.S.Bates reporting the entry the night before of four Japanese military police into the University of Nanking and their carrying off a Chinese girl. A copy of this letter was submitted to the Japanese Embassy under cover of Mr. Allison's informal letter of January 14th to Mr. Z. Fukui of the Japanese Embassy. 4/ A copy of his letter and that of Dr. Bates is enclosed herewith.

Still further violations of American property continued to occur. Reference is made to Mr. Allison's telegram to the Department of January 19, 4 p.m., summarizing these incidents and reporting the incident that occurred that day in regard to the United Christian Mission property. The incident is here described in full detail.

Upon being informed by Mr. H. P. Mills and Mr. L.S.G. Skyrthe at about 1:30 p.m., January 18th that some Japanese soldiers were reported to have entered the United Christian Mission compound on Chung Hwa Road and that they were still there Mr. Allison and Mr. Essey proceeded to the compound. We found at the side of the compound facing on a side street a large section of the wall had been broken down and the yard inside trampled by men's feet. The broken section of the wall was dry. The wall must have been torn down during the previous three hours as it had rained up till early morning and all else but the broken part was still wet. Mr. Jas. H. McCallum was at that spot when we arrived. He stated that when he visited the compound that morning the wall was still intact. He then went on to relate that on his previous visit he had found two Japanese soldiers together with two Chinese in a building in the property. They had in their hand articles belonging to the Mission. Upon representation to them, they vacated the premises leaving behind the articles. He stated that he saw the piano in the building that morning which was later found missing. A Chinese civilian who was nearby at the time of the looting stated that shortly before we arrived on the scene two trucks had been driven up with a number of Japanese soldiers in them and that the soldiers had broken down the wall and removed the loot. Enclosed is a copy of Mr. McCallum's 5/ letter reporting to the Embassy the incident.

It may be of interest to note here that up to January 18th the large lumber yard of the China Import and Export Lumber Company, Ltd., a British concern had apparently not been entered and the gates to the yard closed and locked. That day on our daily trip to the bund at Haikowen we saw Japanese soldiers cutting away large pieces of timber from the yard, taking the pieces out through the now open gate. We were later informed by the British Consul that the removing of the lumber was entirely unauthorized and that he was protesting to the Japanese Embassy such looting of British property.

## II. Present Situation At Nanking

There is submitted in this section a summary of the present physical condition of Nanking and various comments on the political and economic situation that now prevails here.

### Physical Condition of Nanking

The environs all around Nanking outside the city walls have suffered heavy damage. The suburbs of the city, although no opportunity has been afforded to make a thorough inspection, are believed to have been destroyed to a large extent. This, however, does not apply to the National monuments at the base of Purple Mountain which were seen from a distance several days ago and did not appear to have been damaged.

The Haikowen district has been considerably damaged by fire. A view of it and the bund from the river presented a sight of the buildings of the waterfront in shambles. However, a number of buildings are still intact, such as the Dollar Company Lumber yard, the Standard Vacuum Oil Company installation, the Yangtze Hotel and the large power plant. The latter had been damaged by bombing but it has now been put back into operation. Along the bund when we first arrived the only wharfing facilities that remained besides the Import and Export Company "Ho-See" plant pontoons, were those of the Nanking Ferry where the pontoon was still afloat. Since that time some of the other wharves have been repaired by the Japanese and are now used by Japanese ships.

Within the city walls the part of Nanking that has suffered the greatest damage is that of the southern shopping and business district. This part will have to be almost entirely rebuilt before the normal existence of the city can return. On the main new wide streets such as Taiping Road, Chung Shan Road, Chung Hwa Road, and other main streets, all but a dozen or less buildings facing along the street in each block are burnt. Along Chung Shan Road only the shops and commercial buildings appear to have been burnt. The only National Government building that has been destroyed is that of the Ministry of Communications which was destroyed by fire before the capture of the city by the Japanese. The rest are still intact and are now being used by the Japanese military forces.

Throughout the rest of Nanking houses and buildings, very often the poorer class structures, have been intermittently burnt. The residential section of the northern end of the town has suffered the least from burning. As pointed out in the foregoing in the "safety zone" no incident of fire has occurred.

Water and electricity have now been restored to most of the city. Little will be required to reestablish the telephone system. The debris has generally been cleaned off the streets. The sanitation system of the city is in order but many corpses will still have to be disposed of from ponds and buildings.

#### Political and Economic Situation at Nanking.

As a political and economic entity Nanking can be said to be practically non-existent. For all intents and purposes the city is merely a Japanese military camp. Of the approximate population of a million people only between 200,000 and 250,000 now remain. There are mainly made up of the poorer classes. The largest majority are huddled as refugees in houses and in the temporary camps in the "safety zone". At night they crowd the places of shelter; during the day they can be seen by thousands packing the streets of the zone. Shanghai Road, for example, during the day is a mass of humanity for over a mile; Chinese civilians out to get food and fuel or just standing about with nothing to do.

As was reported in this office's telegram No. 8, January 5, 12 noon, on January 1st the inauguration of the new "Autonomous City Government" (Tse Chih Wei Yuan Hwei) was announced. This Government composed of nine Chinese members whose chairman is Tso Pao-chin under Japanese advice and supervision was to take over the usual functions of a municipal government for the city.

So far, however, little sign of the activity of the new government can be seen. There are a few Chinese policemen stationed at various buildings and wandering about the streets. But their duties are scarcely more than being sort of guard of honor. The Japanese have brought a hundred or so military police who together with Japanese military guards actually police the city to the almost negligible extent that it can be said to be policed. As far as can be ascertained, the sanitation, water and electricity service are under the control and operation of the Japanese military. The fire department and public health department are no longer existent. Japanese military hospitals take care of the Japanese military only with the exception of a few Chinese wounded soldiers already here when the city was taken. What medical facilities are available to the civilian population are supplied by the foreign missionaries. No transportation systems are in operation. The busses that were formerly used for city transportation can be seen lying wrecked along the sides of the roads or else they have been taken off for military purposes.

It is interesting to note that it has been reported that the Japanese military through the Autonomous City Government has been trying since the first of the year to get the civilians to leave the "safety zone" and return to their homes. It is said that at first some civilians did return to their homes in other parts of the city, but that those that did not immediately returned. When they reached their homes they often found nothing left of the houses but charred ruins and above all they were given no protection. They were said to have reported that they were robbed by Japanese soldiers, their women raped and even some of them were killed.

#### Problem of Food Supplies.

The most important and the most pressing problem before the new Government is that of providing or making arrangements for the provision of food supplies for the Chinese civilian population. This problem, however, it apparently only can meet through the actions of the Japanese military. For it is stated that the Japanese military immediately after its entry into Nanking seized control of the rice supplies and whatever rice there is outside of the city has not come in. The International Committee believes that the Japanese military took over more than 100,000 piculs of rice, stored in warehouses within the city walls and in Hsialowan.

An outline of the current problem of feeding and supplying fuel to the quarter of a million Chinese civilians was submitted to the Department in the telegram of this office No. 33 of January 22, 4 p.m. Fuller details are given here.

When the International Committee attempted to set up the "safety zone", a few days before the fall of Nanking they informed the civilian refugees that they must bring at least two weeks' supply of rice into the zone with them. Most of the individual refugees did this. Besides it is undoubtedly true that the Chinese families had laid up large stores of rice before Nanking was captured to provide for future eventualities. After December 13th the refugees lived off these stores; or rice and wheat were sold to those who could afford to buy and distributed free to those who were destitute. The Committee set the price at Ch.\$8.00 per picul, the same price that prevailed just before the capture of Nanking. The Committee has been feeding, without charge, approximately 50,000 refugees a day since the middle of December. To feed the entire refugee population, the Committee estimates that 1,600 bags of rice a day are needed. In the way of fuel for cooking it estimates that at least 40 tons of coal a day are required.

On the afternoon of January 10th the International Committee stopped its sales of rice having been advised to do so by the Japanese military authorities. It was informed that the Autonomous City Government would henceforth handle all future commercial disposition of food supplies. The Committee stated that it was entirely in accord with such action to have the Autonomous City Government take over the commercial disposition. The Committee could then return to its primary function as solely a relief organization and expand its stocks on charity cases. However, the problem still exists of the Autonomous City Government getting the food supplies on sale to the people. On January 10th, 1,200 bags of rice were released by the Japanese army and on January 17th another assignment was made of 1,000 bags of rice and 1,000 bags of flour. So far, that is all the supplies that are known to have been made available for sale.

The situation has not yet become serious as the stocks of rice that the private families had stored away apparently have not yet been exhausted. Moreover limited quantities of green vegetables and fresh meats of a sort are being seen for sale in the bazaars that have been set up along the sides of the streets. But the supplies of rice privately held together with what can be procured may not be sufficient throughout the whole winter. And above all there are the thousands of refugees that have been left destitute by the hostilities and have nothing with which to purchase more food when what they now have is gone.

#### Problem of Means of Livelihood for the Civilian Population

Besides the problems of food and fuel there is as well the question of means of livelihood for the civilians. Nothing so far as can be seen has been undertaken by the Japanese military or the Autonomous City Government to meet this question. There is no work for the civilians except for a few that have been conscripted by the Japanese army and navy. No trade can be carried on in the city under the present conditions. The only commercial intercourse that exists is the selling and exchanging of food supplies and a few other articles such as clothing and pottery along the sides of the streets.

#### Other Comments on the Present Situation

The Japanese military have made it known that they will not permit any foreigners to return to Nanking at the present time. A request was made for the return of two missionary doctors to aid the University of Nanking carry on its hospital work. This request the Japanese military have so far refused. In the case of the China Import and Export Lumber Company, Ltd., one exception was made when one member of that concern was allowed to come to Nanking from Shanghai. He was allowed to come for the sole purpose of making arrangements for the sale of lumber from that company's lumber yard here to the Japanese military. Beforehand, however, the Japanese made it clearly understood that he was to leave Nanking immediately after the arrangements were completed.

The Yangtze River has been passable for ships of all sizes since the middle of December. Recently both the highway and the railroad communications with Shanghai have been re-established. A daily train goes to and from Shanghai. But the facilities of the Hankin bund and the highway and railroad communications to the city remain closed to foreigners except Japanese. Nor has it been possible for foreigners to have merchandise sent to the city. The attempt of the International Committee to have provisions shipped here for use in their relief work was reported to have been met by a categorical "no" from the Japanese Embassy officials. (Reference Enclosure No. 5, a letter from Mr. John H.D. Rebe, dated January 19th). The telegraph and mail service for private and commercial use have not been resumed.

In spite of the statements of the Japanese authorities that Hankin is not yet ready for the return of foreign civilians and the re-establishment of trade and commerce here and the Japanese refusing to allow foreigners to come here, some Japanese civilians have returned. A few Japanese merchants have returned and set up small shops. They are selling Japanese and Korean goods principally to the Japanese troops. Also civilian laborers have been brought back to work for the Army and Navy.

Sufficient data has not become available to submit detailed information in regard to exchange media and the currency in Hankin. It may be significant to note that officials of the Japanese Embassy have informed us that should purchases be made from Japanese shops here payment would have to be made in yen. The Japanese Embassy, however, is willing to exchange Chinese currency into yen. So far no rate has been quoted on such an exchange. A statement made by an American resident is to the effect that the Chinese civilians are not anxious to receive Chinese currency; they prefer now if possible to have payments to them delayed. For cash transactions, nevertheless, between Chinese along the streets and to the Autonomous City Government Chinese currency is being used.

### III International Committee for Hankin

A separate section of this report is submitted herewith on the activities of the International Committee for Hankin and of the American residents as members of that Committee and acting through their own institutions of public welfare.

The work carried on by the twenty two western nationals in Hankin deserves special consideration here. Their untiring and constant efforts to forward the humanitarian treatment of the Chinese population, their unceasing attempts to protect lives and property from violations of the Japanese soldiers, their competent handling of the situation under very harrowing conditions, and their restraint and moderation even under affronts and rough handling by Japanese soldiers deserve considerable praise. Quite probably the mere presence of these foreigners in Hankin had at least some restraining influence on the actions of the Japanese. But it is unquestionable that the efforts of the International Committee and the foreigners individually did much to keep worse from happening to the civilian population and to prevent greater destruction to property than has already occurred. What has already been pointed out in regard to the "safety zone" is evidence in itself of the results of their efforts.

When the fall of Hankin became imminent during the last days of November and beginning of December the International Committee for Hankin - the names of the members of which are submitted as Enclosure No. 7 - was set up to undertake to provide whatever relief might be possible for the Chinese civilians of Hankin. To this Committee there were allotted Ch. \$100,000 by the Chinese National Government which sum was to be paid out of the appropriation to the Secretariate of War. Ch. \$50,000 were actually received which have now been augmented by Ch. \$18,000 realized from the sale of rice. The Committee was also assigned by the Hankin City Government 30,000 piculs of rice and 20,000 piculs of flour for sale and relief distribution.

During the first week of December the International Committee set up the "safety zone" - a map of which is enclosed as enclosure No. 7 - to which the remaining civilian population could come for refuge. Telegrams were sent to the high Japanese Military Command in Shanghai requesting that the existence of the zone be brought to the attention of the attacking

Japanese armies and that it be spared from attack as a place of refuge. The Committee was informed, in reply, that although the Japanese would not recognize the Zone it would not be intentionally attacked if it did not contain soldiers or military establishments.

On the strength of such assurances the Committee set about getting the civilians into the zone. Mayor Ma of Nanking when the Chinese Government collapsed and fled turned over all the functions of the former city government to the Committee. The Committee took up the tasks of providing shelter and food for the refugees. Twenty four refugee camps were set up; over 50,000 refugees were placed in the buildings of the University of Nanking and in Ginling College. The Committee also started to assume as far as possible the functions of a municipal government. It had begun to reorganize the police of the zone and had collected some fire fighting apparatus by the time the Japanese armies entered the city.

An account of the activities of the Committee can be gathered from their own reports to the Japanese Embassy, and later to this Embassy. Copies of these reports which are most illustrative of the work of the Committee and the problems it had to face are enclosed as enclosure No. 8.

In a letter to this Embassy of January 7th, the Committee explained the occasion for the reports. The Committee was informed by an official of the Japanese Embassy on December 14 that the Japanese military - so it reports - "was determined to make it bad for Nanking but the Embassy people were going to try to moderate that action". On learning this, the Committee started appealing to the Japanese Embassy for help in moderating the conditions in Nanking. It kept stressing to the Japanese Embassy how bad conditions actually were in the city so that the Japanese army could be informed. To prove the Committee's assertions regarding the conditions and in order that the military could tell whether conditions had improved or not, the cases of incidents (submitted with this report as enclosure No. 1) were reported to the Japanese Embassy.

In the Committee's letter of December 14th (Enclosure No. 8-1), its first official communication to the Japanese authorities and addressed to the Japanese commander of Nanking, the Committee set forth its major aims in regard to caring of the Chinese civilians in the "safety zone". After stating that it had taken responsibility for putting people into buildings and camps in the area, storing rice and flour for feeding the population temporarily and taking control of the police in the area, it requested that the Committee might: (1) Have a Japanese guard at the entrances to the zone, (2) Be allowed to police the inside of the zone with civilian local police, (3) Be allowed to carry on sale of rice and operate soup kitchens in the area and truck in rice stored in other parts of the city, (4) Be allowed to continue the housing arrangements until the refugees could return to their houses, (5) Be given the opportunity to cooperate with the Japanese in restoring telephone, electric, and water services as soon as possible.

In the "Memorandum of Interview with the Chief of Special Service Corps" of December 15th (Enclosure No. 8-2), the Chief of Special Service Corps in answer to the Committee's letter of the previous day in effect agreed to all its requests except that the zone must be searched for Chinese ex-soldiers. This encouraging statement gave the grounds of assurance to the Committee that it could go on with its work with the hope of some success.

Eight days after the fall of Nanking, that is on December 21, the Committee submitted a further petition (Enclosure No. 8-3) Except for the problem of food this letter summarizes the problems with which the Committee and the foreign residents were faced in their attempts to ameliorate the conditions in Nanking. These problems have been pointed out in the beginning of this report.

The problem of feeding the civilian population and supplying fuel was the other important task that the Committee had to deal with. As a discussion of this question in connection with the present situation in Nanking has already been given in the preceding section, no further comments are made here. There is submitted for reference enclosures Nos. 8-5, 8-6, 8-11, and 8-12.

A final note is made here regarding the International Committee. It concerns the position of the Committee in Nanking. Particular reference and attention is directed to the letter --enclosed as enclosure No. 8,-5 --of December 17th, to the Japanese Embassy, setting forth what it considers to be its standing in the community and pointing out to the Japanese officials what it is attempting to accomplish. True, - in quoting from the letter, - the Committee informed the Japanese Embassy, in view of the statement of Consul General Hatano Okazaki that the International Committee has no legal status, that: "Tis-a-vis your Japanese authorities we are not claiming any political status whatever -- Consequently, when your Army victoriously arrived in the city on Monday noon, December 13th, we were the only administrative authority carrying on in the city. Of course, that authority did not extend outside of the safety zone itself, and involved no rights of sovereignty within the zone." And, in the same letter "May we again reassure you that we have no interest in continuing any semi-administrative function left to us by the former Nanking City Government. We earnestly hope that you will kindly take up these functions as quickly as possible. Then we will become simply a relief organization."

JE/T/RW

TRUE READING  
CODE GRAY  
CODED BY AAN/JE

February 6, 1938

EMBASSY SEIGSTATE

EMBASSY AMERICAN CONSUL

HANKOW

WASHINGTON

PEIPING

SHANGHAI

49 February 6, 5, p.m.

Yesterday afternoon Major General Amaya, the new garrison commander, gave a welcoming tea at the Japanese Embassy for the foreign diplomatic representatives in Hankow during the course of which he made a long statement outlining his opinion on the local situation and in which he criticized the attitude of the foreigners who had been sending abroad reports of Japanese atrocities and encouraging the Chinese in their anti-Japanese feeling. The gist of the statement is given below. Because of the importance and length of the statement an opportunity was taken of checking this morning with my British and German colleagues for possible errors or omissions and it is therefore believed that the following summary is substantially accurate.

The general regretted the prominence which had been given abroad to reports of atrocities committed in Hankow by Japanese troops and in extenuation pointed out the long and strenuous fighting and the unexpectedly strong resistance of the Chinese. The rapid advance had caused a failure of food supplies and the exhaustion of the troops had led to a lack of discipline and hence looting and violence. However, he added that the Japanese troops were the best disciplined in the world and that in the RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR and in the Manchurian Incident, which had been comparatively mild there had been no atrocities. He hoped Europeans and Americans would refrain from criticism and remain on-lookers and thus respect the great Japanese nation. Endeavors were now being made to restore discipline. The Japanese soldiers were not hostile to Chinese citizens but they were angry at the existence of snipers and spies among the latter resulting from the anti-Japanese spirit which Chiang Kai-shek had instilled among the people as well as among the Chinese soldiers.

It was stated to be the desire of the Japanese military to restore order and normal conditions in Hankow as soon as possible. In Yangchow, from which place the general has just come, relations between Chinese and Japanese were good but in Hankow interference by foreigners which encouraged continuance of anti-Japanese feeling amongst the local Chinese population, had hindered a return to normal and large numbers of Chinese continued to live in the so-called "Safety Zone." He referred particularly to reports and activities of nationals of a "certain country" which were damaging relations between Japan and that country. (This obviously refers to the United States.) The general expressed dislike of the attitude of a judge in a law court taken by the foreigners and warned them that their criticisms and interference between Chinese and Japanese would anger the Japanese troops and might lead to some unpleasant incident. He asked to be trusted and gave assurances that he would do his best to restore order and normal life in the city and that foreign lives and property would be protected. He requested foreign representatives to discuss their difficulties with him as far as they concerned protection of foreign property but to refrain from interference with matters which concerned the Chinese.

After the conclusion of the statement he asked for criticism and comments from the foreigners present but none of them spoke. When asked if it would be possible to have a copy of the remarks Counselor Hidaoka of the Japanese Embassy stated that it was not an official statement.

The statement was obviously directed mainly against the International Relief Committee, composed mostly of Americans but with a German chairman. This Committee has been feeding 50,000 Chinese refugees daily and has been extremely active in attempting to prevent and in reporting Japanese atrocities. In view of this strong opposition on the part of the local

military authorities to the International Committee instructions are requested as to how far this office should go in assisting the Committee in its humanitarian activities.

Sent to Embassy Hankow. Repeated to the Department, Peiping and Shanghai. Shanghai please repeat to Tokyo.

Allison

JMA:asn/jma

February 13, 1938

TRUE READING  
CODE GRAY  
DECODED BY AAM

AMBASSY

HANKING

February 12, 2. p. a.

I repeat for your information following telegram from the Department as well as Tokyo's 75 February 4, 12, noon and Department's 33 February 2, 5, p. m. to Tokyo: from the Department's 39 February 7, 5, p. a. Tokyo's 75 February 4, 12, noon which was repeated to Shanghai.

Please instruct circular instructions to endeavor to furnish the Embassy at Tokyo with the specific data mentioned in the last paragraph of Tokyo's telegram under reference.

In this connection the Department has informed Tokyo as follows: "

" The Department approves of the supplementary oral representations made by you.

The Department is asking the Embassy at Hankow to endeavor to furnish you with the specific data mentioned in the last paragraph of your telegram under reference.

The Department considers that there should be kept in mind the distinction between representations of a general character such as those to which your telegram under reference refers, and which ask observance of principles covering the two points enumerated in the Department's 725 of February 2, 5, p. a. and reports that deal with the concrete settlement of specific cases. As some of the evidence which you may have occasion to present to the Foreign Office in support of your general representations may also be concerned with that for which a local settlement is being sought between contracting parties the presentation of which to the Japanese Government for main settlement must await investigation and examination. It is believed that you should make this point clear to the Foreign Office in order to avoid possible misunderstanding. RULL' From Tokyo 75 February 4, 12, noon Department's 33 February 2, 5, p. m. looting of American property by Japanese forces in China.

(one) I handed a formal note to the Minister of Foreign Affairs at nine o'clock this morning reviewing the reports of depredations and presenting the substance of the final paragraph of the Department's instructions.

(two) Having received from the Department no comment on my supplementary oral representations made to the Minister for Foreign Affairs (17) our 34 January 17, 19, m. message I assume that they were not disapproved and I therefore took an equally strong attitude in my talk with Hirota today. I told him that the data which I was now presenting in our note effectually disproved the reports which had come to us from Japanese sources that we were depending upon Chinese information for our information and I said that we were now giving certain precise dates on which looting had been observed by American citizens. I spoke of the steady mounting evidence of Japanese depredations which was coming before the American public; that the inflammable effect of this evidence should not be overlooked or minimized and that the patients of the American people were not unchangeable. I said to the Minister once again in strong terms that I was becoming increasingly convinced at the situation and the attitude of the Japanese Government. I asked the Minister for a greater check on the Japanese country to its government in reply to its assumptions and against one of its own people.

(three) The Minister said that the strictest possible instructions had gone out from General Headquarters to be handed down to all Commanders in China to the effect that these depredations must cease and that Major General Hanna had been sent to Hankow to investigate and to ensure compliance. Hirota said that he confidentially expects the immediate cessation of such looting. He furthermore authorized me to inform you that in the light of the investigations now being carried out full indemnification will be made for losses and damages inflicted.

(four) With regard to reports of the desecration of the American flag detailed account said that the Japanese Authorities had as yet been unable to confirm these reports.

I trust that the Department will arrange that I be furnished with specific data preferably supported by affidavit from American citizens. In this connection please see my 18 January 10, 10. a. m. paragraph number two "Department's 33 to Tokyo "Following is the Department's telegram number 33 February 2, 5, p. m. to me " With reference to Shanghai's 142 of January 26, 3, p. m. reporting looting of American property at Soochow and Hangchow the Department transmits for your information the following telegram received from W. G. Cram General Secretary Board of Missions M. E. Church South: " Bishop Arthur J. Moore in charge missions of Methodist Episcopal South in China cable from Shanghai that he has visited Soochow where we have large holdings including Soochow University and Laura Haygood School for girls. He reports all buildings looted four buildings bombed Japanese occupying others using new chapel of Laura Haygood as horse stable. He has protested to American Consul Shanghai and advises we make representation to you. I respectfully request you take such action as you deem advisable and effective".

These two telegrams are merely illustrative of the numerous complaints that are being received by the Department of the utter disregard shown by Japanese armed forces for American property in China.

Department desires that you address a formal note to the Foreign Office as under instructions from your government calling attention to these numerous incidents as illustrated by these and other reports which have been sent to you and stating that your government finds it impossible to reconcile these lawless acts directed against American Missionary properties with the assurances repeatedly given by the Japanese Government that American property and interests in China will be in the future respected by the armed forces of the Japanese Government; that it appears that these incidents have occurred with the knowledge and some indeed in the presence of Japanese officials while others such as the occupancy of mission properties by Japanese troops were presumably by the express direction of Military officers; that; that arbitrary entry and occupation together with pilfering looting and wanton destruction of property can in no sense be regarded as acts of a character to be expected from a properly controlled military organization; that \_\_\_\_\_ assumes that the Japanese Government in no wise approves or condones such lawlessness and expects assurances from the Japanese Government (one) that it will take immediate and specific steps to put an end to the depredations of American properties and (two) that it will make full and complete indemnification for all losses and damages inflicted FULL" CREW"

Please be guided by instructions contained in the Department's telegram 59 February 7, 6, p. m. in providing Tokyo with specific data mentioned in its 75 February 4, 12, noon

JOHNSON