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UBCHEA ARCHIVES
COLLEGE FILES
RG 11

Huachung
Publicity / reports
General 1945-1949

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C H C

C O P Y

Letter from Francis C.M. Wei Hua Chung, temporarily in Hsichow

February 12, 1945

Dear Mr. Ballou:

I received your letter of November 15, and I am glad to know that you had such a good luncheon party with Dr. Kung, referred to also by Dr. Corbett in his letter of October 19.

I am particularly interested in the "Cultural Material" allowed by the State Department to be sent to China by government plane. Although seventy-five pounds is not a great deal, we would, however, like to have the opportunity of getting our share. We need books and magazines in order to keep ourselves up-to-date. On a separate sheet I am sending you a list of the publications which we would like to have. Maybe you will arrange to send them to us by installments at your earliest convenience.

In spite of the military developments in Southeast China during the last six months, we have been able to enjoy perfect peace in Western Yunnan, especially when the Allies are making such splendid success in Burma. In spite of the opening of the Ledo Road, prices keep going up, including those of imported goods, but that is to be expected.

I would like to have further information upon whether the Stilwell Incident has really affected the friendly relations between the American people and our people in China. Our government in Chungking has done its best to remedy it, and I hope it has satisfied our friends in the United States. I would not say that everything is perfect yet in China, but we are laboring under very serious difficulties. A democracy is not made in a day. We are known for our patience as a national characteristic, and that virtue may be overdone. I am afraid the real fight in China is after the war when we do not have to restrict our feelings owing to an international conflict.

I am glad to know that you think that all the thirteen Christian colleges in China should not continue as they have been after the war. I have already sent a long memorandum to Dr. Van Dusen on this question, with a duplicate to Mr. Lyford, about the middle of September, and therefore it is notnecessary for me to make further comments.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Francis C.M. Wei

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CHC

C O P Y Letter from Frances C. M. Wei to E. H. Ballou

Hua Chung(Central China)
College, Wuchang, China
Temporarily in Hsichow
March 20, 1945

I received some days ago your good letter of January 30, 1945 to the Presidents of the Christian colleges in China. Enclosed I am sending you at your request a complete list of our faculties as prepared by the Dean of the General Faculty. I hope it will serve your purpose.

I have noted the difficulty you have encountered with regard to the matter of fellowships and scholarships in the United States. I am calling the attention of the missionary members of our faculty to it.

I hope you will keep our faculty needs in mind. We have found it very difficult, practically impossible, to find any qualified Chinese to teach Economics and English. If there is any possibility of your getting a good man or woman for Economics to come out immediately to join our faculty here, it may mean the saving of our whole department, which is so desperately shorthanded in staff at the present time that it looks as if we may have to close it next year, and it is the largest department we have in the college. Before the war we had only missionaries to teach English Language and Literature in the college. Now every missionary going on furlough means one out, as far as the college is concerned, for the duration of the war, and yet if we are going to maintain in any way our wartime standards of English we must have a sufficient number of English-speaking teachers whose mother tongue is English. If by any chance you should get any candidates to teach Economics or English, please let Mr. Lyford or Dr. Thayer Addison know about it, and cable us at the same time.

Another need of ours is a Music teacher. Our department of Music is reduced to only one teacher, Mrs. Anderson, who is going on furlough with her husband this summer. The work in the department has to be given up unless we are able to get a Music teacher before September. For the last seven years we have been following the policy of retrenchment, but there is a limit to it. If we are going to hold together at all, we have to replenish our depleted faculty in order to do justice to our work and to our students. I realize how difficult it is to secure passports and travel facilities for any westerner coming out from the United States or Great Britain, but let us hope that there may be a change before the summer as far as that is concerned, and that the Associated Boards and our cooperating missions may be able to send us out more help. It is very strange indeed that the British authorities should have given three hundred and fifty passages to missionaries going overseas, and yet none for China. That must have been due to the change in the situation in November and December. The tide is beginning to turn, and I hope that both the British and American authorities will take that into consideration.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Frances C.M. Wei
President.

Copies to

Staff

mec

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CHC

C O P Y

June 19, 1945

Cable received by Hua Chung Board from President Francis Wei:

"Government approval received. Awaiting transport. Plan reach Kunming July 10. Allen arranging funds. Priority from Washington essential."

EHB:mec

Copies to staff.

1165

C
O
P
Y

DLT OLIVER LYFORD

281 FOURTH AVE. NEW YORK CITY

About Nov. 11, 1945

EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDS MOVING APRIL VIA YUANLING
PRESENT ESTIMATE MOVING EXCLUDING STUDENTS SIXTY
MILLION NEED IMMEDIATELY TWENTY MILLION CABLE
PERMISSION. FENN PRELIMINARY PROMISE THIRTYSEVEN
MILLION MOVING RICHARD BIEN

1166

January 30, 1946

HUA CHUNG COLLEGE

RETURN OF THE COLLEGE TO WUCHANG CAMPUS

Since October 1, 1945 Dr. Bien, Mr. Coe and the Executive Committee Pro-tem have proceeded steadily and effectively in the development of plans for moving the College back to Wuchang. We have been receiving frequent letters and now have sufficient information to make a preliminary estimate of financial requirements.

The faculty and students are anxious to move as soon as possible. The work of the college appears to be going on steadily and satisfactorily, but there is fear that, if the College as a whole does not start back in the early spring, both faculty and students will begin to move independently and it will be difficult to reassemble them.

Last August special committees of the faculty and staff were appointed to plan for moving and rehabilitation. Bishop Gilman was invited to represent Hua Chung at Wuchang, with power to act and to organize a committee there, with himself as chairman and Mr. Kemp and Rev. Mark Li as members, for the purpose of taking over control of the Hua Chung properties and making the needed repairs. Later Dr. P. V. Taylor was added to the committee.

All the circumstances in China indicate that the homeward move should start in April. To this end the courses of instruction in the college have been speeded up.

The Homeward Trip

Three routes are under consideration

(a) By trucks to Yuanling and by water thence to Wuchang;

(b) By trucks to Henyang and by rail from thence to Wuchang;

(c) By trucks to Kunming, rail to Haiphong and thence by water to Shanghai and Wuchang.

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The third route would be the easiest and cheapest, but would be possible only if repairs on the railway should be completed early in the spring and if political conditions in Indo-China should be cleared up in the meantime. These possibilities now seem to be remote. A letter from John Coe dated January 15 and just received, contains the following paragraphs:-

"It looks now as though our best plan would be to charter either through the Highway Administration or the Chinese military for the trip from Hsiakwan to Kunming; then by rail to Tsanyi, just beyond Kutsing; and truck from Tsanyi to Henyang; rail from Henyang to Wuchang."

"Our present estimates, based on what information we have, and estimating the rail fare at the other end from Henyang to Wuchang, are as follows:-

140 people at $220,000	N.C. $30,800,000
60 students at 141,000	8,460,000
7 truck-loads Hsichow to Kunming	7,000,000
3 " " Kunming to Wuchang	7,210,000
Remaining equipment Kunming to Wuchang via rail and sea	6,000,000
Overhead and contingency	2,000,000
	N.C. $61,470,000

"I would now estimate, from the number who have now applied, that 100 students will apply for transportation. Probably one-third to one-half of these will need some help. It is probable that, after we have the figures in, Dr. Bien will send someone to Tsanyi to make more definite arrangements."

"Our estimate of N.C. $61,470,000 would amount to about U.S. $46,000 at present rates."

"There is indication that the financial capital will move early in the spring. The Government has sent up several trial balloons about a new official rate of exchange but so far there is nothing definite."

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"The number of late student registrants in the college has swelled the enrollment for the year to over 240. The last day for registration will be Thursday, January 17, and the total may go to around 250. The students seem to have come back ready to get down to work, and certainly the work of the term has gotten started more quickly and easily than I have known it for a long time."

"From information which I have been able to gather, it would look as though the present tendency of the Ministry of Education is to discontinue, as largely as possible, subsidies in any form to private institutions. At the meeting in Chungking attended by Dr. Bien last September, it was stated by a member of the Ministry that there was little likelihood of any government assistance forthcoming to help private institutions return to their original places."

Preparation for Occupancy at Wuchang

There has been relatively little destruction in Wuchang in general, but great destruction in Hankow. This indicates that there will be great demand in that area for building mechanics but thus far our people appear to have been successful in getting such workmen as they have needed.

Bishop Gilman was requested by Dr. Addison in November to secure and cable contractors' estimates of cost of minimum repairs necessary for April occupancy. No figures have been received thus far, but we have a detailed report by Dr. Taylor describing the condition of each building. See Exhibit A attached hereto.

The plan is to limit repairs for the present to the minimum possible for occupation of the existing buildings "on a refugee basis," on the assumption

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that the Middle School will move to a new location and that a general rearrangement of the campus, with suitable new buildings, will be possible: To this end Mr. Bergamini, before leaving the U.S., has prepared sketches on the assumption that the entire Boone Campus will be made available to the College. Also it is hoped that certain adjacent properties can be acquired at reasonable cost. Mr. Bergamini will have an office in Shanghai from which he can direct the reconstruction.

In the absence of any contractor's estimates from China, an "engineer's guess" of temporary repairs and reequipment of buildings has been made, based on a figure of U.S. $180,000 which was reported some years ago as the original cost of the property at Wuchang used by Hua Chung. On this basis and after consideration of the present condition of the buildings, it has been assumed in Exhibit B, attached hereto, that the proposed minimum repairs to buildings and their equipment will be equivalent to about U.S. $40,000 and that a fairly substantial equipment of college furnishings will cost another U.S. $40,000.

Other principal items of expense necessary for preparation to operate in the fall of 1946 are listed in Exhibit B with notes explaining the basis used for estimating each item.

Cash Required for Moving and Rehabilitation

The total amount required for moving and for rehabilitation, ready for the College to open at Wuchang in the fall of 1946, as estimated in Exhibit B, will be equivalent to approximately U.S. $275,000.

The only funds now available consist of the reserves which have been built up during the war. In Exhibit C attached to this report is a list of

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these funds as they stood on August 1, 1945. The items in Groups A and B, totalling together U.S. $75,869 could be used if consents shall be received from certain donors. However, this total is no more than always should be available as reserves for unexpected emergencies. This college has no endowments or other capital reserves.

Rumors are in circulation in South West China that exchange between China and the U.S. currencies may be stabilized at 1350 to 1 which is the rate assumed in this report. Should this rate continue and should the cost-of-living index in China remain as recently existing, the necessary amount of U.S. funds will probably be fairly close to the total indicated, namely, U.S. $275,000. Any considerable reduction in the exchange rate, or any considerable rise in cost of materials and labor, may necessitate a total considerably above this. It is the judgment of this writer that we should know where at least U.S. $300,000 total can be had, but with a clear understanding that the strictest economy will be kept.

Operating Expenses

Mr. Coe's present estimate of operating expenses for the year ending July 31, 1946 is equivalent to U.S. $48,000, exclusive of salaries of western personnel. In Exhibit D is an estimate of income to cover this expense, which is on the assumption that the supporting missions and Harvard-Yenching will continue their grants for the same amounts as for previous years and that the U.C.R. will provide at least the equivalent of U.S. $16,000. in addition to a liberal contribution toward the cost of moving and rehabilitation.

Estimates of the cost of operations on the home campus in 1946-'47 should be based on a fair beginning on Dr. Wei's Ten Year Plan for the College (University) during that year. As stated in the notes on Exhibit D the estimated operating expense for the first four years of this plan is U.S. $115,600 each year, including the salaries paid to western personnel and U.S. $62,600 exclusive of these salaries.

Oliver S. Lyford,
Treasurer.

Exhibit A

January 30, 1946

Hua Chung College

Wuchang Buildings inspected by Dr. P. V. Taylor

in December, 1945

1. House formerly occupied by Dr. Kwei and Dr. Taylor

   Many doors and windows missing; some flooring torn up; roof fair.

2. The Constantine house

   In slightly better condition than No. 1.

3. Dr. Wei's house

   Roof disarranged; windows and doors gone (not all); easily required.

4. Sherman house

   Seemingly very little damage.

5. New Yen Hostel

   In good condition.

6. Old Yen Hostel

   Largely door and window trouble.

7. Administration building

   Doors and windows damaged; roof good, floors in good condition.

8. Povee hostel

   Normal damage for an old building and some vandalism.

9. Library

   Very little damage.

10. Ingle Hall

    Window and door trouble; some floor damage.

11. The new houses (built in 1937) an old city wall land

    Very good condition except that they have been more or less rebuilt to meet Japanese needs.

12. Gymnasium

No damage except that the running track has been removed.

13,14,15 The three houses in the compound on Ka Chia Po.

Dr. Bien's house

Windows and doors gone; roof & floors o.k.

The Jome house

Practically undamaged.

Methodist house

In perfect condition.

Statements by Dr. Taylor

"Of course furniture is as nearly nil as one can imagine. There is not a book or a shelf in the library. A number of stoves have been saved. One Biology table is still here. A report came in today that a certain government school had taken the greater part of our library and removed it to the country. The school has returned to Hankow and the report is being investigated."

"On our campus it will be possible to have all the buildings in usable condition within two months, if we can get the labor and materials."

B-1

Exhibit B

January 30, 1946

Hua Chung College

Possible Costs

of

Moving and Rehabilitation

The basis for this estimate are stated in the notes which follow the figures. The figures are in U.S. currency assuming exchange at 1350 to 1.

Preliminary Rough Estimate

1.	Moving from Hsichow to Wuchang	U.S.$50,000
2.	Repairs to buildings and building equipment, Temporary basis	40,000
3.	College furnishings - desks, tables, shelving, etc. Permanent basis (usable in new buildings)	40,000
4.	Replacement of books - first year (Ultimate total, $180,000)	60,000
5.	Replacement of laboratory equipment - permanent basis	40,000
6.	Reequipment of families of staff and faculty	45,000
		$275,000

Dr. Bien contemplates occupancy of the present buildings on a "refugee basis", which, according to Dr. Taylor, will be possible within two months time, provided labor and materials shall be available. The completion of all procedure contemplated above will take much more time. It is hoped that new buildings may be started during the coming year.

Items 1, 2 and 3 are discussed in the main body of this report.

B-1 - Exhibit B continued

Items 2 and 3 are based on U.S. $180,000 as the approximate prewar cost of the property used by the college at Wuchang. The present condition of buildings is as stated in Exhibit A.

Item 4 is based on an estimate of U.S. $180,000 for total replacement of books, made by Dr. Wei and submitted to the Chinese Government some time ago. We now understand that a considerable proportion of the original library has been located and may be recovered. This is taken into account in the figure of this item.

Item 5 is a rough assumption made without any supporting data.

Item 6 is based on figures assumed by Dr. Bien and Dr. Fenn in discussions carried on last November. Replenishment of furniture, clothing, etc. was promised to our people when they agreed to go with the College to Southwest China and therefore must be provided. The figure contemplated by Dr. Bien and Dr. Fenn was N.C. $400,000 for each adult member and possibly N.C. $50,000 for each child. On this basis, with 140 persons to be provided for, the total cost may be equivalent to N.C. $60,000,000 or U.S. $45,000 at present rate of exchange.

Exhibit C

January 30, 1946

Hua Chung College

Available Funds

U.S. Currency

August 1, 1945

Group A - Appropriations for Regular Operations

Sustaining Fund	U.S. $ 1,353	
Johnston Fund for School of Arts	21,307	
Harvard Yenching Fund for Chinese Dept.	11,167	
Yale-in-China	16,154	
American Church Mission	5,500	$ 55,481

Group B - Money accumulated for Special Purposes

President's Discretionary Fund	U.S. $ 597	
Practice School	4,218	
Relief Fund	46	
School of Arts - Books	1,052	
" " Education - Books	919	
" " Music	293	
Biology	1,566	
Chemistry	1,034	
Physics	223	
Science - Books	532	
Thorne Fund	462	
Science Museum	200	
Reserve for Transportation	9,246	20,388

Group C - Funds of More Permanent Nature

Reserve for Fellowships for Junior Faculty	1,100	
Holmes Scholarship	60	
Page Fund	400	
Alumni Fund	530	
Board of Founders - Special	279	
Proctor-Johnston Land & Bldg. Fund	1,207	
Deposit Acct.	10,677	
Yunnan Student Campaign Fund	7,300	
Adjustment Acct.	201	20,547
Total	U.S.	$ 96,416

Note - The funds listed above are practically all operating funds and do not include funds for lands and buildings which on August 1, 1945 amounted to U.S. $114,184. It is assumed that all of this sum will be reserved for new land and new buildings.

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Exhibit D

January 30, 1946

Operating Expenses 1945-46

Estimated Income from Regular Sources

American Church Mission	U.S. $12,000
" " " (Miss Johnston)	5,000
Yale-in-China	5,000
Reformed Church	2,000
Methodist Mission (English)	1,000
London Mission	1,000
Total from Supporting Missions	$26,000
Harvard Yenching	5,000
	$31,000
U.C.R.	16,000
Total probably available U.S.	$47,000

Note 1. Mr. Coe hopes to keep the Operating Expenses down to U.S. $48,000
(Last October it looked as though this total might be equivalent to U.S. $60,000)

Note 2. Mr. Coe apparently is not counting on any considerable income from Chinese sources in 1945-46.

Note 3. The above figures pertain to the expenses paid by the College and do not include the salaries and subventions paid direct by the Supporting Missions to their western representatives on the faculty.

Note 4. Under the Ten Year Plan developed at the College and reported by Dr. Wei on February 15, 1944, the operating cost for the first four years of the Plan, including the salaries of 22 missionary teachers, would average U.S. $115,600 per annum. To arrive at a figure which may be compared with the above total for 1945-46, we may deduct U.S. $53,000 for the 22 missionary teachers, leaving U.S. $62,600 as the estimated annual total which would be expended by the College Treasurer.

Copy

As from 38 Poyang Road
Hankow, Hupeh, China
May 19, 1946
L-48

Mr. Oliver S. Lyford
54 Dana Place
Englewood, New Jersey, U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Lyford:

My last letter to you was written by hand in Kweiyang, during the early part of our trip, and I hope this has gotten through to you. On Monday, the 13th, we arrived at Paoch'ing in Central Hunan and found about 90 trucks waiting ahead of us to be ferried across the river at that point. We immediately made arangements for all the people to cross the river and got them settled in inns in Paoching. I then talked the matter over with Dr. Bien, and it seemed wisest that I should leave the party at that point and come on as quickly as possible to Wuchang. I took a bus from Paoch'ing early on the morning of the 14th, which landed me in Siangtan (thirty miles from Changsha) early that afternoon. I was not able to get a bus from Siangtan to Changsha that afternoon, but I was promised passage on a steam launch at six o'clock the following morning. I staid at an inn on the water front, and the man who was looking after me called me at half past twelve in the morning to put me on the boat. The boat pulled out shortly before three o'clock, and I arrived at Changsha about six just as the sun was rising. I went immediately to Yale-in-China and staid for a day there with Dr. Dwight Rugh. Dr. Rugh and Mr. Lao very kindly made arrangements, so that I was able to get a ticket for next day's train to Wuchang. The big bridge on the railway five miles north of Changsha was destroyed during the war and had been replaced with a temporary trestle structure. However, this trestle was wrecked by flood early this month, so now it is necessary for all passengers going by train to go by boat from Changsha out five miles to the other side of the wrecked trestle. There it is possible to get tickets, and there are theoretically two trains a day. The day I went, the slow train, made up of a regular locomotive and old freight cars, was not coming in. However, the "Express", which consists of a truck fitted with small wheels and pulling three small cars, was leaving at seven o'clock. I was fortunate through the kind efforts of Dr. Rugh and Mr. Lao to be able to get a seat on this. There were no seats in the cars, and all the passengers crowded in and sat on their baggage. We made the trip through to Yochow, 80 miles away, by shortly after two the next morning. The train then stayed there until about half past ten. There were different reports that it would not go that day and that there were bridges between there and Wuchang which were out. When it finally pulled out at 10:30 a.m. it ran through with very few stops, and made the 140 mile trip in a little less than seven hours, which was good running time even in the pre-war days.

Last night a boat came in from Changsha with the heavy baggage and equipment which had travelled with the first college group. The rivers are in flood now, so that they were able to come down in very good time. The people on the boat were not certain as to just how soon the personnel who were in Changsha would be able to come down by train. According to reports which we had in Changsha, the second group of the College were coming through a little faster than the first group, and unless there was undue delay at the river ferries in Hunan, they should be in Changsha today or tomorrow. Yesterday I

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sent a cable from Hankow saying that the first group had arrived at Changsha and that the second group were due on Sunday.

Aside from a number of delays due to truck breakdowns, the trip of the first party has been without undue incidents. We took longer than we expected, but it seemed wisest to keep the party pretty well together, so that meant longer delays for some pwople while one ot two trucks were fixed. There was some sickness among the people enroute, but no thing more than was to have been expected/ So far I know relatively little of how affairs have gone with the second group, but I believe that under the efficient management of Dr. Hwang P'u things have gone well, and from the reports that we have had they were coming through a little faster than we did. As soon as Dr. Bien gets here, we will send fuller reports.

On my arrival here, Mrs. Coe handed me a copy of your letter of March 30 to Dr. Bien, which deals quite largely with the question of finance. I am not in a position at the present moment to give final figures as to the cost of the college moving, but I still expect that the total will be around Chinese $60,000,000. A further remittance of $10,000,000 from Miss Priest has been received on this account. This makes a total of $45,000,000 I have received so far. As soon as all the reports come in, (Mr. T'an was looking after the financial affairs for the second party and he will be staying for a time in Changsha with his family, but I have asked him to send down his figures as soon as possible), I will send off to you a complete report.

I have not yet had time to go over with Dr. Taylor the accounts in regard to repairs and furnishings, and so I am not in a position to quote any figures in regard to that. Dr. Taylor has been working hard here and has things well in hand.

Dr. Fenn is back in Shanghai, and he has sent up a questionnarie to be filled out by us in reference to the faculty. My assumption is that upon receipt of this questionnaire, he will then be in a position to start the distribution of funds for faculty rehabilitation. I am very pleased to know that he is back in China and that the whole question of allocation of faculty rehabilitation funds is being decided by a body like the UCR, and is not left to the individual decision of each institution. In all probability, whenDr. Bien gets here, we will make some small distribution of rehabilitation funds to the faculty on the basis that any distribution now will be deducted from what ultimately comes through Dr. Fenn.

In reference to drawing on the college reserves, the situation is this. $50,000,000 was sent to me in Kunming for moving expenses. So far, $11,000,000 has been sent from Shanghai to Hankow, which has been used chiefly by Dr. Taylor. Up to the present I have had no statement from Mr. Pickens as to the rate of exchange for this. This does not include the US$7,000 which was exchanged for the purchase of land. As soon as I have a complete picture of this, I will let you know. Because of the fact that UCR has paid up so promptly, this amount of $45,000,000 for moving expenses, I now have a considerable balance on hand in Hankow. How long this will last will depend upon how fast UCR money for faculty rehabilitation comes in. Prices are a great deal higher here, and it will be a matter of making a radical increase in subsidies.

I do not expect to have to draw too heavily on Mr. Pickens in the immediate future for college needs unless the situation in regard to land purchase should turn more

favorable than it is at the present moment.

I have been quite pleasantly surprised to find that the condition of the faculty residences is better than I had expected. While the buildings show the effect of the lack of upkeep and repair for a number of years, thanks to the strenuous efforts of Dr. Taylor most of them have been put into fairly good condition.

Yours sincerely,

s/ John L. Coe

Dear ---
It is good to be back in Wuhan. Considering everything the compound is in surprisingly good shape. A goodly number of trees are still there and the grass is coming through well. The buildings show the effects of the years of non-repair but we might be much worse off.

I just heard on arrival here of the marriage of Connie - Congratulations.

Hope that Dot has entirely recovered from her operation of last fall.

1 7 5 3 1 7 7

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C HC

COPY OF RADIOGRAM FROM BISHOP GILMAN TO MR. BALLOU

Received April 28, 1946.

DIRECTORS HUACHUNG REPRESENTING THE FIVE COOPERATING MISSIONS ACCEPTS MARCH REPORT RESERVING RIGHT MAKE FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS IF NECESSARY WHEN FULL MEETING ASSEMBLES

1753177

M E M O R A N D U M

Radiogram received Monday morning by Francis Wei from Richard Bien at Hsichow (as reported over phone to E.H. Ballou).

CONTRACT SIGNED FIRST GROUP LEAVING 17TH SECOND GROUP 24TH STOP MINISTRY EDUCATION NOTIFIES TOTAL REHABILITATION GRANT AID 100,000,000 REGULATIONS PENDING.

(Wei says it is "a miracle" if this grant is for Hua Chung only - he wishes the message had been longer and clearer at this point)

1182

As from 38 Poyang Road
Hankow, Hupeh, China
May 19, 1946
L-48

Mr. Oliver S. Lyford
54 Dana Place
Englewood, New Jersey, U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Lyford:

My last letter to you was written by hand in Kweiyang, during the early part of our trip, and I hope this has gotten through to you. On Monday, the 13th, we arrived at Paoch'ing in Central Hunan and found about 90 trucks waiting ahead of us to be ferried across the river at that point. We immediately made arangements for all the people to cross the river and got them settled in inns in Paoching. I then talked the matter over with Dr. Bien, and it seemed wisest that I should leave the party at that point and come on as quickly as possible to Wuchang. I took a bus from Paoch'ing early on the morning of the 14th, which landed me in Siangtan (thirty miles from Changsha) early that afternoon. I was not able to get a bus from Siangtan to Changsha that afternoon, but I was promised passage on a steam launch at six o'clock the following morning. I staid at an inn on the water front, and the man who was looking after me called me at half past twelve in the morning to put me on the boat. The boat pulled out shortly before three o'clock, and I arrived at Changsha about six just as the sun was rising. I went immediately to Yale-in-China and staid for a day there with Dr. Dwight Rugh. Dr. Rugh and Mr. Lao very kindly made arrangements, so that I was able to get a ticket for next day's train to Wuchang. The big bridge on the railway five miles north of Changsha was destroyed during the war and had been replaced with a temporary trestle structure. However, this trestle was wrecked by flood early this month, so now it is necessary for all passengers going by train to go by boat from Changsha out five miles to the other side of the wrecked trestle. There it is possible to get tickets, and there are theoretically two trains a day. The day I went, the slow train, made up of a regular locomotive and old freight cars, was not coming in. However, the "Express", which consists of a truck fitted with small wheels and pulling three small cars, was leaving at seven o'clock. I was fortunate through the kind efforts of Dr. Rugh and Mr. Lao to be able to get a seat on this. There were no seats in the cars, and all the passengers crowded in and sat on their baggage. We made the trip through to Yochow, 80 miles away, by shortly after two the next morning. The train then stayed there until about half past ten. There were different reports that it would not go that day and that there were bridges between there and Wuchang which were out. When it finally pulled out at 10:30 a.m. it ran through with very few stops, and made the 140 mile trip in a little less than seven hours, which was good running time even in the pre-war days.

Last night a boat came in from Changsha with the heavy baggage and equipment which had travelled with the first college group. The rivers are in flood now, so that they were able to come down in very good time. The people on the boat were not certain as to just how soon the personnel who were in Changsha would be able to come down by train. According to reports which we had in Changsha, the second group of the College were coming through a little faster than the first group, and unless there was undue delay at the river ferries in Hunan, they should be in Changsha today or tomorrow. Yesterday I

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sent a cable from Hankow saying that the first group had arrived at Changsha and that the second group were due on Sunday.

Aside from a number of delays due to truck breakdowns, the trip of the first party has been without undue incidents. We took longer than we expected, but it seemed wisest to keep the party pretty well together, so that meant longer delays for some pwople while one ot two trucks were fixed. There was some sickness among the people enroute, but no thing more than was to have been expected/ So far I know relatively little of how affairs have gone with the second group, but I believe that under the efficient management of Dr. Kwang P'u things have gone well, and from the reports that we have had they were coming through a little faster than we did. As soon as Dr. Bien gets here, we will send fuller reports.

On my arrival here, Mrs. Coe handed me a copy of your letter of March 30 to Dr. Bien, which deals quite largely with the question of finance. I am not in a position at the present moment to give final figures as to the cost of the college moving, but I still expect that the total will be around Chinese $60,000,000. A further remittance of $10,000,000 from Miss Priest has been received on this account. This makes a total of $45,000,000 I have received so far. As soon as all the reports come in, (Mr. T'an was looking after the financial affairs for the second party and he will be staying for a time in Changsha with his family, but I have asked him to send down his figures as soon as possible), I will send off to you a complete report.

I have not yet had time to go over with Dr. Taylor the accounts in regard to repairs and furnishings, and so I am not in a position to quote any figures in regard to that. Dr. Taylor has been working hard here and has things well in hand.

Dr. Fenn is back in Shanghai, and he has sent up a questionnarie to be filled out by us in reference to the faculty. My assumption is that upon receipt of this questionnaire, he will then be in a position to start the distribution of funds for faculty rehabilitation. I am very pleased to know that he is back in China and that the whole question of allocation of faculty rehabilitation funds is being decided by a body like the UCR, and is not left to the individual decision of each institution. In all probability, whenDr. Bien gets here, we will make some small distribution of rehabilitation funds to the faculty on the basis that any distribution now will be deducted from what ultimately comes through Dr. Fenn.

In reference to drawing on the college reserves, the situation is this. $50,000,000 was sent to me in Kunming for moving expenses. So far, $11,000,000 has been sent from Shanghai to Hankow, which has been used chiefly by Dr. Taylor. Up to the present I have had no statement from Mr. Pickens as to the rate of exchange for this. This does not include the US$7,000 which was exchanged for the purchase of land. As soon as I have a complete picture of this, I will let you know. Because of the fact that UCR has paid up so promptly, this amount of $45,000,000 for moving expenses, I now have a considerable balance on hand in Hankow. How long this will last will depend upon how fast UCR money for faculty rehabilitation comes in. Prices are a great deal higher here, and it will be a matter of making a radical increase in subsidies.

I do not expect to have to draw too heavily on Mr. Pickens in the immediate future for college needs unless the situation in regard to land purchase should turn more

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favorable than it is at the present moment.

I have been quite pleasantly surprised to find that the condition of the faculty residences is better than I had expected. While the buildings show the effect of the lack of upkeep and repair for a number of years, thanks to the strenuous efforts of Dr. Taylor most of them have been put into fairly good condition.

Yours sincerely,

s/ John L. Coe

Dear ---
It is good to be back in Wuhan. Considering everything the compound is in surprisingly good shape. A goodly number of trees are still there and the grass is coming through well. The buildings show the effects of the years of non-repair but we might be much worse off.

I just heard on arrival here of the marriage of Connie - Congratulations.

Hope that Dot has entirely recovered from her operation of last fall.

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38 Peyang Road
Hankow, Hupeh, China
July 22, 1946.

Dr. William P. Fenn, Field Secretary
Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y., U.S. A.

Dear Bill:

Your telegram of July 10 to Dr. Bien, asking him to cable you in New York the number of staff, total salaries in June, and salary basis was handed to me a week ago. Dr. Bien was delayed in his return from Shanghai, and while he may have left Shanghai the latter part of last week, I am uncertain as to when he will be getting here. Last Tuesday I sent you the following cablegram.

STAFF FIFTY SALARY TOTAL EIGHT MILLION AND HALF SALARY BASIS THREE HUNDRED TIMES BASIC PLUS EIGHTY FIVE THOUSAND.

I delayed writing you, hoping to be able to consult with Dr. Bien before I sent the letter off, but Dr. McMullin paid us a brief visit over the week-end, and after talking it over with him I consider it wisest to write you immediately before waiting for Dr. Bien's return. The number on our payroll in June, exclusive of missionaries, was fifty teaching and administrative staff. The total salaries paid out to these people amounted to $8,550,000. The basis on which we are paying salaries at the present time is substantially the same as has been announced by the government for paying salaries in the Wuhan area for the month of June. For the time being at least, it is probable that our Directors will follow the government scheme for this area.

For June the plan was 300 times the basic, plus $60,000. However, there is the added factor that in many government institutions there is a flat grant of $25,000 to the higher ranks, which is called a "research subsidy," but as we understand it, no attempt was made to find out whether individuals are doing research or not. Therefore, we considered it wiser to pay the additional subsidy of $25,000. to all faculty and staff members, and not perjure ourselves by calling it a research subsidy. We also felt that the lower ranks probably needed this more than the upper ranks, and hence it applies to everyone. In addition, we have a small extra subsidy of $20,000 per recognized mouth for every mouth between six and nine in the large families. At the present time we have fourteen mouths so recognized.

Thus if prices should not go up, our total salary and subsidy payments for a year would amount to $102,000,000. In addition to that we will have to reckon on the matter of servants wages, classroom and administrative expenses, and so forth. I would estimate on the basis of June prices it would cost to operate Huachung for the next academic year somewhere between $130,000,000. and $140,000,000. Our income from the cooperating units and Harvard-Yenching should approximate US$30,000. We have restored tuition for next year and should have an income from that of $15,000,000 to $20,000,000. The reason for the estimate in regard to it is that in order to hedge against probable rising prices, we have decided to charge tuition at the equivalent of half a tan of rice each term, rather than announcing a figure ahead of time, which is prices should soar would prove too low. Of course, in the case of students from some of our middle schools and children of our church workers there will have to be the remission of the tuition. Thus we are faced with a deficit of from $50-$60,000,000. Reckoning exchange at 2000-to-one it would be US $25-30,000. Before the UCR went on the scheme of paying exclusively in national currency, we were receiving around $30,000 per year for the Sustaining Fund. If it were possible for us to receive somewhere around this figure and if the exchange rate would follow closely enough to the increase in prices, we would be able to balance approximately our budget with a Sustaining Fund of that size.

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Our financial year does not close until the 31st of July, but I have been doing some preliminary work on the accounts and expect that for the year 1945-46 we will come fairly close to balancing our budget with the possibility of one or two million dollars deficit. When I complete the figures, I will let you know.

Our moving expenses up to the present have totalled $60,800,000. They are not complete because of the fact that there are eleven pieces of college equipment which had to be left in Chanyi to be brought through to Changsha by the transportation company, which will have to be settled for. Also there may be some adjustment of travel allowances with some members of the faculty who told us in March that they would be with us this fall, but are now saying that they are going elsewhere. Possibly these two items will balance each other out, or bring the total as far as a half million dollars in either direction.

I had seen in the paper that Dr. McMullin was going to make a tour of the various Christian colleges and that Wuchang was on his itinerary, but we had had no word of when to expect him. Last Saturday afternoon he arrived in Wuchang about four o'clock. I spent a couple hours going around with him, showing him the various buildings and our situation. He had a conference with Dr. Hwang P'u, Dean of the School of Education, and acting president until Dr. Bien's return. He also talked with Dr. Taai and the Rev. Leonard Constantine in regard to the religious activities in the college. I tried to give him all figures which he asked for. Because of a mix-up in the plane schedules, he was unable to stay long with us, and left very early the next morning in order to catch the plane for Chungking. Everyone regretted the circumstances which made his visit to us such a very brief one, and I was sorry that Dr. Bien was not back for his visit.

Dr. Wei is hoping to fly from England to China, and the latest information is that he expects to be here by the 22nd of August.

The rehabilitation of our buildings is going ahead apace, and I can begin to see the end of that work, which should be nearly completed by the time college opens. Our total bill for repairs, replacement of glass, tiring, etc. will come between $70-80,000,000. College furniture was very largely removed by the Japanese or Chinese Army, and we shall be needing probably 90-95% replacement. We are not getting the cheapest temporary things which would go to pieces in a year or so, but are getting things which would hold up and are paying slightly more, but I think it will be an economy in the long run. I hope that you will have good summer of it.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) John L. Coe.

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School of Arts
HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY
Wuchang, China.

January 25, 1949

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

Dear Dr. McMullen:

A few days ago President Wei sent me an excerpt from your letter of December 27, 1948 which has reference to the proposed re-union of Boone Library School with Huachung University. As Chairman of the university's committee on Cooperation with Boone Library School, I am writing to express my profound disappointment at the action taken by the United Board Committee on this matter.

For more than a year - since the visit to this center of Dr. Charles B. Shaw - we have been steadily working for closer cooperation between Huachung and Boone Library School. The proposed re-union of these two institutions was not only inspired by Dr. Shaw's visit: it has long been the cherished hope of many friends and alumni of Boone and Huachung. In working for the re-union, we are not aiming at adding something new to Huachung University, but restoring the organic unity which once did exist between the two institutions and re-affirming the leadership in library service that is the birthright of Boone Library School.

There was a time when the library facilities of Huachung or its predecessor Boone University where inadequate for the full development of a library school. Yet in those same years Boone Library School was able to train efficient librarians many of whom are still occupying important positions throughout China. Whether the present facilities at Huachung can be improved or not depends not so much on geographical location as on the degree of support and genuine cooperation from the United Board. Both historically and organically, the re-union of Boone Library School with Huachung University seems to be the most natural thing to promote. We do not believe in doing things in a big way, but we do have faith in the essential wisdom and fairness of restoring things to the order in which the founders of Boone and Huachung envisaged.

We in Huachung do not feel that we have any right to dissuade any other university from opening a library school for itself, but we cannot believe that any fair-minded person could wish the destruction of the organic unity between Huachuhg University and Boone Library School in order to facilitate the library school project of some other institution which is too eager for expansion.

May we hope that your Committee on Program and Budget will consider all things most impartially and in the same spirit of just cooperation that your own representative, Dr. Shaw, so well exemplified.

With warmest greetings and regards.

Most sincerely yours,

/s/ John C. F. Lo
John C. F. Lo
Committee of Huachung University
Committee for Cooperation with
Boone Library School

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HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY
Wuchang, China

February 9, 1949

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

Dear Dr. McMullen:

Writing for this week, I am happy to say that after the tense situation about ten days ago, particularly in Hankow, we are having another spell of comparatively easy times. It is difficult to say whether the situation has actually improved. There are conflicting reports with regard to the positions of the Communist troops. At any rate, we are making every preparation to start the second term on February 14.

On February 5, 1949, the Board of Directors met in my house, and the meeting lasted from 10:30 AM till 12:30 PM, and from 1:30 PM till 4:30 PM. Owing to the situation and difficulty of travel, no directors from outside Wuhan were able to attend. Some had local alternates, but others failed to appoint their alternates. Twelve directors, including alternates, turned up, and it was a quorum meeting.

The Minutes are not ready yet, but as soon as they are mimeographed, they will be sent to you, as well as to the members of the whole Board. As a preliminary report, I would like to say that the President's Report for the first term was heard and received. The report included the following items of information:

In September the enrollment was 572 students, of whom 377 were men, and 195 women. Breaking the number up into the four classes, the figures were 47 seniors, 139 juniors, 195 sophomores, and 191 freshmen. During the term one junior withdrew, seven sophomores, and twenty-six freshmen, leaving 538 students who completed the term's work with term examinations. In view of the situation and the unusual circumstances, this was not at all bad record.

Of the total enrollment of 572, 261 were graduates from Christian middle schools, making 45% of the total. 269 were Christians, which was 47% of the total. This number of Christian students does not include a number of students baptised during the term.

In the whole University 324 were in the College of Arts during the last term: 43 Chinese majors, 78 English, 160 Economics, 43 History. 137 in the College of Science: 29 Biology, 53 Chemistry, 55 Physics. 111 in the College of Education: 72 Education, 39 Teacher Training.

Again during the last term there were 56 on the teaching staff as follows:

	Full-time	Part-Time
ARTS		
Chinese	8	0
English	7	3
Economics	4	1
History	4	0
Philosophy, Psychology, Religion, and Theology	3	2
	26	6

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	Full-time	Part-time
SCIENCE		
Physics	4	0
Chemistry	4	0
Biology	4	0
Mathematics	2	0
	14	0
EDUCATION	5	0
MUSIC	3	2
	8	2

N.B. By full-time is meant any faculty member who is giving his whole time to the University, even though he spends part of his time in Administration. For instance, the President and Treasurer, Dean and Registrar.

Of the total teaching staff, 18 hold Ph.D. or Sc.D. degrees; 12 M.A.'s; 18 B.A.'s; 8 Professional Diplomas or all old Chinese scholars.

Taking the teaching staff again, of the total of 56, 16 are salaried missionaries, 6 volunteer wives, 22 Chinese Christians, totaling 44, or 78.6%. Only 12 are non-Christians.

There are 16 full-time members of the administrative staff, including clerks. Of this number two are missionary wives, 7 Chinese Christians, together making a total of 56.3% Christians, and 7 non-Christians who are mainly clerks. We are proud of this high percentage of Christians on the faculty, and even on the administrative staff.

The committee appointed by the Senate to negotiate with the Boone Library School for reunion made its report, which was received, and I read paragraphs from your letter concerning this matter to the Board of Directors, and the same paragraphs had previously been circulated to the members of the Senate Committee. While no formal agreement has been reached with the Boone Library School, the Directors acted that a strong case should be presented to the United Board, urging for permission to come to an agreement with the Boone Library School for its reunion with Huachung University, owing to the strong desire of the Huachung Alumni, including many trained librarians scattered all over the country.

A preliminary report was also made to the Directors with regard to the proposed affiliation of the Central China Union Seminary with Huachung, and the Directors acted to ask Huachung to proceed with this negotiation on the condition that such an affiliation should involve no financial obligation on the part of the University.

With regard to the other actions taken by the Board of Directors at this last meeting on various recommendations made by the Senate as reported by the President, please refer to the Minutes when they are ready.

The Treasurer made a brief report on the method of payment of salaries and subsidies according to the effective bank exchange rate of the US dollar from time to time.

The emergency situation was presented by the President, and the Directors approved all the measures taken by the administration to meet any crisis. Letters from Dr. McMullen and other officers of the United Board, concerning the policy of Christian colleges in China in an emergency situation, were reported to the Board of Directors, and they heartily approved the policy stated. A great deal of time was spent in the afternoon on a free discussion by the Directors on the situation.

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The action taken by the Board of Directors last June was reaffirmed to authorize the University Senate to take any measures necessary to meet a crisis, if there should be no time for the Board, or even the Executive Committee, to meet and deal with it. As the Senate consists of 12 members, together with the President as chairman and representatives of all the cooperating missions and all the interests, the Directors considered the Senate to be the best group of people to take emergency measures when necessary, especially when the great majority of the Senate members are Chinese with both American and British missions well represented, and all are Christians.

I am still in close touch with the different local organizations, both church and official, so as to get the latest news whenever available. It takes a great deal of my time, but it is necessary. However, I make it a point to stay on the campus as far as possible, not only to attend to the emergency business, but also to stabilize the minds of the students who are apt to be nervous on account of their youthfulness. Dr. Walter Allen, who went to Hongkong for his luggage, which was shipped from America, has already returned with it. Word has been received from Dr. Paul Ward that he and Mr. Starratt are booked to leave Hongkong to come back to teach in the second term around February 14. Notice was given to the faculty three weeks ago that if any members of the faculty or administrative staff should wish to send his or her families away to safer places, the administration would be prepared to advance two-months' salary for the purpose, but no family has left so far.

I am in touch with Dr. William P. Fenn in Shanghai, who has been sending us news from time to time, and we are very grateful for the information that he gives.

Last night we had another heavy fall of snow, but it doesnot stay on the ground very long, as spring is coming.

I spent two hours this morning talking with a Senate Committee and with a group of representative students as to the method of collecting fees, and the time when the last installment of fees must be paid. Our policy is to get to know the difficulties and problems of the students to help as many as possible within our financial limits, and yet not to make many changes in our regulations, but carry on as usual as far as possible. Again, I would say that there is no telling how many students will return for the second term from distant places. If the situation should remain as it has for the last week, we might expect possibly 300 students, but if it should worsen a little bit, perhaps we would have about 250, or less than a half of the fall term. It is the general opinion of many people in the Wuhan cities that our prospects of getting through the second term are good. Our own attitude is to carry on as far as possible and take one step at a time.

The morale of both the faculty and students is splendid although groups of students left during the winter vacation when the situation became more alarming. Some of them, I am sure, will return, as long as the railway remains open. I had planned to do some reading and writing during the vacation, but various things have taken so much of my time that only a limited amount of reading is possible, and still less writing.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

FCMW/MRC

Francis C. M. Wei

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HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY

Wuchang, China

February 24, 1949

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

Dear Dr. McMullen:

I do not have any exciting news to put in this weekly letter for you and all the missions in America and Great Britain.

The situation remains quiet and peaceful as far as our center is concerned, and nobody expects any change within at least the next two months. Perhaps the storm will blow over us, and we shall be able to carry on through the present semester and close for the summer vacation, normally, in the latter part of June. The Provincial Government has just had a new set of officials put in, and in many ways we see improvement such as a control of the market, the ferry boats on the river, etc. It is remarkable how little changes like this for the better help to stabilize the people.

Our enrollment up-to-date is only 410, of whom about 140 are women, but there are 90 students still on the Dean's list for Leave of Absence. Owing to financial difficulties only about half of these are likely to come back within the next week. Registration closes on March 3. In ordinary times we allow the students to be late for only one week, but owing to the present situation the Senate decided a month ago to extend that period to two weeks, counting from the first day of lectures.

The situation has certainly hit the students very badly. The inflation is going from bad to worse. The silver dollar has been worth from GY$1180 to GY$1300 during the last two days. Some of the students depended upon their friends and relatives to help pay their fees, and those friends or relatives have gone away, and so they have been left stranded. Others find it difficult to get enough money to come from western Hunan or eastern Szechwan and from some of the distant districts of the province of Hupeh. Farmers' families have to sell rice in order to get the money, and rice is cheaper in other parts of the country than it is in the Wuhan Center, and all our fees are reckoned on the basis of rice.

Consequently about 170 students asked for relief subsidies to pay their fees. The Senate has a committee to make the grants, and the Committee met three days ago to consider all the applications. They have had to reduce the number as far as possible. They have considered all the circumstances with the help of a popular ballot done by the student organization, indicating how many would support a certain application and how many were against it. The result was that relief was granted to 125 students, varying from 1 tan of rice to 2½ tan. The total amount required for this relief is 225 tan of rice, costing Silver $9 per tan.

We have no relief item on the budget, and so during the last week I have had to make many trips to Hankow in order to "buttonhole" my friends in the business circles there. They are all very cordial and generous to me, and up-to-date I have promises amounting to about Silver $2,000, the equivalent of about 220 tan of rice.

But many students are returning during the coming week, and some others who have not received the grant, may need further help. The Committee is still investigat-

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ing in order to meet real needs. We are allowing students to postpone the payment of part of their fees until the end of March, and by that time perhaps further relief will be needed. The Board of Directors met on February 5th and authorized our request to the United Board for US$1500 for Student Relief and to make up the necessary remitting of fees in many cases. This recommendation by the Directors is among the actions included in the Minutes which are being sent to you as soon as they are mimeographed. I hope that this will meet with the approval of the Huachung Committee of the United Board. We hoped that this amount would at least come out of the special contribution made by the National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church from the Presiding Bishop's Fund to the United Board, from which, according to Earl Fowler's letter received sometime ago, we may expect as much as US$20,000. I have written to you already about this but no definite word has yet come from you. In your letter you said you were still waiting for the actions of the Budget Committee of the United Board.

It may be possible for me to raise some more money locally for the purpose of student relief, but the situation has hit not only the families of our students, but also the business people in our center, as well as in other centers. Much business seems at a standstill, and it is not very pleasant to go around to find even Silver $1,000 or so. I am a "professional beggar," but I have to use my discretion as to when I should go out for funds.

Exchange is a little more favorable for us right now. A few weeks ago, just after China New Year, the US$1 exchanged for only Silver 90¢ -- for a day or two there, the US$1 exchanged for about Silver 20¢! Then the rate went up to around Silver $1.10 for US$1. It has now gone up further in our favor, so that we may receive Silver $1.35-1.40 to US$1. During most of 1948 the rate ranged between Silver $1.50-1.60 for US$1. The silver which we laid in for the University against an emergency cost on the average Silver $1.53 to US$1. We think back to the time before 1938 when US$1 exchanged for Silver $3.30!

The faculty and students are still keeping up their splendid morale, although many are still waiting eagerly to see how the peace talks will come on. The prospect seems to be much better just at the present time than it was two weeks ago, but it is silly for our emotions to depend upon the newspaper reports which vary from day to day. I am going out this afternoon to a meeting of the local leaders, and I hope to get some "inside dope" from a person who has just returned from an important mission to the north. I am not in politics, and I take great care not to be involved in any, but it is necessary for me to maintain all my contacts, so as to keep Huachung in its proper place in the Wuhan community. Our reputation is getting better and better in all circles, and it looks as if we may be able to depend upon it for carrying us through a crisis if one should come.

We have not had a reply from all the members of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors with regard to the proposal which you forwarded to us from the United Board in your last letter. As soon as we have heard from all the members of the Executive Committee, we shall take steps to implement your action. I have no doubt that the replies from all the members of the Executive Committee will be favorable.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Francis C. M. Wei

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HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY
Wuchang, China

March 3, 1949

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

Dear Mac:

I have just received your good letter of February 21, and I am happy to have all the news, and to know particularly that my weekly letters are getting to you so regularly with the splendid airmail service.

I hope that at the April meeting of the Trustees of the United Board with Dr. Sherman and Mr. Fowler present, something may be done to make it possible for the Boone Library School to become a part again of Huachung University. Personally, I do not believe that the question of library facilities for the training of librarians here in Wuchang should be against us so much as the Committee on Program and Budget may think. We did manage to train good librarians before the Library School became independent when our library facilities were much worse than they are at present. We are getting support here and there to build up our library within the next few years. The important thing for you to consider is really the financial matter, which would be necessary anyway, even if the only library school among the thirteen Christian colleges should be located elsewhere. It would be easier for the Boone Library School, when it becomes a part of Huachung again, to summon back to us many of the experienced librarians who were trained in the Boone Library School before the war, even before its separation from us, and who have had subsequently good training abroad in America and in Europe. This should be given careful consideration when the Board of Trustees meets in April.

As to the matter of the payment of the three months' severance pay, we have already had the concurrence of the Executive Committee of our Board of Directors to do so, but in consulting with some of the responsible heads here, we feel that this is not the time to do so. The situation is improving with the peace talk going on, and everybody believes that possibly for at least two to three months the situation will not change for the worse. Furthermore, just for the moment the exchange market is chaotic. If money should be paid out now by exchanging US dollars into Gold Yuen, it would certainly be unfavorable to us. So, we are holding the action of the United Board until we see the situation more clearly, and then act promptly. Just at the present time it is difficult to exchange even US$1,000 in any of the banks without one or two days' notice, and everyday the exchange changes.

Professor John L. Coe, our treasurer, will prepare an itemized statement for you with regard to meeting the obligations to all our faculty and staff members, and he will send you a statement on our Reserve held now in New York. I am glad to know that US$5,000 has been allocated to Huachung, but that amount is not enough for the preparation of paying three months.

I have noted that the China Office of the United Board is to be closed on March 31, 1949, and after that date we shall direct our correspondence to the office in New York. It is good that Dr. Fenn is going to be still with you after the closing of the office in Shanghai.

Registration closes today, and our enrollment has already reached 460, about one-third women. As far as I know, at least five or six students are still on their way. They are being held up in different places on account of the present conditions of transportation. Our enrollment will, therefore, be about 465 at

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least, and this is very good indeed in view of the circumstances. During the winter vacation I wrote that we expected an enrollment of only about two-thirds of that of the enrollment of the full term, which was 572, and two-thirds would be 380. An enrollment of 460 is more than 80%. If this were a normal year and we had allowed for a drop in enrollment of 12-15%, which is usual every year, our present enrollment of 465 would mean only about 25 students short of an ordinary enrollment for this term. Over thirty students have already written to ask the Dean's permission to suspend their studies for a term or a year owing to financial difficulties. This shows the confidence of our students in Huachung here, and that is very gratifying.

There is nothing to report on the situation. You have all the news in New York. I have been checking our newspaper information with "The Voice of America" for at least a month, and there has been very little difference. If anything, "The Voice of America" is just about one day late. Most of the military and government people are skeptical about a successful peace, but the people in general are all hoping for it.

If the Civil War should have to continue, it is my personal opinion that there will be no frontal attack on the Wuhan Center, but the railways will be cut first, and our center isolated, until the problem is solved with a new regime established in our city. So far as news that has come through from the north is concerned, we have very little to fear except possibly a period of two to three months when exchange will be unfavorable and cash difficult to get. We are making preparations against such an eventuality. All the students, both men and women, have already bought enough rice, fuel, oil, and salt for the whole term of four months and ten days, and the rest of the boarding money is being kept in silver for wages, vegetables, and meat. I go into the dining rooms almost every week, and the food they are getting is good although much poorer than what they used to have before the war. Dr. Norah Tregear has reported that a few students are suffering from malnutrition, and she has asked for three or four cases of evaporated milk to supplement the food of these students; I have taken the money from my discretionary fund to buy the milk. The money in my discretionary fund was given to me by various friends, chiefly in America.

As I reported earlier, 170 students applied for relief funds, and grants were made a week ago by the Senate Committee, totaling 225 tan of rice or Silver $2,000. A US dollar comes to about Silver $1.40 in exchange. This money has been raised locally, although the contributions have been very slow in coming in. Thirty more students have applied for the same relief, and the Committee is still in process of investigating their financial condition. We permit students to postpone part of the payment of their fees until the end of this month, and I am sure many students will need help by that time, possibly to the amount of US$1,000. All these relief grants are necessary in order to help about one-third of our students, whose families have been hard-hit by the present situation, inflation, rising prices, and reduced income, besides the necessity of having to move by order of the government when the offices are evacuated from various places.

I do not know how to continue this relief plan after this term, unless conditions are to improve very rapidly. The financial strength of the families of our students will be further sapped, and I cannot go to Hankow every term to raise money for relief funds. Perhaps the next stunt I shall try is to get some of the better-off students to help the poorer students, but again that can be done only once. Maybe the only thing is to put an item in our current budget for this purpose. After all, our work here is to give a good education to the students who

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come to us. It is of little use to have a good faculty and to have all the facilities without making it possible for the poor students to take advantage of all the equipment and teaching.

Spring has returned, and everybody feels happy in spite of the uncertainties ahead of us. There has been very little sickness. All the faculty and staff members are standing by with the exception of Professor George Bien, who has been in Hongkong on account of family affairs, but he is returning this week. Mrs. Bien and two children are under observation for TB in Queen Mary's Hospital, Hongkong. This is why Dr. Bien has been away for such a long time.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Francis C. M. Wei

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HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY
Wuchang, China

March 10, 1949

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

Dear Mac:

I received on March 3rd your good letter of February 21, 1949, which I have already acknowledged, but I am enclosing you herewith a statement of the Financial Position of Huachung University in two sheets, which John Coe, our Treasurer, has prepared. One copy has been sent to Dr. Fenn in the China office of the United Board in Shanghai. The statement is clear enough not to require any comment from me.

A week ago today was the last day for registration except for a few students who were marooned on the way and who have now arrived and been admitted by the Dean of the General Faculty, with the authorization of the General Faculty Meeting held on Monday, March 7. Our total enrollment now is 468, only one less than our enrollment a year ago.

Breaking the figure of 468 down, it is as follows:

Students who completed the Fall Term, 1948		Registration, Spring Term, 1949	Drop	%
Freshmen	165	133	32	19.3%
Sophomores	188	163	25	13.3%
Juniors	138	125	13	9.4%
Seniors	47	47	0	0

We have 70 students fewer this term than at the end of the last term, and this is 13% of the total number of 538, who completed the term before the winter vacation. If we should take the figure for the fall registration in the middle of September 1948, the drop in enrollment is 18.2%. As I have reported previously, our drop in the second term of every year is from 12-15%; if we should take an average drop to be 13%, our decrease in enrollment is only 5% more than the ordinary run, which may be considered very good indeed in view of the present circumstances. The number of women students is exactly one-third of our total enrollment for this term. This again is normal. The indication is that the reason for students failing to return is not due so much to the political situation as to financial difficulties, which I had earlier anticipated.

You may be interested to know about the enrollment in the eight Christian middle schools in the Wuhan Center. There was the monthly meeting of the principals of those schools with Dr. P'u Hwang and me last Saturday, and the following were the statistics reported:

School	Fall Enrollment	Spring Enrollment
Boone Middle School (boys)	680	618
Wesley Middle School (boys)	630	482
Griffith John Middle School (boys)	505	418
St. Hilda's Middle School (girls)	418	335
Hsuin Nu Middle School (girls)	280	220

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I Hsuin Middle School (girls)	460	388
St. Lois Junior Middle School (girls)	339	300
Hsin Mien Junior Middle School (girls)	304	205

It is a coincidence that the drop from the total enrollment of the eight Christian middle schools in the Wuhan Center is also just about 18%. So the loss of students from Huachung is a normal phenomenon.

If we had accepted one-half of the students who wanted to come as refugee or transfer students from other colleges, our enrollment would have been increased by at least 30 or 40, but at the meeting of the General Faculty from which I happened to be absent before the end of the last term, action was taken, and later approved by the Senate, that we should accept no refugee students for the freshman class and only transfer students for the sophomore and junior classes. Refugee students would be permitted only for the senior year. Most of the students who tried to get transferred into our college were freshmen, and therefore they were not allowed even to take our transfer exams, which were only for the sophomores and juniors, and most of them failed to pass. So far we have had only one transfer student this term and one refugee student, just two new students.

Our income from fees available for the operating budget, was just over US$7,000 last term, and in spite of the smaller number of students this term, the income for this item is almost the same because of the higher value of rice and silver in which we reckon the fees this term. In our budget approved for this current year the item from fees is reckoned at US$12,000, so we have about US$2,000 more than estimated, but the expenditures this year have been higher, and I am afraid all the excessive income from fees will be eaten up by the high expenditures. This means that our deficit to be found by the United Board or the cooperating missions for this year will be just the same as indicated in the budget approved.

As far as the situation is concerned, there is very little to report. The lull continues with talk about peace still going on. The Bishop of Hankow has already given his consent for Dr. Paul Ward and the Rev. Alfred B. Starratt to bring their families back from Hongkong during the spring vacation, which will be in the early part of April. Personally, I think that is a wise step because everything points to the possibility that there may not be very serious changes in the political situation until possibly early in the summer, even if the peace talks should fail to go through. The resignation of Dr. Sun Fo as premier, as announced in the newspapers and over the radio, indicates to us that the Nanking government is making another concession for peace, and perhaps very shortly you will find a further step taken in the same direction. Again, I feel that most of the military and government people are rather skeptical of the success in getting peace, whereas the people are longing for it. It will require a compromise on both sides before peace will be possible. It is very difficult to know what is in the minds of the people in the other camp. There are various reports, most of them favorable, but what has been happening since May 1, 1948, gives no assurance that the same policy will continue. However, we have no reason to believe that institutions like Huachung would not be able to operate under a new regime even at its worst, but what we may have to face at a later time is entirely unknown. Christian courage requires us to stand by and to do our best while it is day for "when the night cometh no one can work."

Everybody is well and happy in the Huachung community, except that during the latter part of last week Professor Margaret Bleakley, Registrar and Head of the English Department, received a cable from London that her eldest sister, who was unmarried, had passed away. Miss Bleakley is meeting her bereavement with courage.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,
/s/ Francis

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HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY CONFIDENTIAL

Wuchang, China

April 19, 1949

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

Dear Mac:

Last week I mentioned in my letter that General Pai's Headquarters wanted to commandeer two of our Christian middle schools in Wuchang, viz,, Wesley and St. Hilda's, both on the outskirts of the city. The latest news is that for the time being St. Hilda's has been removed from the list of buildings to be commandeered, but Wesley has already received the first notice that the school is to be occupied. Early on Easter Sunday the principal of Wesley Middle School came to see me with the notice, which was too complicated for me to interpret since it referred so much to various articles of the Martial Law. However, another notice is to come, and after that the school will have one week to get out. I have given my advice to the principal as how to proceed, since the matter is really in the hands of the British Consul General in Hankow.

My interpretation is that the moving of the Headquarters from Hankow to Wuchang is only a part of a gesture, unless fighting should actually break out in this center. Even then I do not believe that there will be much fighting in Wuchang. St. Hilda's and Wesley are needed because they are so near to the railway station to Changsha and further south.

The news about the Peace Conference in the north has its "ups and downs." It has been discouraging yesterday and today. The Communists require the Nanking people to sign the peace terms according to the Eight Points by tomorrow, April 20. One of the conditions is that the Communist troops must cross the Yangtze River to assist the Nationalists in reorganizing the army on this side. Today's paper announced that there will be a crossing of the river by the Communist troops anyway on April 25. I do not know whether this is a part of the psychological warfare or whether they really mean business. It is really pathetic that when the Communists have definitely announced at what points they are going to cross the river, the Nationalists do not seem to have the strength to put up any kind of resistance. Many people in this part of the country believe that there will be nationwide peace in form, but local peace in substance, leaving perhaps Canton to hold out until the last.

Yesterday we got the plan ready to give the Emergency Reserve money to our faculty and staff. Enclosed I am sending you a copy of the memorandum which was the substance of my announcement to the faculty and staff at a meeting at four o'clock yesterday afternoon. People seem to be perfectly satisfied and really grateful to the United Board for this arrangement.

It is fortunate that we have had some Silver dollars accumulate during the last two months, and John Coe was able to get some gold bars during the last two weeks. The money market in Hankow has been so tight, and the rate of exchange so unfavorable, that no more cash either in silver or in gold is available at any rate deemed favorable by our people here. So many of them are willing to have the third month held until a later time. Not all the March salary has been paid yet because of exchange difficulties, and it will be quite a problem how to pay the April salaries for the same reason.

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Enclosed I am sending you also blanks for Dr. Fenn, as filled out by our Dean's Office for this term. You will also find a copy of the recommendations of the Central China Christian Educational Fellowship, which is just for your information. It shows the spirit of the Conference and the determination of the principals attending the Conference from April 6-8 to stand on Christian and sound educational principles, whatever comes.

Dr. Paul Ward and the Rev. Alfred B. Starratt, both of the American Church Mission, have returned from Hongkong to resume their teaching here. They went to Hongkong for the spring vacation of a week, and owing to the recent developments of the situation, they returned almost a week late. Their families are still in Hongkong.

We are happy to know that Mr. Pi of our Biology Department has been awarded the United Board Fellowship to go to America for a year of study in Biology. His intention is to go to Yale, and he is making all arrangements to get his passport from the Ministry of Education now in Canton.

The National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States has awarded fellowships to two of the clergymen in the Diocese of Hankow to spend a period of travel and study in America. They are the Rev. Edmund R.F. Penn and the Rev. James C.S. Yang, both priests in the Sheng Kung Huei, and both graduates from Boone or Huachung, and therefore both count as alumni of Huachung. Mr. Penn graduated from Boone University in 1922 and finished his Theological course in Boone Divinity School in 1923. Mr. Yang graduated from Huachung in 1942. Before his graduation, Mr. Yang took a certain amount of Theological work when the Canton Union Theological College was our guest institution in Hsichow. Mr. Penn's plan is to spend sometime in touring the country, and then for a few months to take some courses -- perhaps a term - in one of the Episcopal theological schools in America. Mr. Yang's idea is to get to New York before the middle of June and take both of the summer sessions in Columbia University before he goes on to Berkeley Divinity School in New Haven, where he may take courses in Theology and Education, working towards an M.A. degree in Yale. For this purpose Mr. Yang would have to spend two years in America whereas Mr. Penn will be away for about a year.

It would be very good if you could contact both of these men, as they are Huachung alumni. Mr. Penn has been chaplain of St. Hilda's Middle School for a number of years, and recently a Canon-at-large in Bishop Stephen Tsang's office in Hankow. Mr. Yang has been doing religious work and teaching in Boone Middle School, and also in charge of the parish Church of the Holy Nativity on our campus. They may be of some use to you if you should need some one from Wuchang for speaking occasionally on Huachung. They use English fluently, and in Chinese they are very good speakers. It may take sometime before they would be able to do platform speaking effectively in English.

Owing to the recent developments of the situation and all the information we have received from the north, I have been urging Mr. Penn and Mr. Yang to leave Wuchang to go to Canton immediately, and they are planning to leave sometime during this week. When the new government gets here, perhaps they may not be able to leave to go abroad at all.

In spite of the tense situation, all our people here are still calm and the students have been behaving very well. We have seen the proposals of the Yenching students to the administration. Some of the Yenching students' ideas are rather naive, but as a whole, we may be able to adapt ourselves to them, if the same ideas should be presented to us later in Huachung. Our policy is to wait and see. Adaptation is the order of the day, but we shall stand firmly on our Christian and educational principles with the conviction that we are going to survive.

We had a very happy Easter. The women students in Yen Hostel got up early, and had their Dawn Service, mostly with hymn singing. I could hear them from my house. At

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7:30 AM there was the Sheng Kung Huei Holy Communion in Chinese and at 8:30 AM the Sheng Kung Huei Communion in English, and then at 10 AM there was the service in the Church of the Holy Nativity. All the services were open to all. In the morning nine of our students were baptized in the Church of Christ in China in our neighborhood near to the London Mission, and later in the morning there was also the Easter gathering for the Sunday School children and youth Fellowship, numbering almost 150, under Dr. Edith Taai and her students in Religious Education.

At 3:30 in the afternoon the University Choir under Professor David Anderson gave parts of Handel's "Messiah" with Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Anderson at the piano and organ respectively. There were four solos sung by Mrs. Constantine, Mrs. Anderson, Dr. Tregear and Peter Fang, one of our junior students. The Assembly Room was full with perhaps 400-500 people, mostly our own faculty and students, but many from the churches outside. The whole service lasted for an hour and a half. We did not have any evening service, as on ordinary Sundays, since there had been so many services earlier in the day.

Before Easter there was the Good Friday service in the afternoon from half past twelve till half past two. The Rev. James Yang, Dr. Edith Taai, and the Rev. Leonard Constantine led the meditations on the "Seven Words on the Cross", and the Church of the Holy Nativity was packed full from beginning to end. It was a very helpful service indeed.

Last Saturday I was at a dinner party of the Wuchang gentry to discuss ways and means of meeting the emergency when it comes. From the discussion I felt that there was very little to plan for except to get ready to police the city during an interregnum of perhaps about a day or two, and to arrange to keep the electric light, the water supply, the telephone service, and the rice shops going. I have to keep in touch with the different groups of people in the city as a non-partisan. Day after tomorrow I am going to lecture to the officials of the province in training. In order to avoid misinterpretation, I am going to lecture on Kantian Philosophy, which is largely epistemological and therefore entirely non-political. I have to do stunts like that in order to play my part as a dove and a serpent! For two consecutive weeks I have been addressing the weekly Assembly myself, and the students seem to be willing to accept what I had to say to them about the spirit of Huachung and our democratic way of doing things for the last twenty years.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Francis

Encs.
FCMW/MRC

"Whereas the United Board has notified the University that they recommend that three months' salary be paid its faculty and staff to be used in case of an emergency when the University may not be able to pay its staff regularly, (and the United Board has found the funds for this) therefor Huachung will make this payment to its faculty and staff as soon as practicable and it is to be understood by those people receiving it that it is in the nature of a reserve for them to tide over possible emergencies:
The method of payment will be as follows:

Two Months' salary will be paid within this week. For all members of the faculty and staff whose basicsalary is $225 or higher the payment will be 1 one-ounce gold bar valued at US$50. and the remainder in silver at the rate of $120 to US$100.
For all members of the faculty whose basic salary is $210 or less the entire amount will be paid in S$ at the rate of S$120 to US$100.
The third month of salary mentioned in the first paragraph will be paid as soon as it is possible to obtain funds at reasonable rates.
It is proposed to continue the payment of salaries at regular monthly intervals as

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long as it is possible to obtain funds at reasonable rates. If any payment is postponed because of what seems to be unfavorable rates, any member of the faculty and staff can make arrangements with the Treasurer's Office for payment at the best rates obtainable at the time of his request."

/s/ J.S.Coe

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CONFIDENTIAL

20 JULY 1949

EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER DATED 31 MAY 49 FROM
PRESIDENT WEI OF HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY

"For two weeks I have not written you, and you understand why. The main reason is that postal communications have not been quite restored. However, I am trying out a letter, hoping that it may reach you just with the message that the change was very peacefully made two weeks ago today, May 17, after a period of some anxiety, and things have been going well ever since.

"We have had contacts with the Liberation Army personnel. Some of them have been coming to our student entertainments in the evening, and some to borrow our Assembly Hall for receptions put on by themselves to entertain workers, students, and others in the city. I am quite favorably impressed with their good behaviour and courtesy, which we did not find in soldiers of the old regime.... I have not heard of any case of real looting in the city of Wuchang.

"Our students asked for the suspension of classes on Tuesday two weeks ago, and that request was granted for them to go out and welcome the entering armies. Practically all the students in the city went out to do the same, together with other groups of people. The behaviour of our students in the street was highly commended by friends of Huachung University. Wednesday, the 18th, classes were suspended again because of the heavy day on Tuesday, and the anxiety and activities in patrolling the campus from the previous Saturday. From Thursday through Saturday classes were again suspended, at the request of the students, to give them a chance to go to the streets and explain to the people in Wuchang the principles of the new government, so as to help them get properly adjusted to the new regime. Classes were resumed on Monday of last week, May 23, but on Tuesday morning there was suspension of classes again, but since Tuesday afternoon all academic activities have been going on as usual.

"One thing is very remarkable and encouraging. During the week beginning with Sunday, May 15, we had the Sunday services as usual on the 15th, no Morning Chapel on Monday because it was the day for the weekly assembly, which was conducted quite peacefully and calmly in spite of all the uncertainties and anxieties of that day, and because of the student activities in the city there were no Morning Chapel services on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday the students themselves got together and conducted Evening Prayer with an attendance of over 50. The same thing happened on Friday, and the attendance was over 80, including some teachers who had been able to get the notice. Saturday evening the students asked me to conduct a service for them in the Music Studio. Again, between 80 and 90 people turned up, and I spoke on my own religious experience, and my message was quite well received. Following that, the students had a discussion on the Christian Faith, which was a continuation of the discussion during the previous two-three weeks. There seems to be an urge on the part of the students for our regular religious activities. When the regular Morning Chapel was resumed on Wednesday morning, May 25, (Tuesday morning was a holiday), the attendance was much larger than ordinary times during this particular period of the academic year. The attendance kept up through the whole week, and even this morning, the first morning Chapel of the week, we had the same attendance.

"We have not been able to pay our May salaries or the third-month emergency reserve, because of the money market, but we hope that the tide will soon turn now that Shanghai has also come under the new regime."

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CONFIDENTIAL 21 JULY 1949

EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER DATED 7 JUNE 1949 FROM
PRESIDENT FRANCIS WEI, HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY

"The students are slowly settling down to their work, but during the last week we had quite a bit of uneasiness. At first, the Students' Self-government and the Senior Class petitioned the faculty to abolish the intermediate examinations, which are peculiar to Huachung in this country and are required of sophomores at the end of the second year before promotion to the Junior Class and the final examinations for the degrees which we started way back in 1931 before the old government required them of all colleges, which it did with the year 1938. At first the faculty made some modifications to these requirements, which the students did not accept, and then the commotion on the campus became worse--so much so that beginning with Wednesday morning the Senior students started a strike and refused to go to classes whereas the other students went on with their work as usual. There was quite a bit of opposition between the Senior Class and the other students. Petitions came to the faculty again. The decision was made by the faculty to have the term examinations for the Sophomores and the Seniors at the same time as the other classes; to suspend for this year 1949 the intermediate examinations un l we are able to clarify the whole question of examinations with the new government; and also to postpone the final examinations for the degrees until a later date when clarification of the question has been made with the new educational authorities in this center.

"This seemed to be a good settlement, largely due I am afraid to a pretty emotional speech I de at the meeting of the faculty. My personal feeling was, and it is still my feeling at present, that we are willing to make minor modifications if we can hold the work together and maintain good feeling between faculty and students. We have to understand that the young people have been in a very tense emotional mood, and so it is not easy to reason with them and to bring them to their senses. As long as morale continues good, we hope to be able to improve our academic standards later when we have made the proper contacts with the new authorities.

"When the student problems had been settled Thursday evening of last week, I went over to Hankow Friday for the first time since Liberation to see one of our alumni of the Class of 1934, who is now the Secretary-in-Chief of the Military Control Bureau. I had not seen him since he left college and had had no communication with him all these fifteen years. He received me most cordially as his old president and teacher, and apparently he had his business so arranged as to talk to me most leisurely. The interview lasted for two solid hours. His position seems to be only next to that of the man in charge of the Military Political Bureau, and while he was most cordial and frank in all his statements, I could see that he was saying everything according to his best understanding of the policy of his party, of which he has been a member all these years since he left college.

"The first question I cleared up with him, in more-or-less an unofficial way, was that according to the policy of the new government, there will still be room for private schools, and even Christian schools, as long as the schools will conform to government regulations and will not do anything detrimental to the interest of the people or contrary to the policy of the party or of the government.

"Knowing Huachung as he does from his personal experience as a student for four years here, he assured me that there would be every reason for us to believe that Huachung might continue. Funds contributed to our support by private individuals or groups abroad in America or in England would be permitted so long as there is no political connection or motive in contributing those funds to our educational work here.

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"The Government stands on the principles of Religious Liberty, and therefore there would be no interference with religious activities on the campus. Our friend was not able to assure me whether religious courses would be permitted inside the curriculum. Perhaps they will have to be extracurricular. This, if true, will not interfere with our theological courses, as they have been given in Huachung in addition to the requirements for graduation from the University.

"We talked at great length on the requirements over and above the minimum requirements according to government regulations, which are not definite yet: for instance, whether it would be possible to have our intermediate examinations and final examinations for the degree in addition to the examinations required by the educational authorities of the new government. I was assured that we would have the liberty to have extra requirements so long as their purport was to maintain good standards.

"The Senate in the University has taken action to abolish the office of the Dean of Discipline, which was required by the Nationalist government and never a part of our own system. The office of the Dean of Women and the offices of the wardens of the men's hostels will continue, and I am waiting to see whether the students will have any excuse to object to the continuance of these offices. If they should have, we would take the matter up with the proper authorities.

"Aside from various religious problems that we discussed casually in that interview, I raised finally with our friend the question concerning the western members of our faculty and staff. It seems to be quite clear that so long as the westerners on our faculty and staff have no political connections with governments abroad and have no intention of doing anything detrimental to the interests of the Chinese people or in opposition to the policy of the new government, they are welcome to contribute their services to Education, Medicine, and Social Work. Missionaries, of course, are free to carry on their evangelical work as such without any political motive.

"Before diplomatic relations are officially established between the new government and the governments in the European and American countries, it is difficult to arrange for permission for westerners to enter the country from abroad or to bring their families into Liberated China. While no decision has yet been made by the local government as to movements of westerners from one point in the liberated area to another point, and if need be to return to their homelands, I believe that it will be easier to get official decisions on these two points than on the other two mentioned above. I have just written a letter to a friend who is in the Military Control Bureau, and he has promised me to get a decision on all these points concerning Aliens at the earliest possible date.

"So far, I have not called on any of the other officials, because my alumnus friend advised me on Friday, when I saw him in his office in Hankow, that all the new officials were very busy; therefore, while they would be glad to see me any time, it would be better for me to wait before I make any appointments with them for interviews.

"As far as my contact with the personnel of the New Government goes, they are very cordial and reasonable. Their attitude is most admirable, and I am beginning to understand their points of view. This has been easier for me not only because of my training, but because of my experience in getting along with people of all sorts of ideas.

"We have had holidays more frequently than we had expected, but we have lost much less time on account of the political change than I had anticipated before the Liberation. Term examinations for all the students will begin next Tuesday, June 14, and the end of the term will be June 25. The Senate of the University has decided to allow the students to stay in the hostels designated for use during the summer. This has been

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our practice ever since our return to Wuchang in 1946. One of our problems now is how to help some of the students who may not be able to find their summer board because they are now cut off from their homes in the west or in the south. I raised the question with the Senate yesterday, and the Senate decided to postpone the consideration of the matter until a later date.

"The conduct of the People's Army is admirable. None of our buildings has ever been occupied, although some few soldiers come in and out almost any time without interfering with our work at all and without attracting any undue attention. Our Assembly Hall has been borrowed for various meetings, but nothing has been done contrary to our best decision, nor any interferance with our own work. On Saturday afternoon the government sent a representative to address students from various schools in our section of the city, using our Assembly Hall for that purpose. Yesterday afternoon the head of the Cultural Department of the Military Control Bureau talked to the members of the faculties of all the colleges and universities in Wuchang from half past two to four o'clock in the afternoon, and his speech was followed by one given by a Professor of French from Tsinghwa University, who has come with some of the political workers. I heard only the first speech, because I had to leave in order to go to our Senate meeting at quarter past four, but I found the speech I heard very reasonable and cordial.

"During this coming week we are going to get our budget for the next year ready for the Board of Directors' meeting either towards the end of this month or early next month. The total will not exceed that of the year 1948-49 except Special Items, which we may have to recommend to the Board of Directors. Reappointments have not been made yet for the next year, but they will be made as soon as the budget has been formulated. Our feeling is that we would not make any new appointments except the most essential ones, leaving perhaps some of the vacancies. Our librarian, Mr. Mark Tseng, died on May 12. We have asked one of the assistant librarians to act as librarian for the time being. Such a vacancy may not be filled until we know about conditions much better than we do at present.

"All our western members of the staff have full intention of staying on with their families, except Paul Ward and Alfred Starratt, who want to leave after the end of this term, if they can get permission to go to Hongkong; and whether they come back in the fall depends upon whether their families are permitted to return with them. However, the whole matter is still undecided."

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CONFIDENTIAL 27 JULY 1949

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS DATED 28 JUNE AND 6 JULY FROM
PRESIDENT FRANCIS WEI, HUA CHUNG UNIVERSITY

June 28,1949

The university officially closed for the term on last Saturday, June 25, and students are required to register by Thursday, June 30, if they should want to stay on for the summer. Quite a number of students, both men and women, will stay for the summer, as they cannot go home. They are charged no hostel fees, but they have to look after their own board and pay their own light and water, as in previous years during vacations.

The senior class have completed their term examinations, but they have not requested yet to have their graduation examinations. The other classes finished about one-half of their examinations, as I have reported, and we are waiting to see whether we shall be able to require them to complete the rest of the term examinations in September. Much will depend upon circumstances at the time. So far I may say that while the students have done extraordinary things, there has been no ill feeling between the university administration and individual members of the faculty and between the administrative staff on the one hand and the students on the other. The students still continue to come to me with their problems, and I try my best to help them in every way possible. Particularly during the last week individual students have come to me in the evening for advice, and I talked with them sometimes until midnight. Naturally the young people do not see things clearly, and I have given them my best advice without getting myself into any kind of trouble. It will be sometime yet before things will become normal again, and in the meantime we simply have to accept what comes,realizing how difficult it is for the new government to get things straightened up, as so much destruction had been done by the retiring army before the middle of May. The new government has my fullest sympathy, but I am sorry that there is nothing that I can do myself to help them. They are certainly very much in earnest, but they are very cautious in taking any step to improve conditions, which are in many cases very complicated and difficult.

Last Saturday we had in the afternoon an Alumni Meeting, and one of our graduates of the class of 1934, high-up in the Military Control Commission, attended the meeting and spoke to the alumni for over an hour. In his speech he reviewed his experiences in political activities since he left college in 1934, and his account was stirring.

After the Alumni Meeting, at five o'clock his classmates of the class of 1934 went to Wilson Ai's house for supper and they asked me and the deans of the three colleges in the university, all alumni, to join them, although none of us belonged to their class. We had a simple meal together, chatting informally and most cheerfully. After dinner our Fellow Alumnus came back to address the students at half past seven, and he left to go back to Hankow at quarter to nine. We were very glad to have this opportunity to renew our acquaintance and to discuss unofficially many of the problems which concern all of us.

Sunday morning, June 26, another of our former students, who had just one year in Hsichow 1941-42, and now is the head of the Hsin Hua News Agency in Hankow, came to call with his wife, who was also his colleague in the work in Hankow. I first saw him in Hankow at a reception given by the Military Control Commission three weeks ago, but for three weeks neither he nor I had been able to

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find the time for a friendly call. I was so glad to see him and his wife in my house Sunday morning. They stayed for only a short time and were very cordial indeed.

Yesterday we had another long meeting of the Senate to approve the administrative budget for recommendation to the Board of Directors and to review also the budgets of the three colleges, prepared by their respective financial committees.

The government is doing its best to eliminate the silver dollar from the market, and we hope it will be successful so that prices may be stabilized in terms of the People's Notes.

The water in the river is very high at this time of the year, and rain still continues. The Yangtze Conservancy Engineers are busy at work, with the assistance of the army. If the rain should stop before very long, there may be no flood this year. It would be very bad if the people should have to suffer from a flood too.

For a long time I have been feeling the need for someone who might go out to attend meetings and make contacts and do promotional work for me, but I had not been able to find a qualified person to do the work. It happens that we have a man by the name of Chang Chung-nan, a member of the Church of Christ, in China and a graduate from our College of Education with the degree of B.Ed., class of 1939. He has had considerable experience in various kinds of work, and lately he has been student secretary of the Wuchang YMCA. He seems to be very much interested in religious matters, particularly in connection with the Christian middle schools. Therefore, the Senate approve my recommendation that he be appointed as Promotion Secretary and Secretary of the Alumni. His salary for the next year will be approximately US$550 a year, and we have to give him a house. This will be a new item in the budget for the next year, but it is essential, because in a new situation I cannot attend to all the details of administration, particularly in my connections with people outside the university. He ought to be able to give me much assistance in running about the Wuhan area, and I hope that his work will be the beginning also of cultivating the alumni for their future support of the university. I hope this will meet with the approval of the United Board, although it will mean a new item of expenditure.

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July 6, 1949

Again I have no way of telling whether you have been receiving my weekly letters started five weeks ago after the Liberation, about the beginning of June. Earl Fowler's letter, dated May 3, was received only yesterday, July 5, and my daughter's letter from Berea, dated May 12, was received a week ago. These were among the first letters from abroad.

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The Conference for Representatives of the Christian Fellowships in Huachung and in the Christian middle schools in the Wuhan area started on Wednesday evening, June 29, and was closed on Sunday, July 3. It was held in a very quiet place, Methodist property only partially occupied by the Central China Union Theological Seminary -- most of the buildings now being used by troops after our conference came to a close.

Eighty delegates were sent by the different schools, including five young teachers; besides, we had five or six staff members like myself who had helped to get the conference organized. The Conference was really started by actions of the monthly meeting of the Christian middle school principals. The program was full but interesting. On Saturday evening there was the Candlelight Service, and sixty-nine students pledged themselves to serve the church, at least as volunteer workers, according to the needs of the church, after their graduation. Most of them, of course, were middle school students, and it will be some time before they are ready for service. Of the sixty-nine perhaps most will not be able to finish college. This pledge was made after long deliberation. I gave my last address early in the morning, appealing for young people to volunteer for work in the church; and after that there was the regular study group, the recreation time, lunch, period of rest, a discussion group on various subjects, and then the Sunset Service before they came to the Candlelight Service after supper.

Every student was given a slip of paper before supper with the request that he would put in his pledge if he decided to do so. If he was not pledging, he would simply put in the blank piece of paper so that no one would be able to tell whether any particular student dropping the slip into the box was making a pledge or not. The box was opened, and the slips were counted after the service.

The Candlelight Service was very impressive, because after the service the whole Conference with several adults carried the candles and marched all over the campus, singing such hymns as "Onward Christian Soldiers." The closing service was held Sunday morning, followed by Holy Communion.

The Committee has met again and decided to get the Student Volunteer Movement in the Wuhan Center organized by the fall. If this should be a going concern, we intend to spread it all over the country. It is at least encouraging that in times like these young people are so much more enthusiastic for the Church than ever before.

The Cultural Bureau of the Military Control Commission has not put students into our buildings yet. Probably they will do so in another week's time. We are arranging for them to use only two of our hostels and occasionally our Assembly Hall. Many of our own students are staying on for the summer, but we do not know how many yet. There will be around one hundred fifty anyway.

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for July 30. We want it as late as possible, so as to allow us time to see what conditions will be for the nextterm. Probably the enrollment will be smaller on account of the financial circumstances of the families. We shall certainly have to reduce our fees, but even then they will be more than most of the people can afford. The situation will hit the middle schools more than the universities, and that is going to be a very serious problem.

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We have made our reappointments for only one year at a time for the next year. All the reappointments are made for one year because we do not know what the curriculum needs are until the new regulations have been promulgated. Groups of our faculty have been studying the readjustments of various courses to meet the New Day. I have bought a few books in Chinese on Philosophy. It would not be difficult for me to lecture on Philosophy next year, because I treat almost every school without partiality, and I expect to do the same thing again, with perhaps a more detailed presentation of the New Philosophy, which is not new to me. Ethics may have to be dropped, and in Logic I shall have to give more time to the teaching of Dialectics, which after all is Hegelian Logic with some modification. The subjects in which more adjustments will have to be made are naturally Economics, Political Science, History, and Theories of Education. The Biology department intends to suspend the course in Genetics for a year at least. Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics will go on as before. Whether English will be required for all freshmen is problematic. We may introduce just one elementary course in Russian. English as a major course will surely be permitted. These are the problems, and in a way they are not serious.

We have contacted another of our alumni who has just arrived from Honan, and he is very encouraging about the future of Huachung.

We begin to see some light in the exchange situation, but we may not be able to do it very well until September. In the meantime we can work through Shanghaim although we have been able to get a fairly good rate locally.

Paul Ward and Alfred Starratt are still here. They do not consider it wise to go with some of the students through Hunan, but it is hard for them to be separated from their families. All the rest of the faculty and staff are still here, and so far the summer heat has not been very bad, but it is still early July.

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WB. Dr. Winfield

CONFIDENTIAL

3 AUGUST 1949

EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER DATED 23 JULY FROM

DR. DAVID CHENG, FUKIEN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

"The political atmosphere in Foochow has undergone a sharp change within the past few weeks. Even as late as July 7 the general populous was daily expecting the new regime to come in, but recently the attitude seems to be that it will come eventually, but not just now. There are more signs that the Nationalists will make a real effort to defend the city. So the tension is considerably eased and people everywhere are more relaxed.

"Various letters and reports have come to Foochow from the missionaries and other church workers in the occupied areas of Northwest Fukien (Nanping, Kutien, Chien-au, Chien-yang, Shaowu, and Chung-an) as well as a number of places along the Northeast coast of the province. They run quite true to the pattern of reports out of North China. At first, there was a general feeling of hopefulness that conditions would be much better, but later there were definite indications that discouragement had set in for both groups--Chinese and foreigners.

"As for us, conditions on the campus are quite normal for the moment. So far, we have been able to keep soldiers from occupying our buildings. Two groups made the effort to get in, but without success. Most of the mission schools in Foochow have some. We have some advantage, no doubt, in being out of the city.

"There are approximately 163 students living on the campus, 25 of whom are seniors who graduated on July 2. They will be leaving as soon as they find jobs or can get transportation home. It is very difficult for any one to find a job at the present time, as the government offices and institutions have to cut down personnel by 75%. Of the 138 regular students who are here, 38 are attending summer school with four courses open to them. The summer school is not so popular as we thought it would be, but we think it is worthwhile.

"Many of the students who are staying here this summer are from occupied territory, and are completely cut off from their homes. This creates quite a problem for the school. The students cannot go home, nor can they get money from home, and the school cannot take them on financially. We have met the problem temporarily for those who are hardest up by having several work projects, including digging up land to plant sweet potatoes. They undertake the job as a whole at a certain price. In this way they can work more leisurely or fast as strength permits while they are getting accustomed to manual labor, without loss to the school. They are doing quite well at it. This problem of refugee students will be much greater in the fall when they will need to pay fees, as well as board. I wonder if it would be possible to get some special gifts for this purpose through your publicity office.

"We will give entrance examinations for new students on July 25 and 26 in Foochow, Hinghwa, and Amoy. It is quite possible that the enrollment will be smaller this year without much effort on our part, due to the lack of funds and the difficulty of transportation. Not so many students in Foochow have applied to take the examinations as in the past few years. We do not yet know about Hinghwa and Amoy. Another factor in the reduced enrollment is that we graduated 183 students this year, the largest class in the history of F.C.U. We definitely desire to reduce enrollment to something under 500, and do not mind going as low as 400."

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CONFIDENTIAL

14 SEPTEMBER 1949

EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER DATED 21 JULY 1949
FROM PRESIDENT FRANCIS WEI, HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY

"It has been again very uneventful during the last week. We have agreed to allow one of the government training institutions to use two of our hostels and our men's dining room and kitchen for the summer, with the understanding that we may have the buildings back for the opening of the University in September.

"The Senate of the University met last Monday and decided to start our fall term on September 10 for the old students to return and have the rooms in the hostels assigned on September 12, and the new students to enter on September 19. It will probably be around September 25 before classes will begin. We have to put the beginning of classes so late because of local conditions.

"Fees will have to be lower than last term, and with a decreased enrollment, income from student fees will be much reduced for the next year. No one can tell how many students we shall have. Our estimate is about 300-500. Even the Christian middle schools will have much smaller enrollments next year. Many of their graduates have joined various kinds of activities, and so the number coming to join our freshman class will be much smaller than in an ordinary year. Economic conditions will make it very difficult for many of the families to pay even our reduced fees.

"We are keeping the same faculty, except one change in the department of English Literature. Arrangements are being made for a part-time teacher to offer one course in Elementary Russian as a second foreign language in the university next year, open only to junior and senior students of all the departments. Ethics will be dropped except as an elective course, so also Logic, but Philosophy will be required as before, and I have to teach it again myself. In preparation for the course in Philosophy I try to do as much reading as possible during the summer, and I find it not easy at all to teach it in such a way as to make it acceptable to all concerned.

"The deans and heads of the departments have already had one meeting and made the preliminary revision of our curriculum, pending the new curriculum as promulgated by the new government, which may take some months. The minimum requirement for graduation, beginning with the class of 1951, is reduced to 120 credit hours, and the maximum 136. Our desire is that more leisure may be left to the students to read and to think. That may be too high an aim to achieve under the present circumstances. Many requirements have been dropped, but the departments will meet among themselves and present a proposed course of study in each of the departments to take effect, beginning with the next term. There will be a General Faculty Meeting to consider the revised curriculum early in August.

"Two days ago members of the faculties of the different colleges and universities in this center had a meeting at Wuhan University to make arrangements for the summer studies of the faculty members, so as to get them better acquainted with the new literature, and also to adjust the teaching and contents of the various courses according to the new ideas. A very good spirit was manifested in the meeting, and we hope something will come out of the summer studies.

"Perhaps 100 of our students have joined the various training schools of the government, and a few have gone into the army for political work. Before they leave this center, they come back to see us very frequently, showing genuine affection for their old college. According to their reports, they are making a very good name for Huachung everywhere by their spirit of service and their willingness to cooperate.

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"We have had four cases of typhoid or paratyphoid among the students during the last few weeks. Three cases were very slight, and they have recovered, or are on the way to recovery, but one case really is very serious. The serious case is the son of Mr. Yin K'ai-shih, a freshman in the College of Education. Mr. Yin K'ai-shih, as you know, is Vice-principal of Yali Union Middle School in Changsha. He was not able to go home at the beginning of the summer, and communications with his family have been interrupted He is in the Church General Hospital, and Dr. Fulton has been taking a great interest in him. Both Dr. Huang P'u and I are in close touch with the hospital in regard to his condition. Students from the university are going over to the hospital day and night to take care of him, because although he is very sick, he has been very active and requires constant watch. During the last two or three days the case has been really serious.

"Prices began to drop a bit, and we hope they will continue to come down. The trees are beautiful, and the gardeners are working hard to keep the grass mowed down, which is a very difficult job."

CONFIDENTIAL 16 SEPTEMBER 1949

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT WEI, HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY, DATED 5 AUGUST 1949

"We still have no cables from you except for two: one enquiring about our situation in the University of early June; and then another recent one, concerning income for next year.

"On Saturday, July 30, we had the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors with eight alternates. Only sixteen were in attendance, but that made up a quorum. The President' Annual Report was approved, and so was also the budget for the next year. The budget as proposed is about US$2,600 more than last year, in cluding two or three salaries which we may not use if the vacancies are not filled within the next term. In that case the total amount will be about the same as the past year. The deficit will be about US$5,000, not including Student Relief about which I have already written. There are a few other items outside of the budget, which can still be taken from the balance of the Rehabilitation Funds. Unless our income should be otherwise increased, which is not likely, we shall have to draw upon the reserve to cover the deficit.

"We have such a large deficit as US$5,000 because our estimate of income from students' fees is cut down by US$4,000, owing to the financial situation. Instead of US$12,000, as in the past year's budget, our estimated income from fees is only US$8,000. Judging from the present circumstances, it is very doubtful if we shall be able to realize even as much as US$8,000. President Luh of Yenching has written that the student fees in Yenching during the last term amounted only to 2% of the budget.

"The Directors approved all the actions taken by the administration both before and after Liberation, and expressed their confidence in us in carrying on the work during the next year.

"It is of very little use to speculate what is ahead of us. We are looking forward to knowing how many candidates will apply for admission. Last year we had almost 2,000. I would be pleasantly surprised if there should be 300 candidates this year. We are arranging to have examinations only in Wuchang and Kiukiang, and not Changsha because it is not yet possible for us to go to Changsha from here. Many students have joined the training schools, and so our source of students has pretty well dried up, and many of our old students may not return.

"Two of our hostels are being used by one of the training schools, and at present some other of our buildings are being temporarily used, but we have assurances that they will be vacated to allow us time for repairs before the next term begins. It takes a man's whole time to deal with this kind of problem everyday, and it is fortunate we have appointed a Social Secretary to deal with such problems, so as to relieve me of a great many "headaches."

"Paul Ward and Alfred Starratt are still here. We are hoping that they may be able to go to Shanghai, and then to Hongkong with a group of Americans who are planning to leave from Shanghai at the end of this month, but the whole thing is still problematic.

"I referred in my last letter to the illness of the elder son of Mr. Yin K'ai-shih, Vice-principal of Yali Union Middle School in Changsha. The boy died on Tuesday, August 2, and he was buried on the 3rd. His father was not able to get here. Dr. Huang P'u and Dr. Brank Fulton took care of everything on behalf of his family. Practically all the students remaining in college during the summer and many of the faculty members attended the service.

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"Somehow a few letters from America have managed to get in. The last letter I received day before yesterday from my son John in New Haven was dated May 12. One of the letters from my daughter in Kentucky, which got in during this week, was dated June 30. Many of our people have had a few American letters, but many must be still on the way somewhere.

"It is now possible to do exchange in one of the banks designated by the Government in Hankow. The rate is about the same as the last week or two before Liberation. It is slowly rising in our favor. One of our alumni came back from Tientsin yesterday, and he reported a rate there about the same as here. Apparently there is still transportation between Tientsin and Hongkong.

"We are scheduled to reopen on September 10, and expect to start classes during the last week of September. It is necessary to allow more time for students to get here and get settled down.

"Dr. Tseng of our Biology Department returned from the north after a series of scientific meetings in Peiping. He brought back very encouraging news, both from people in important positions there and from President Luh of Yenching University. I am writing to Dr. Luh to find out more about Christian education up there.

"If you should ever get this letter, please inform Professor Elisseeff of the Harvard-Yenching Board in Cambridge, Massachusetts, that our Annual Report to his Board has been ready for sometime, but we have found it difficult to send it out. Our Harvard-Yenching appropriation expires this summer. Please apply for its renewal on our behalf. It is difficult now to get a letter even to Canton where the office of the Harvard-Yenching Board is at present. I am going to send a cable to Professor Elisseeff next week in lieu of a letter of application for the renewal of the grant. I hope the Harvard-Yenching Board will understand our stiuation here.

"Everyone is well here in the staff in spite of pretty intense heat."

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CONFIDENTIAL 16 SEPTEMBER 1949

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT WEI, HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY, DATED 11 AUGUST 1949

"I was very happy to receive yesterday your letter of June 2 via Hongkong, enclosing the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the United Board, which I have read with great interest. I only wish that you had sent every year together with the Minutes the Appendices, which are so frequently referred to in the Minutes. It seemed as if a great deal of information valuable to us here in the University was contained in those Appendices which we do not have.

"Early in the week I sent you a cablegram as follows:

"MCMULLEN 150 FIFTHAV NEWYORK (USA)
APPLY HARVARD YENCHING RENEW HUACHUNG GRANT REPORT SENT WEI."

"The Annual Report to the Harvard-Yenching Board is ready, but it has not actually been sent, although we intended to do so at the time when the cable was sent. We are waiting for an opportunity to sent it by the quickest and safest route. In the meantime we are going to send it by ordinary post just the same, hoping that at least one of the copies will reaoh the Harvard-Yenching Board. If it should fail to arrive, please explain the circumstances by writing yourself to the Board on our behalf.

"I have noticed that in the Minutes of the Annual Meeting nothing was said about our budget for the year 1949-50, because it had not been sent. The Board of Directors of Huachung University had its Annual Meeting on July 30, and I have already written about it in my previous letter. The budget will be sent to you, but it will be late in reaching New York.

"We are particularly interested in the action of the recommendation of the Committee on Program and Budget, approved by both the Huachung Committee and the Trustees in eight points, as quoted in your letter of June 2. As soon as I received the letter yesterday morning, I had the action copied and sent to our Senate Committee on Negotiation for Cooperation with the Boone Library School.

"I am very sorry that the Huachung Committee did not succeed in giving a dinner for Mr. J. Arthur Rank, and we hope that on his next visit to New York the Huachung Committee will be able to do so. Certainly he has been very generous in making the donation for our Library Building.

"We started registration of candidates for our entrance examinations on August 8, and it is still going on. The number of candidates is going to be small, perhaps not more than one-third of the number we used to have during the last three years since rehabilitation. Most of the middle school graduates have joined some of the training institutions, and they are not able to come and register for our entrance examinations this month. It looks as if we may have to give other entrance examinations in September, if we should find the successful candidates too few to form a freshman class. There is, of course, another factor, which accounts for the small registration, and that is the Hunan students have not been able to come to the Wuhan Center as they did in previous years. We have already wired to Changsha, asking whether it would be possible to hold our entrance examinations there later in the month or early in September.

"Again, we have no way of estimating the enrollment for the next term. My guess is that it will be between 300 and 350. There will be a serious drop, but circumstances

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do not warrant any higher hope than that.

"All our people on the campus are happy. We are still trying to arrange for Alfred Starratt and Paul Ward to go to Hongkong via Shanghai. Alfred Starratt will have to return to America on account of the illness of one of his daughters now in Hongkong, but Paul Ward will wait in Hongkong until circumstances permit for his return with his family to the University. Francis Gray and his wife, and Dr. VanSant and his wife, are very anxious to get permission to go to Kuling via Kuikiang in order to see their children in school there. We hope that permission will be given to them for this purpose.

"Exchange is edging up a little bit, but it is still far too low for us to meet all our financial obligations.

"I wish to emphasize again the necessity for giving financial assistance to many students who may return to the University in September. Many of them deserve help, but our resources are limited. We shall see what funds will be needed and then cable at the time.

"A project is being considered to develop some of our land on the campus as an experimental farm, partly to have some produce for the University, and partly to give a chance for some of the students to earn part of their way through the University. I have told the Biology Department to formulate a plan, which will not require more than US$1,000 for initial and running expenses for the year. I believe that ought to be a very worthwhile project, and it would meet more than one of our difficulties in connection with our land. Some of it has been under cultivation, but it has been used by farmers as vegetable gardens. We propose to have it back for our own use.

"The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Huachung Board of Directors and the President's Report with the accompanying reports of the Administrators are being sent to you, but we do not know how long they will take to reach you. The report alone is fourteen pages single-spaced, and so you can imagine how bulky the whole thing will be. I am sending a copy of the report and the Minutes to each of the missions in China. When you receive the Minutes and my report, will you please have them duplicated and sent to the members of the United Board and of the Huachung Committee, as well as to the different cooperating missions, and to others who may be interested in our work here."

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CONFIDENTIAL 27 SEPTEMBER 1949

A LETTER, DATED 14 JUNE, FROM PRESIDENT WEI

HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY

"Term examinations began today, but owing to various student activities in this center, some of our students have been granted permission to take some of the examinations they are missing now when they come back in September. Otherwise everything is going on normally, although there is always a great deal of noise on the campus because of the activities of the students, which are to be expected.

Our Housing Committee has decided to let a medical unit of the army use one of our faculty residences on the edge of the Old City Wall. The people of the medical unit are very polite to everybody. They have even offered to pay for the light and water they use while they occupy the house, which is a small house of two large rooms and one kitchen.

"There have been no restrictions whatever to the movements of aliens in the Wuhan Center They can go anywhere, crossing the river and walking in the street at night. In other words, they are just as free as they have ever been here. We have not been able to get any decision yet from the government as to the travel of aliens from one point in the liberated area to another, nor any decision on bringing in families from outside of China. We are expecting some reply to our enquiry in the near future. Paul Ward and Alfred Starratt are very anxious to go to Hongkong towards the end of this month in order to see their families, and if possible, to bring them back to Wuchang, but the railway to Canton is not yet open, and the way by Shanghai has not been easy. The Shanghai way ought to be open soon.

"Prices have not risen much, but we have not been able to do any exchange yet. News from Shanghai is encouraging about exchange, and so possibly we may be able to do it before very long.

"It has been very wet weather for the last two to three weeks. The water in the river has reached a level higher than for many years in the past at this date, but it is our hope that the rain may stop so as not to cause any flood in our part of the country. Newspapers have reported floods south of us.

"All kinds of articles and foodstuffs are available in the market, but naturally we do not buy anything unless it is absolutely necessary. One of our immediate problems is how to give relief to perhaps over 100 students who can not find their board during the summer vacation and who are cut off from their homes in the south or west. I may have to send you a cablegram later, asking for a sum of about US$1,000 for relief of th students during the summer vacation. The difficulty is to find out what students are really in need. Some are; and some may have money and still ask for relief. We have to face that kind of problem at almost any time.

"Then, there is the problem of fixing the fees to charge next September. The Senate of the University has decided to have not more than 400 students next fall, perhaps 250 old students and 150 new ones. If more of the old students should come back, we may admit an even smaller freshman class.

"This means that income from fees will be lower because of the smaller enrollment, and also because of the lower fees that we may charge owing to the economic condition of th students' families. We are just getting the different parts of the budget for next

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year ready for the Board of Directors. We have not decided when to have the Directors' Meeting. I am proposing to have the Executive Committee of the Directors meet first, and then decide whether we should have the whole Board Meeting early in July or later. Directors from Yochow, Changsha, and western Hunan will not be able to come to Wuchang at this time, but if we should ask the Executive Committee to appoint proxies, we may have a full Board Meeting. The Directors resident in Wuhan alone will make a quorum anyway.

"This morning by telephone I made an appointment with the Director of the Cultural Bureau of the Military Control Commission in the Wuhan Center to see him at three o' clock this afternoon. I shall talk over with him unofficially some of the questions concerning not only Huachung, but particularly the middle schools. The principals have been coming to me all these days for advice, and I can give no advice without clarification of the whole situation with the proper authorities.

"Last Thursday I attended a reception given by the Military Control Commission to the business and industrial leaders in the Wuhan Center, and to the democratic people of whom I have the honor to be counted as one. I dragged Dr. Huang P'u along with me, and we heard some very interesting speeches and enjoyed a good dinner at the Terminus Hotel. There were about 150 people present, and most of us educational people were attending as individuals without any party connections of any kind. Practically all the leaders of the new government were present at the head table, and they spoke. We were very glad to have that opportunity not only for contacts, but also for understanding better what the government is proposing to do. Certainly they are going about various matters in a most reasonable and cautious way. Alien life and property are well protected, and everybody is free to go about his or her own business as before. We feel it is the duty of everyone of us to help the government to carry out their policies for the welfare of the people. That is no easy task, but from all that we have seen and observed, the government is making a tremendous effort.

"Religious activities are going on as usual. Our students and faculty have shown more interest in worship and fellowship meetings than ever before. We try to understand what are the essentials of our Christian Faith and how we can live in this New Day a better Christian life. It is certainly a challenge for all of us, and it is the time for us to show what a Christian Faith can do for China and for the world.

"Last Thursday at the reception in the Terminus Hotel I met a young man who was our student in Hsichow for one year, 1942-43, and he is now the leading newspaper man under the new government. He was very appreciative of the year he had with us in Hsichow and enquired about everyone of his old teachers. He is intelligent and promising."

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CONFIDENTIAL 27 SEPTEMBER 1949

A LETTER, DATED 23 JUNE, FROM PRESIDENT WEI

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HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY

"A week ago Tuesday we started our term examinations, and the students were doing them most cheerfully. Then last Sunday it was decided that all the students in middle schools, colleges, and universities would go out to do propaganda work against the use of the silver dollar, which had been quite a "disturbing element" in the financial and business market. Our students, of course had to go, and they have been doing the work in Hanyang, the place allocated to them by the Student Union in the Wuhan Center. Less than one-half of our students went there, and the other half unfortunately are just idle on our campus.

"Tuesday afternoon a meeting was called by the Cultural Bureau of the Military Control Commission for the Wuhan Municipality to discuss the questions of term examinations and the time for the summer vacation to begin. The heads of all universities, colleges and middle schools, the deans of Studies, and a student representative from each of the institutions met in Hankow under the Cultural Bureau. I went myself, as did Dean Richard Bien as chairman of the General Faculty Meeting instead of Dean Constantine, and one of our student representatives. Owing to two other meetings that afternoon I could stay for only three-quarters of an hour and left after I had made my little speech on our situation in Huachung, but Richard Bien and our student stayed from half past one to five o'clock. Term examinations, of course, will be given if the teachers and students come to an agreement to have them. Schools which have not finished the term's work will make it up at the beginning of next term, and then decide whether there should be term examinations or not. In our case, we finished half of our term examinations; and the Academic Committee, authorized by the General Faculty Meeting to make decisions on such matters, will probably decide not to hold the rest of the term examinations until next September. We hope we would not have any difficulty in requiring the students to attend the examinations not given this term, but much will have happened before we start the new term in September.

"Last night the Faculty Philosophical Club met to draw up its program for the next academic year. We meet only once a month to hear a paper read by one of the members. This has been going on since November 1947. It is very encouraging to be able to make plans like this for the next academic year, and we are in full confidence that we may be able to carry out this plan.

"We are not going to have any Commencement this year because the Senior Class has not had the degree examinations, although they are now completing their term examinations for their eighth term in college. Whether the degree examinations will be given or not will have to depend upon the students themselves. When they make the request to have tl examinations, the Academic Committee will then consider the question. Probably most of the graduating class would like to have the examinations, and other simply forego the the privilege. Is it not good to give more liberty to young people in these days?

"We have not been able to get official permission for Paul Ward and Alfred Starratt to leave Wuhan in order to go to Hongkong and rejoin their families. So far I have been writing to authorities on general principles, but this afternoon I am sending a man over to interview the responsible people on these two particular cases, and we hope that we may get satisfactory answers. It looks as if the only way to go to Hongkong now is by small boat, and then get to the railway. It is not a very pleasant route, bu some of our students are starting to use it against my advice.

"You will remember that the United Board granted Mr. Pi Li Chiao of our Biology Department a year's postgraduate study in America, and I wrote you before Liberation, asking

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you to facilitate his application for admission into Yale Graduate School. Then the political change came, and it has made it difficult for him to leave the country. After careful consideration, he has written me officially, asking me to get permission from the United Board for him to postpone his trip to America for a year. In view of the present circumstances, I hope you will permit him to do this.

"Mr. Ai Wei-sheng (Wilson Ai), B. A., Huachung, 1934, is a Lutheran, and during the last term he has been teaching a course on Journalism, open as an elective to qualified students in the university. His main job, however, has been Secretary of the Lutherans Student Center in Wuchang with its quarters in our neighborhood. He has been talking to me about promoting further the cooperation between the Lutheran Missions interested and Huachung.

"Previously we had thought of the feasibility of the Lutheran missions coming in as a cooperating mission by putting up a hostel and one or two residences, besides making annual contribution in personnel to the university. Obviously the building project will have to be postponed, and I have no idea whether the missions in China would recommend to the home boards in America the beginning of cooperation in personnel and budget, beginning with the next year 1949-50. At Wilson Ai's request, however, I have sent today the following telegram to Mr. David Vikner in Kowloon:

'URGE APPOINTMENT AI WEI SHENG FOR HUACHUNG PRELIMINARY COOPERATION. WIRE REPLY. WEI'

"I do not know what will come out of this, but Wilson Ai is a good man, a fine Christian and full of energy. If he should come on our staff as a full-time member, he would be very useful. I am just making this preliminary report to you while I am writing in detail to Mr. Vikner in Kowloon, Hongkong, following up my telegram.

"A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors is being called for June 28 not only to plan for the full Board meeting early in July, but also to appoint proxies for members of the Board who obviously will not be able to attend the meeting this summer from Hunan. We are still in process of getting the budgets prepared for the consideration of the Directors. The Senate reviewed the administrative part of the budget last Monday and decided to postpone till the next Monday the final recommendation. The Finance Committees of each of the three colleges in the university have to get their budgets ready for the Directors after the Senate has considered them, although it is not for the Senate to recommend these budgets to the Directors.

"In the budget for the next year 1949-50, the United Board will have to be prepared for the following extra items:

1. A larger budget for scholarships because of the financial conditions in this part of the country. It may mean US$500-$1,000 increase for the year.

2. US$1,000 for student summer relief, and perhaps US$2,000 for students' relief during the academic year 1949-50.

3. If exchange should be much lower than it is at the present time, which is practically Silver $1 to US$1, i. e., 2/3 of the effective rate of a year ago, we may have to consider subsidies for members of the faculty and staff. This may call for US$12,000 for the year, but this is putting it rather pessimistically. We may not need this item at all, but I must warn you about it.

4. I do not know what taxes we shall have to pay on our land and buildings. If information from the north is of any help at all, it may mean an amount of some

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US$3000 for the year.

5. For the next year I am sure no one would push any of our building projects, but the Senate has been considering very seriously proposals made by Dr. P. V. Taylor, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, with the assistance of Mr. Earnshaw, who has had experience as a building engineer, and a young Mr. Lao of our Library staff who was trained as an architect in the National Central University in Nanking and son of Principal C. C. Lao of Yali. Some of the buildings have been gone into very carefully by Mr. Earnshaw and Mr. Lao, and they have found that certain repairs are necessary if we are going to avoid heavy expenses two or three years from now. If the necessary repairs are to be made, we may draw upon whatever funds are left from Rehabilitation. The amount possibly will be US$5,000 or more.

"All these are heavy items I am sure in these days, but we have been very cautious and realistic. If necessary, we must dig into our reserve to meet the absolutely essential items.

"So far we have been able to pay only one-half of the May salary because of the difficulty of exchange. Our people had two-months' reserve early in April, and fully half of them have about exhausted that reserve. Even a half salary at this time seems to be a great help. We hope that before very long we may be able to secure more cash and pay the other half of May and the full salary for June and July. Just at the present moment we are entirely helpless in financial matters. Fortunately there is reserve cash to meet our other obligations for the balance of the year up to the end of July.

"Summer vacation will begin this Saturday. We shall have an Alumni Meeting Saturday afternoon, and we expect about 100 to attend, including one or two outstanding persons in the new government.

"In July we are going to have a series of conferences. The first one will be a conference of Christian leaders in Huachung and the Christian middle school leaders in the Wuhan area. There will probably be only about 50 or 60 in attendance. One of the things that we hope to achieve is to start a Volunteer Movement. If we should get 30 or 50 young men and women to pledge to devote their lives on church support or otherwise to do the work of the church in this New Day, it would be a great thing. We have in Huachung a St. Thomas Society with about eighteen members, most of them being theological students, and this group will be the nucleus of the Volunteer Movement. I have been asked to give an address on each of the three days of the conference, and th subject they have assigned me is "Christian Vocation in the New Age."

"Then there will be two parallel conferences. One will be under the auspices of the Hankow Diocese of the Episcopal Church in China under Bishop Tsang, at which there will probably be 100 people, including the clergymen, the catechists, the Biblewomen, and the leading lay people from each of the parishes. I have been asked to give three addresses on the general topic, "How to Understand the New Situation." The Methodist Church in this center is going to have at the same time also in Wuchang a conference of the Methodist Youth. This conference will last for about a week while the Episcopa conference will last for ten days. The Methodist leaders have asked me to give a talk on "Christianity and Scientific Socialism." I do not know where I am going to find the time for the preparation of all these addresses while I have to wind up the term, meet new problems everyday, advise both faculty members, friends and students on all sorts of questions, and prepare my Annual Report for the Board of Directors. Fortunately I have a good appetite and sleep well. The only thing is to put aside som of my reading and to get down to the hack work of putting my ideas on paper. It is

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my hope that after the conferences I may have more time to read and think.

"Bishop Hall of Hongkong has already got me slated for a series of addresses in Hongkong and Canton next fall when his diocese will celebrate its Centennial. The subjects he has given to me are largely theological subjects, and I hope that I may have the time to read up during August and early September in Theology in preparation for the series of lectures that Bishop Hall requires.

"It is very interesting to live in days like these. Everything is so new and so challenging. Everybody has such expectancy, mixed with a good measure of anxiety, but it is interesting just the same, and it helps one to be young again.

"I have not heard from my children or my friends abroad, but I am sure we are together in spirit, although communications are difficult."

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CONFIDENTIAL 27 SEPTEMBER 1949

A LETTER, DATED 14 JULY, FROM PRESIDENT WEI

HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY

"Quite a few of our students have gone back to their homes in Hunan, and some further south. There is no telling whether they will be able to get back for the autumn term. The Hunan students probably will manage it because it is expected that Changsha will be liberated soon.

"We are going to have a meeting of the Board of Directors on July 30, but before that we shall make some plans for the opening of the fall term. We have been postponing as long as possible all the preparations for the next term because we would like to have more time to see how the situation is going to develop, but we cannot wait any longer now. Again, our estimate is that the enrollment will be much reduced next term. We would be fortunate if we should have an enrollment of over 300.

"I wrote you sometime ago about the necessity of giving summer relief to the students who are unable to go home and who are confronted with serious financial difficulties. Some fifty or sixty students have joined up in various kinds of work under the government. By tomorrow those who have not left will be remaining for the rest of the summer It was only early this week that I was able to find out that we could possibly give summer relief to about thirty students. I asked Dr. John Lo and two younger men to take charge of this business, and they are making all the plans today to find out who actuallly will need this relief. It is going to be work relief, not full-day work, but about four hours a day. It is a hot summer, and working in the sun for four hours, particularly for students who are not used to it, will mean a great deal.

"We have been waiting until this time to start the relief work because in the first place we have no funds for this particular purpose, and to get cash at this time is extremely difficult, We are using some of the rice left over from the last term, it being university property. We shall have to charge the cost to relief. I should have waited for authorization either by the United Board or the Board of Directors, but neither way is feasible at this particular juncture, so I am simply taking the money, and will ask for retroactive approval later.

"The exchange situation is at its worst because the banks will not cash any checks, and we do not dare to get cash in any other way. Perhaps in a few days we may be able to do it through Shanghai. Letters of enquiry have already been sent to Shanghai, and in a few days we may have some kind of a reply.

"For personal news, I finished my addresses for three conferences, but there is a fourth one yet next week. There are lots of meetings of the Christian Churches on the same subject. Apparently the general tone of the churches here is quite different from that in other places, and this is a matter for hearty thanksgiving.

"The danger of flood has not yet passed, but we hope that the rain will not increase the danger. It rains almost everyday, although while I am dictating, the sun is shining very brightly. However, it was the same weather yesterday, but towards evening it rained again. The temperature is not very high, but there is so much humidity that one feels it much.

"So far I have received no letter from you or from any of the missions or friends written since the middle of May. One or two letters have come through, but they were all dated

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before June. I have been puzzling why you or Fowler or Slater in London have not used cablegrams more, although they are expensive. We are longing for some kind of message from you.

"There have been three cases of typhoid among our students. One is a girl who has recovered and is now recuperating in the women's hostel under the care of the Dean of Women. I saw two men students in the Church General Hospital yesterday. One of them was out of danger, but the other, Mr. Yin K'ai-shih's son, was very serious, although the doctor assured me yesterday morning, as well as yesterday evening and again this morning by telephone, that he was picking up very well in general, although bleeding had not entirely stopped. Two of our faculty members and three of our men students stand ready any time to give him a blood transfusion. All the rest of the community are well.

"We only wish that we may get some cash very shortly. The general conditions in Wuhan are good. Prices in terms of the effective currency have not risen much because of the low ebb of purchasing power in general."

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CONFIDENTIAL 31 OCTOBER 1949

EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER DATED 19 AUGUST FROM

PRESIDENT FRANCIS WEI, HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY

"Dr. McMullen's cablegram transmitting to us the good news of the Harvard-Yenching Institute grants to Huachung University for 1949-50 was received on August 12, and was much appreciated. I am writing in a day or two to Professor Elisseeff of the Harvard-Yenching Institute to thank him and the Board of the Harvard-Yenching Institute through him for increasing our grant for the coming year. Again, I am sorry to say that I have not sent the Annual Report to the Harvard-Yenching Board because of its bulkiness and the uncertainty of the mails. I may send it to Shanghai to be reposted there, or send it by some other way which may be quicker.

"I was also happy to learn from Dr. McMullen's cablegram that letters had been received by him. We had been wondering whether any of our letters had arrived.

"In my last letter to Dr. McMullen a copy of our budget for the year 1949-50 was enclosed. My Annual Report will be sent to Dr. McMullen at the same time and by the same way as the Harvard-Yenching Report to Cambridge.

"Recently we have had more information about Christian Education in the north and in East China. There seems to be very little difference between the situation here and that in other places under the new government. On Monday of this week, August 15, I accompanied the Rev. Mark Li, principal of Boone Middle School, to see the new Commissioner of Education for the Province of Hupeh. Mr. Li asked me to go with him because I had more contacts with the government authorities. We spent only half an hour in the office of the Commissioner. He was certainly very cordial and friendly. He answered all my questions to our great satisfaction. The curriculum of the middle school will not be much changed, and administration will go on as before, except that on the School Council there ought to be one or two student representatives in order to make known to the school authorities the feelings and problems of the student body. However, the final decision rests with the administration, and the principal is responsible for the whole school. Private schools are free to charge whatever fees are reasonable, because as the Commissioner says, students are free to choose their own schools. None of our schools in this center will charge more than last term, but at least 20% less.

"As to private universities and colleges, the Commissioner says that he has no jurisdiction over them and that we have to wait until the organization of the Ministry, which may be sometime yet. But he told me that we should not make any radical change in our organization, and that changes should be made slowly according to specific needs. He further added that the government would make no discrimination against Christian educational institutions, so long as teachers would make no attempt to preach in the classroom. Religious beliefs are free, and so also is religious propaganda. Of course, liberty will be given to those who express their opinions against religion, but no violence will be permitted.

"Yesterday the Director of the Cultural Bureau in Hankow came to address the faculty and staff members of the colleges and universities in Wuchang, mainly to answer questions raised by given individuals in the course of their study of the New Literature. He spent two and a half hours in our Assembly Room answering the questions, which he classified according to their nature. All the answers were very reasonable, except that from our point of view there was some misconception in the nature of religion. In answering the question whether Christian educational institutions would be permitted

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by the new government, he said that while the Communist party would not accept any religion, the government under the Communist party would tolerate religion and give absolute religious liberty to the citizens. Christian educational institutions would be treated exactly like other private institutions. The good ones would continue, and the bad ones would die a natural death. That was very encouraging to those of us who are engaged in Christian educational work. We had known it before, but it was good to have it direct from the Director of the Cultural Bureau, who is a very well informed and intelligent man. In all my contacts with him he has been both cordial and friendly.

"The city policy have been visiting the homes of our western faculty members. We sent one of the office clerks around with them as interpreter. According to all reports, they have been very polite and reasonable, as far as our people are concerned. So far I can say that our relations with the authorities, both in this city and in the whole center, have been very happy.

"Only about 350 candidates are taking our entrance examinations here. Our entrance examinations are also being given in Changsha and in Kiukiang, Kiangsi. The number of candidates in Kiukiang will naturally be small, but we hope that we may have 300-400 in Changsha, because the Hunanese students have been concentrated there. Our total number of candidates will be perhaps only one-third as many as we had a year ago, but that is true also of the government universities. Peking, Tsinghwa, and Nankai Universities are registering candidates for their entrance examinations in our place. After five days of registration there have been altogether only 960 candidates for the three universities. Proportionately they are getting fewer than we are.

"It is still too early for us to forecast the total enrollment in September. Some of our people believe that there may be 400 students, but my own feeling is inclined to the figure of 350. In many ways it is better to have a smaller number for a year or two until many of our problems have been solved.

"The exchange situation is slowly improving. John Coe told me this morning that the banks in Hankow may be able to do exchange at a better rate than in Shanghai because of the possibility of ascertaining the cross rate at the time of exchange. When we do exchange through Shanghai, the cross rate is always an annoying factor.

"I trust that you will share this letter with Earl Fowler of the National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S. He will be interested to know that Paul Ward and Alfred Starratt are still waiting for the decision of the Alien Bureau in Hankow as to whether they may get permission to travel to Shanghai or not in order to catch the boat sailing on September 15. I have done everything possible, but there seems to be no way of expediting the matter.

"Conditions are very peaceful. Personally I have had lots of meetings, but I still find sometime to read. I have been reading largely the new literature, which we ought to understand well, and in order to understand it, I am just reading through again Hegel's Logic, which becomes more interesting even than Kant's "Critique of Pure Reason." Next Sunday evening I am going to take the University Sunday Service, and I shall take the University Sunday Service, and I shall take the subject of "Marxism-Leninism and Christianity." I feel that there is much misunderstanding of the nature of Christianity as I read the new literature. What the people criticize is not exactly what we believe, but it is not the time yet for me to do any publication in this particular field. For our own people, however, some clarification is called for in order to remove misunderstanding and misapprehension."

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LETTER DATED 22 AUGUST 1949

FROM FRANCIS WEI, HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY

"There seems to be a good opportunity for me to get a letter to you via Shanghai, since a boat is going to sail for America around September 15.

"It was very cheering indeed to have your cablegram received during the last week, informing us of the Harvard-Yenching Institute grant of US$7,500 for the coming year 1949-50, and also that my letters have been received by you. For a long while I had been wondering whether any of my weekly letters, which I started writing the beginning of June after Liberation, ever reached you. There has not been a week without a letter sent to the United Board through you.

"There has not been much to report during the summer vacation. Two of our hostels for men have been loaned to the government for the training of political workers, and both of these hostels for men are outside the main campus. Three weeks ago a number of sick soldiers came in looking for quarters, and we had to allow them to use the Assembly Room and the diningroom. Boone Middle School had to let them into almost any empty space, including the church itself. Finally, we had to open up also our small chapel in St. Paul's Hostel where we have been housing our single-men teachers. Now all the soldiers have gone. During their stay they behaved most splendidly, and accounts for light and water used were settled amicably.

"We had our entrance examinations on August 19 and 20. Only 353 students took the examinations here in Wuchang, but we are having our examinations in Changsha during the latter part of this week. For this purpose two of our younger men have gone to Changsha, and a telegram reports that they had arrived safely. There is no telling how many candidates there will be in Changsha. Perhaps 300-400. One man has gone to Kiukiang to hold our examinations there for the students in Kiangsi, and I do not suppose there are more than 50 candidates in that center. The number of recommended students this year is naturally smaller. Perhaps 25 or 30 of our freshman will be admitted by recommendation, and about 120 by examinations, to make a freshman class of about 150, which is the maximum set by the Senate.

"It is very difficult to estimate how many of our old students will return. My guess is from 200-250. The total enrollment will be from 350 to 400. If we should have that number of students, we would consider ourselves lucky.

"There are only three institutions of university grade in this whole Wuhan center, viz., the National Wuhan University, Chung Hwa University, and Huachung. The National Wuhan University has had a pretty thorough-going change of personnel in the administration. There is no president, but only an executive committee. All the deans are being changed except Dr. Paul Kwei, who is still the Dean of the College of Science. It is my hope, shared by many others, that Dr. Kwei may return to us in due course of time. He cannot leave now, of course. Many people think that Chung Hwa may not be able to open because of shortage of students and lack of funds. We shall carry on, and it is very encouraging to know that the authorities have no objection to our carrying on at all.

"It is my strong feeling that our existence in the future, besides other things, will have to depend upon the quality of work that we shall be able to do inside the next two to three years. We cannot expand, but we must consolidate and improve everyone of our departments now in existence, by making the courses more practical and by improving the quality of our teaching staff, as well as adding as far as possible to our equipment and books for teaching and research. Poor work will not survive.

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"We have a considerable amount of land outside the old City Wall, which we may not be able to build upon for sometime. The Biology department is working out a project to develop that land into an experimental farm on which we may train practical farmers. Perhaps many of our students and some of our staff and faculty members may wish to take that training, and certificates for short, practical cources will be granted. Prof. Tseng of the Biology department is responsible for this project, and he is working up a great deal of enthusiasm. He is a very fine biologist with a bent for agricultural experiments, and that is to the good. On the other hand, Professor Li, head of the department of Biology, is getting interested in Public Health, and he is going to link up with the Institute of Hospital Technology at the Union Hospital, Hankow, which will be another line of development for our Biology department.

"Professor Li's work will not cost us any money, but Professor Cheng's experimental farm will require as initial expenses for this year about US$1,000. which I hope you will grant as an addition to our budget for the coming year. It is our estimate that part of this money may be refunded from the produce, but if the project should work out well, we may have to add to it slowly, so as to extend our training to the farmers around.

"Similarly our Physics and Chemistry departments are thinking of ways and means to get linked up with the industrial concerns in Hankow. They hope to be able to do such work for them as testing and solving technical problems, but it will be some time before the factories get into full swing.

"Tororrow we are going to have a General Faculty Meeting to consider all the proposals for the revision of our curriculum. I do not believe there will be many serious changes, but we have to make the necessary changes in order to adapt to the new situation.

"Again, Paul Ward and Alfred Starratt have not yet got their permission to go to Shanghai in order to catch the boat for Hongkong on September 15. Professor Paul Ward is fully determined to return if possible with his family who are now in Hongkong, but Mr. Starratt may have to take his family back to America because of the illness of one of his daughters. Alfred Starratt is a splendid teacher and a good worker among students. It is my hope that he may see his way clear to returning to us and taking up his teaching of New Testament again whenever conditions permit. He is arranging with his mission to go back to America only on advanced furlough. I hope you will make this clear to the Overseas Department of the National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States.

"Of course, it is still problematic whether either of the two men will be able to go to Shanghai, and from there to Hongkong. If Alfred Starratt should get to Hongkong, he would either make his way together with his family to America; or he may even decide to send his family back to America and return himself. I have not had the final conversation with him on this matter, which I intend to do very soon.

"We have had some reports on the taxation of mission property in Shanghai and taxation on the property even of Christian educational institutions in East China. Similar reports have also come from North China, but so far we have not heard anything about it, as far as Yenching is concerned. We may have to face a similar problem, and so funds must be on hand for the purpose. Perhaps it may be something like several thousand dollars, of which two-thirds will have to come from the funds available for Huachung, and the remainder being a responsibility of the American Church Mission. As soon as we know the details, a cable will be sent to you.

"All plans are made for the reopening of the University on September 10. The old students will return on September 12, and the new students on September 19. Classes probably will not start until September 26 because of the changed circumstances.

"You will trust that we do everything to carry on and make the necessary adaptations, so long as we do not have to compromise on the essential principles. Problems are many, but we face them one at a time.

"Everyone on our staff is cheerful, and it seems that the worst part of the summer is over with some cool nights now for sleeping."

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Protestant Episcopal Church

CHURCH MISSIONS HOUSE, 281 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

OVERSEAS DEPARTMENT

The Rt. Rev. Jno. Boyd Bentley, D.D., *Director*
The Rev. Edward Mason Turner, *Assistant to the Director*
J. Earl Fowler, *Associate Secretary*
The Rev. Frank L. Titus, Ch (Lt. Col.) NYNG, *Assistant Secretary*

November, 1949

FAR EASTERN BULLETIN NO. 21

C H I N A

Who's Where

In Shanghai: Bishop and Mrs. Roberts. Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Gilson. *At St. John's,* Rwof. and Mrs. Donald Roberts, the Misses Elizabeth H. Falck, Grace W. Brady, Helen Van Voast. *At St. Mary's:* the Misses M. Althea Bremer, Catherine C. Barnaby, Evelyn Ashcroft (deaconess). *Also* Deaconess Katharine Putnam, Miss Gertrude Selzer. and probably, by now, Dr. Margaret Richey, moving from Nanking. *At Central Theological Seminary,* the Rev. and Mrs. rnest M. Forster and son. *At St. Luke's and St. Elizabeth's Hospital,* Dr. and Mrs. Richard B. Galbraith. *From Anking Diocese,* Miss Alice Gregg, Mr. B. W. Lanphear.

In Anking: Dr. and Mrs. Harry B. Taylor, Dr. Helen Taylor, the Misses Emeline Bowne, Blanche Myers, Virginia Hebbert, Mr. Paul B. Denlinger.

In Hankow Diocese: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Allen, Rev. and Mrs. Claude L. Pickens, Rev. and Mrs. F. Crawford Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Kemp, Mr. J. Patrick McGinnis, Dr. and Mrs. Logan H. Roots, the Misses Venetia Cox, Hazel Gosline, Olive B. Tomlin, Nina Johnson, Hilda Waddington, Carman Wolff, Deaconess Julia Clark, the Rev. Robert E. Wood, the Rev. Robert F. Appleton, Mother Ursula, Sisters Anita and Isabel (Order of St. Anne). *At Huachung University, Wuchang,* Mr. and Mrs. John L. Coe, Mr. and Mrs. Walter P. Allen, the Rev. and Mrs. G. F. S. Gray (from England), Dr. and Mrs. Edward Van Sant, Miss Margaret Sheets, Dr. Lillian Weidenhammer, Mr. Barron E. Wilson. *Temporarily in Hongkong,* Dr. and Mrs. Paul Ward. *In Ichang,* Deaconess Elsie Riebe. *In Canton,* the Rev. and Mrs. J. G. H. Baker.

Conditions Vary

Missionaries in China have long insisted that people should not make general sweeping statements about that country, and this was never more true. Things strictly forbidden in one place are permitted elsewhere. One school is "regulated" almost out of existence; another flourishes unhindered, another is even improved. This should be held in mind, and wide conclusions not drawn from any one incident or situation.

Letters

After a long silence, except for unsatisfactory telephone calls, late October brought extremely welcome letters from Shanghai and Anking.

Probably no one at a distance can quite realize the strain and the practical difficulties of carrying on in the midst of history at one of its most changeful periods.

"Those of us who stay," writes one of the American staff, "do so from a

deep inner conviction that our presence is at least a testimony to the Faith."

New Semester at St. John's, Shanghai

Writing October 4, Mrs. Donald Roberts of St. John's University says, "I have just come back from my first class in the new semester. So far as I could see there was no difference in my general approach and reception of the material, Europe since 1815.

"Attendance is reduced today because of the terrible rains. Some roads are like rivers. The main road to St. Mary's is empty of all except buses, and the water is knee-deep."

As a kind of mental relaxation during the summer, between running the university library and teaching in summer school, Mrs. Roberts created a large number of woolly animals and dolls for Christmas gifts, and also cut and machined fifty animals for the Chinese women of the Auxiliary to stuff, so they will have some gifts for their own children. "Christmas may be quite slim this year."

ANKING

Dr. and Mrs. Harry B. Taylor, writing in September from Anking, report parish, schools, and hospitals all functioning although under many difficulties.

"Those of us connected with the hospital realize anew how truly a Christian hospital can minister to all... You would be thrilled to see how the hospital staff holds together in time of danger and deep unrest. The majority of the staff have been with us for years, through trying times indeed."

When Anking was last heard from, via B. W. Lanphear in Shanghai, flood waters were still rising and hard rains still falling; no one knew what the peak of the flood would bring.

Now we know. A big dike east of the city broke, for the first time since 1931, drowning many and leaving thousands without homes. Then the dike that protects the city itself broke, and water came up to the city walls on two sides. It had not broken before in 101 years.

The new regime was too new to cope with the situation. The streets filled with bandits, refugres, and beggars. People eat in secret lest they be looted.

Every patient in the hospital shows malnutrition and some degree of anemia. A foundling baby who arrived just skin and bones might have been built up to health but X-ray showed advanced tuberculosis of her lungs. "Only one of many desperate famine cases."

Young people carried on a summer school for neighborhood children. "The mission is bringing all its energies to strengthen the faith of the congregation. The responses in Morning Prayer and the Holy Communion have been put into the national phonetic. Our aim is that each of the congregation shall worship intelligently."

In spite of difficulties, St.Paul's School and the parish day school are opening. The school for under-privileged women has been flourishing, unhampered by any outside regulations.

More from Anking

"Conditions seem to vary according to how the *local* government feels about foreigners," writes one missionary, who had an opportunity to see three or four Yangtze River cities.

Up to the first of September, the military had not evacuated the mission grounds in Wuhu though Bishop Robin Chen's quiet firmness had kept them out of parts of the compound.

Poverty already bad in Anking grew much worse as a result of floods, new taxes, and loss of whole cargoes of merchandize when river boats were hit by Nationalist bombers. People are begging who would not formerly have dreamed of such a thing. And of course the times are bad for beggars, too.

Relief funds distributed through the social service department of St. James Hospital, Anking (Virgini Hebbert is the medical social worker), have been needed and welcomed beyong expression. People remember the help sent from America after the bad flood of

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1931. The day after the dike broke last summer, Miss Hebbert was stopped on the street by people asking whether America would send relief.

Conditions for the Church's work have been reported as better in Anking than in Wuhu, Nanking, Wusih, Suchow, or Shanghai. It is thought that the beneficent influence of St. James Hospital may account for this difference, at least in part. The new medical commissioner arrived in a hostile mood but has changed to an enthusiastic admirer of the hospital, and high officials have had cause to be personally grateful to it.

SHANGHAI

Bishop Roberts reports that all the Chinese workers are at their posts.

In a few instances, mission property has been taken over by the authorities, and in exceptional cases, the sanctuary used for secular purposes. This has been mostly where no other large building was available. "In almost every case we have not been bothered at all."

As a practical measure, the problem of self-support is fundamental, and it is increasingly difficult for the people to give, or to realize the extent of unemployment. In one parish every member of the congregation is out of work. Two or three self-supporting parishes have been unable to pay their clergy.

So far it has been impossible for the clergy to get other work. Teaching would be the natural work for them to do, but the authorities would not approve this. Of the forty-four clergy, 15 are under 50 and 29 are 55 or more. The theological school is adding "vocational training," such as barbering, for the young clergy.

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The Central Theological School, Shanghai, has been growing, but all the students and their dean, the Rt. Rev. T. K. Shen, are leading a spartan life, undernourished and ill-clothed.

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The Church schools in Yangchow, St. Faith's and Mahan, have had a particularly hard time, and so has Soochow Academy. This is believed to be largely the result of local policy.

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Whether private Christian middle schools will be able to continue, or for how long, are still undecided questions. (See also below, under Hankow.)

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Colleges had many regulations imposed upon them by the former Nationalist ministry of education. One college head feels that some of the recommended changes of the new regime are decided improvements and tend to simplify procedure. (See also page 10.)

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St. John's University, Shanghai, reporting 1,200 students, is well esteemed. When the new government gave examinations for its diplomatic service, the top fifty-seven were St. John's students.

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A letter from the mission office in Shanghai says, "Generally things are going well with all of us, personally. Our relationships with the present authorities have been most cordial, and of course we are doing all we can to cooperate with them. They have brought about many improvements."

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In Shanghai the severe typhoon of July 23 did more harm to St. John's University than to any other place, causing at leaxt $3,000 damage from wind and flood.

HANKOW

Falling Down

Repairs essential to safely and health, and upkeep of buildings deteriorating after bombs, floods, and white

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ants, are placing a heavy responsibility on the already strained finances of Hankow diocese, to say nothing of new taxes and other finance problems growing out of the new regime. Roof beams are unsafe in some buildings. Sanitation is bad in some. One station must lose its school building because the river dike must be extended. The Bishop of Hankow, Stephen Tsang, has a committee charged with spreading out the small repair item as far as it will go.

Boone Middle School

According to an interview with the Hupeh Province Commissioner of Education, who was cordial and friendly, Boone Middle School is likely to go on with little change except the adding of student representatives to the school council.

At the same interview it was stated that private schools are free to set their own fees, and students are free to choose their schools.

Deaconess Riebe

Indirect word from Deaconess Riebe showed that she was "all right," still in Ichang, but hoping the Rev. and Mrs. Crawford Brown might be coming to relieve her. At that time (late August) no permission could be obtained for travel from Hankow. The Rev. Nelson Liu was also in Ichang.

From a Chinese Christian:

"I have the confidence to assure you that all real values, though discarded for a time, will be called back. The important thing is that we be not selfish, fearful, fixed in our prejudices, and retreating before possible opportunities, and that we see and know without a doubt what Christianity essentially stands for."

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The new regime in China has a considerable amount of literature which Chinese and foreigners alike are studying. One Chinese leader, having read a great deal, said, "I feel there is much misunderstanding of the nature of Christianity. What the people criticize is not exactly what we believe."

Huachung University, Wuchang

The year 1948-49 was one of tremendous difficulty at Huachung University, as elsewhere in China, while momentous uncertainties came slowly toward the central China area.

In spite of all tensions, the faculty and students under the leadership of the president, Dr. Francis C. M. Wei, maintained high morale and good health. When a few students left, it was noticeable that the longer students had been with the college, the more they chose to remain.

The name of the college carries weight in educational circles. Public confidence in it has never been higher. Enrollment is expected to diminish somewhat. It is lower in the other two universities of that area, and lower in proportion than in Huachung.

Many, many students will need and will deserve financial help.

Dr. Wei writes that problems are many but "we face them one at a time. The policies of the new government are as yet known only in general terms.

"We feel that what we try to do for the uplifting of Chinese society through education of Chinese youth is tremendously worth while. By God's grace we are ready to press forward with our task. Our resources are limited, but we do not depend on human resources alone."

With his constant desire to maintain Huachung as a university in fact, not merely in name, Dr. Wei does his duty in calling the American board of directors' attention to the fact that the university's financial condition is "deplorable."

Resources are nowhere adequate to provide for increased salaries, more staff, higher living costs, scientific equipment, books, repairs, upkeep. All these are essential if standards which have won so much respect are to be maintained.

Although Dr. Wei mentions that the

present is not the time for erection of new buildings, some of the difficulties are due to the fact that the three main academic buildings are respectively 70, 43, and 40 years old. One of the student hostels is in a house built in 1881. Another dates from 1916.

The whole modern library movement in China began in this college library. It is ill adapted to its present needs. It contains about 25,000 Chinese books and 15,000 in other languages, mostly English. In the ten months of the past academic year, circulation was 40,000. All the departments are buying too few books if good standards are to be maintained. Much of the limited fund available has to go into subscriptions for technical journals.

Dr. Wei feels that the university should be carrying on more scientific research but little more can be done without more staff, equipment, and books.

The year 1948-49 was the third since the university returned from its wartime exile in southwestern China. In the three years, students have numbered 384, 470, and 469. In 1949, two-thirds of the students came from the two nearby provinces, Hunan and Hupeh; the other third represented thirteen other provinces.

The university has 51 full-time faculty members, teaching 172 courses. President, deans, and other officers teach part-time, and most of the teachers have heavy duties outside teaching.

Of the dixteen foreigners on the faculty, the Episcopal Church has nine; the others represent the four other mission boards who aid the college.

A new venture which the college hopes to start is the use of some of the college land for an experimental farm, for instruction, for use in supplying needed food, and for aid to farmers. One of the professors in the biology department has a bent for agricultural experiment; another is interested in public health. The physics and chemistry departments are developing plans to aid local factories in solving some technical problems later on, when the factories are further along.

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In Wuchang, the director of the new government's Hankow Cultural Bureau spent 2½ hours with the Huachung College faculty in the college assembly room, answering questions.

The government, it was stated, will not discriminate against Christian educational institutions so long as teachers do not attempt to preach in the classroom.

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For three weeks a number of sick soldiers were quartered in crowded space at the Huachung College. "They behaved most splendidly," says the report, "and amicably settled accounts for light and water."

River Boat

The river boat on which the Rev. Alfred Starratt tried to go from Hankow to Shanghai, en route to Hongkong, had a harrowing trip. Hoping to reach Hongkong in time to sail on the Gordon for the United States, Mr. Starratt first had long delays in getting a travel permit.

When he did get away, Nationalist bombers were active and nearly sank the ship. It traveled only at night. During the days the foreign passengers were taken ashore under guard and confined in hotel rooms until sailing time. Treatment varied; in one place they were treated like criminals, and in another the police were friendly and even took away the guard.

In the middle of the third night something queer led the ship to leave the channel at right angles, plow through a dike, and come to rest in a flooded field. After two days' vain struggle to float again, it was decided to unload. Lighters piled high with baggage and persons were towed for three hours, and the trip finally ended, slowly, by train, some days after the Gordon had left.

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Trustee
Huachung
#5.

Dr. Winfield

CONFIDENTIAL

2 NOVEMBER 1949

LETTER DATED 2 SEPTEMBER 1949
FROM FRANCIS WEI, HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY

"It gave me great pleasure to inform some of my colleagues here that the United Board voted at its Annual Meeting not only to maintain support of the current budget of the Christian colleges, but also to encourage some projects more in the nature of development within the limits of the activities and objectives of the institutions.

"At this point I wish to report that in order to protect our land from being used by various people and also to justify our holding it even inside of our campus, we are bringing under cultivation about 25 to 30 mow, or around 5 acres, as an experimental farm to yield some produce for sale or for some kind of practical farming in order to make themselves more useful members of society. This project is under the direction of Professor Tseng of the Biology Department, who is as much an agriculturist as a Biologist. Dr. Tseng has had extensive experience in agricultural research and practical work. Dr. Tseng and Dr. Richard Bien, Dean of our College of Science, and Dr. Li, head of our department of Biology, have prepared a plan which has been approved by the Senate, involving a budget of US$1,000., half as capital expenditure and half as operating budget for the year. It is possible, but not very likely, that our produce during the year, if the plan should be successful, may replace at least the operating budget and perhaps part of the initial expenditure, but that remains to be seen. It is worth US$1,000. at least to protect our land and also to give evidence that we want to encourage productive labor among our own people. It is hoped that in the course of time we shall be able to extend this project to the training of the farmers around as an educational program. I hope that the United Board will approve this project and add to our appropriation the amount of US$1,000. for this year.

"Then, in order to make our Biology department more useful and to give more outlets to to our Biology graduates, we are negotiating with the Institute of Hospital Technology, hitherto connected with the Union Hospital in Hankow, for affiliation with Huachung University. The plan is still in the process of negotiation, and even our Senate has not considered it because we have to wait until the Board of the Institute of Hospital Technology has given its approval. If it should go through, it would become an attached Institute of Huachung University under our College of Science without any financial obligation on our part. The Institute at present has a staff of 15, including 4 missionaries supported by the various missions or foundations, and 11 members who are employed and their salaries are paid from local income, largely from fees in the laboratories, which serve not only the Union Hospital, but other hospitals and private practitioners in the whole Wuhan area. The affiliation would standardize the training of the Institute of Hospital Technology and bring it up to university standard. Of course, students of the university standard would be increasing, but there will always be some students who are not candidates for university degrees. They would be classified as members of the training class. As soon as the Senate has considered the matter, it will go to our Board of Directors; and when the Board has approved it, we shall report it to the United Board for final sanction. It is not so much financial obligation that we may ask the United Board to undertake, but to undertake it as one of our institutes in the university. Its finances would be under the supervision of our Treasurer, and its general conduct would be under our university administration, although the general set-up will remain the same--in the Union Hospital in Hankow.

"The Central China Theological Seminary has moved from the other side of the hill, which divides the city of Wuchang into two parts, to our neighborhood, and has become officially affiliated with Huachung University. On a separate sheet I am sending you the actions taken by our Senate with regard to this affiliation. Again this involves no financial obligation on our part. It means largely exchange of instructors

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and the extension of our library and other facilities to the students of the Seminary. We feel that such an affiliation is of mutual benefit, and it will go to strengthen our theological training here, as well as to enable us to help a sister institution in the training of ministers for the various churches. Whenever they have students of university grade, they will take our entrance examinations and work for our degrees. Those who are not exactly of university-matriculation standard will be entirely under their care.

"The Boone Library School is in financial straits, and Mr. Seng, the Director, has approached our Senate through Dr. John C. F. Lo, Chairman of our "Committee on Negotiations with Boone Library School for Reunion" to help them financially. They are going to have perhaps not more than 30 students this year, and so it would be very difficult for them to make ends meet since they have no resources of income now except tuition fees and interest from their very small endowment now held in the United States. When the matter came before the Senate the other day, it was our feeling that we were not in a position to tap any of our resources in order to give them any financial aid. However, if there should be money ordinarily not expected by the United Board, we would like to have it given as a grant or as a loan to the Boone Library School in order to tide them over through a difficult period. Mr. Seng estimates that they would need US$2,000 for this term and possibly for the next term. Our question is what would happen to the Boone Library School even though this money could be found but conditions did not improve after the coming year.

"We are considering one or two minor projects along the line of our present development, and they may need US$2,000-$3,000 to implement them, such as for instance the Physics Department is thinking of making itself more practical, which may mean the appointment of a practical physicist with an annual salary of about US$1,100 a year plus house rent. Then, of course, we may have to add slightly to our laboratory equipment so as to give practical training to the Physics students of the last two years in college. The Chemistry department has a similar project, but this, as well as that of the Physics department, will be reported to you as soon as they have received the attention of our Senate.

"Our people who went to Changsha to hold the entrance examinations have already safely returned. There were 269 candidates sitting for our examinations in that city. There were only 24 candidates in Kiukiang because the students from Nanchang were not able to get to Kiukiang in time for the examinations. In Wuchang we had 355, and so our total number of candidates for the entrance examinations is only about one-third the number of last year. This also is to be expected because when Peking University, Tsing Hwa University, and Nankai University had their entrance examinations here two weeks ago, they had altogether only 1160 candidates, whereas last year they had over 5,000--nearly five times as many as this year.

"Perhaps only about 200 of our own candidates will be qualified for entrance, and 50%-60% of these will come to us. Together with about 30 or 35 recommended students, we may make a freshman class of around 150, which is the limitset by the Senate and the Directors.

"Paul Ward and Alfred Starratt still have not yet secured permits to go to Shanghai, and so they are still waiting. If they should have to wait for another week, it would be too late for them to catch the boat at Shanghai. It is very hard on these two men and their families, but there is nothing that we can do to expedite matters.

"Local conditions remain about the same, and we are getting things ready for our reopening on September 10, but classes will not begin until September 29, because we have to give the examinations due at the end of last term, which owing to conditions at the time were not given according to schedule."

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CONFIDENTIAL 2 NOVEMBER 1949

LETTER DATED 9 SEPTEMBER 1949

FROM FRANCIS WEI, HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY

"Again I say that we feel very much encouraged that the United Board has voted not only to endeavour to maintain the support of the current budgets of the Christian colleges in China, but also to give further evidence of its faith in our work by encouraging some projects more-or-less in the nature of a development.

"In my last letter to Dr. McMullen I mentioned our new project of experimental farming, which is to give opportunity for our faculty and staff members and our students to get some experience in practical farming, as well as to hold our spare land on the campus by using it ourselves. The budget for this project for the year is only about US$1000, and I hope the United Board will make the additional appropriation to Huachung for this year.

"Another project is now under discussion, and that is a dairy, which will not involve the university in any kind of financial obligation, as it is going to be a sort of cooperative enterprise. It will give us good milk, and also teach some of our students how to run a dairy along modern lines which will not be too far ahead of the Chinese methods, so that whatever results we may get will be an object lesson to the farmers around.

"There is still no word from the Board of Directors of the Institute of Hospital Technology, which has proposed to be affiliated with Huachung, and so I have no official report to make yet.

"We have already announced the results of our entrance examinations. Altogether 185 students are qualified for admission, with 32 on the waiting list. Besides there are about 35 recommended students, and perhaps two-thirds of them will come to register. According to our estimate, the freshman class will be probably 150, which is the maximum fixed by our Senate and our Board of Directors for this year. It is still too early to foretell the number of old students who may return, since there are so many interfering factors, of which economic conditions are the main one. Perhaps 250 to 280 old students may return, and so our total enrollment for this term may be around 400--that is, 50 higher than my previous estimate.

"The Scholarship Committee is now meeting to consider the 200 odd applications for scholarships. At least one-half of them will not get the grants. My opinion is that perhaps two-thirds of those who applied will need financial help. Even those who are going to receive the scholarship grants will need financial aids, and so two days ago I took up the matter with our faculty and staff members, and they are willing to raise among themselves 75 tan of rice to help the students, but the students, but the students will need at least 250 tan, besides our scholarship funds, and 250 tan will be almost US$2,000. If 75 tan, or US$500., can be raised by our own people, we would need still US$1,500. for this term alone as financial aids to those students who are practically stranded financially.

"I hope the United Board will consider this need of our students. The request will be repeated for at least another term. If I were to analyze the economic situation minutely, it might not be appropriate. My feeling is that in order to help Christian education in China to tide over the next period of three years, more money ought to be spent on financial aids to students in colleges which are in those locations more seriously affected by the present situation than others, and Wuchang is certainly one of those locations.

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"In order to maintain our standards, as well as our morale, and to keep up a reasonable enrollment for the occupation of our buildings, we have also to find some Sustaining Fund for the Christian middle schools which are our chief feeders. In the Wuhan area alone we have six Christian senior middle schools. My question is whether it is possible by some kind of international effort to give 100 scholarships in each of those six Christian middle schools, a total of 600 scholarships, at the rate of 4 tan a rice each per term. That would mean 8 tan a year, and a tan of rice is now about US$7. The total amount needed would be US$33,600. This figure may be too high. If we should reduce it by a half, it would still mean about $17,000., but some kind of financial help like this will be imperative. We have religious liberty and we are free to maintain our Christian schools, but only those schools which are able to compete with non-tuition schools will be able to survive.

"Two of our hostels are being used by a government training institute. There will not be much difficulty in getting the hostels back for our own use, but the problem is more serious with the Christian middle schools in Wuchang. I am working on this problem and hope to get it solved in a few days, but the schools are reopening by the middle of this month. Tomorrow the principals of the Christian middle schools will meet, and I am sure they will press me for a solution of this problem.

"Paul Ward and Alfred Starratt have received notice to go to the police, and I hope that before I mail this letter tomorrow. I may put in an encouraging postscript with regard to the possibility of their leaving for Shanghai.

"I am sorry to have had to decline the invitation to be one of two speakers at the Eastern Asia Christian Conference to be held in Bangkok, Siam, December 4-11, 1949. One speaker is to be Indian, and the other Chinese. I would like very much to accept the invitation, but it would cut up my term here so much, and besides there would be much embarrassment if I should go."

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CONFIDENTIAL 2 NOVEMBER 1949

LETTER DATED 21 SEPTEMBER 1949
FROM FRANCIS WEI, HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY

"I was not able to send you our estimate of enrollment until Sunday, September 18, when the following cable went off:

'LC FENN 150 FIFTHAV NEWYORK (USA)
450 ENROLLMENT NEW STUDENTS ONETHIRD SUMMER EXAMINATIONS HELD NORMALLY

WEI'

"To explain: even now we have only a very rough estimate of our enrollment for this term, but every indication is that we may have 430 to 460. The number of new students will probably be about 150-170, and so our cablegram said, 'New students one-third' of total enrollment. The Senate and the Board of Directors decided to admit only 150 new students this term, but as you know, it is always difficult to estimate how many of the students who passed their entrance examinations will actually turn up to register. We had 620 candidates, and 185 were qualified, with 32 on the waiting list. Ordinarily we would expect two-thirds of the qualified students to come to college and one-half of those on the waiting list, but this year any estimate is only a wild guess. Wuhan University had over 900 candidates taking the examinations, and they qualified over 700. Similarly the percentage of students who passes the examinations for the national universities in Peiping is also very high. The great majority of the students who passed our examinations will have also passed examinations of the national universities, which charge no fees and have very generous scholarships for board and lodging. Therefore, it is quite difficult for us to know how many of our qualified students will come until they have actually registered. The number of students who took our entrance examinations was one-third that of a year ago, whereas in other universities the percentage dropped down to one-fifth or even less.

"Our registration is late this term because as I have written before, we were in the middle of our term examinations in June when the students had to go out to do propaganda work until the very end of the term. Therefore, we are now holding the examinations due during the last week of the spring term in June, and these examinations will last until the end of this week, which will be September 24. Registration will begin in the middle of next week because we also have supplementary examinations to give as well. In other words, we are not skipping any step in our normal program. Whatever examination was not taken has to be taken now before the new term actually begins.

"The faculty and staff remain practically the same except that Professor Paul Ward and the Rev. Alfred Starratt are getting their permits today to go to Shanghai. Paul Ward will try to get to Hongkong and bring his family back. That may take sometime, and therefore we cannot have him for teaching this term, and it is doubtful whether he will be able to get back the next term in February. Alfred Starratt is definitely going to America, and his wife and three children expect to fly to San Francisco to join him there. They are going home on account of the health of their eldest daughter, who is only seven years old with a diagnosis of TB. The doctor has advised Alfred to take the family back to America on advanced furlough, granted by the Mission and the Bishop here. It is our hope that he may be able to return in a year or so, because he likes his work here and is very much devoted to Huachung. He is a good teacher of New Testament, a good student worker, and a very fine colleague.

"For many years, as far back as the middle of the war, we had been trying to get Dr. Yuen Peh-ch'iao to join our faculty of Education. He is a graduate of Nanking University, was principal of a Christian middle school in Wuhu before he went to America in

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1934. He spent one year in the University of California and the second year in the State Teachers College of Colorado where he took his Ph. D. in Education. Just six weeks ago he wrote us that he was leaving the University of Nanking, and asked if we would need his services in our college of Education. We at once wired back, and he arrived with two of his children a week ago. He has been appointed Professor of Education to take the place of Mr. Hsiung Wen-min who left us last winter and whose vacancy had not been filled until Dr. Yuen's arrival. We are very glad that he is able to join us here; he is a fine Christian with both teaching and administrative experience, and he seems to fit into our environment very well.

"All the Christian middle schools in the Wuhan center have reopened. Most of them have only one-half of their normal enrollment, some even fewer. Boone is the only exception they will probably have 400 students, which would be 60% of their record enrollment of two years ago.

"We are doing everything possible to get our hostels and the buildings of the Christian middle schools vacated by the students of the Training School run by the government. Our arrangement is to allow them to use one of our men's hostels until about October 10. With our reduced enrollment this term we can do this without much difficulty, but Boone Middle School has still about 150 trainees occupying the same quadrangle as its own students; this makes things rather unpleasant, but if the evacuation will be inside three weeks, Boone has to stand it and make the best of the situation.

"Our curriculum remains about the same except that some of the courses will have to be modified. In addition, we have to give some political courses, and they are to be given by members of our own faculty. I have been asked by our Faculty Committee to teach the theoretical course in the political field, but I cannot do it as an extra burden, although I have been reading along the line of dialectic materialism ever since my days in London. We expect to work out all the problems, and the students seem to be still cooperative and are more willing to work than before the Liberation.

"The total fees charged this term amount to only about 85% of the fees charged a year ago, or in the spring, but still many of the students have found it difficult to pay them. The faculty are raising a fund to help the needy students. We have been trying to raise some money, as we did in the spring, from our business friends in Hankow, but it is difficult to get any money even to help poor students. I spent part of my day last Monday for this purpose, and I was able to get only 21 tan of rice, worth about US$150, whereas last spring I was able to get ten times as much in one visit to Hankow. The situation has certainly changed, because business is not so good just at the moment. However, exchange is more in our favor now, and so with our scholarship money we may be able to help 10% more of the students, but the stipends of our scholarships, as determined by the Scholarship Committee, are much lower than those in the last term. They reduced the stipends in order to spread the money over a larger number. No scholarship students get more than one-third of the total amount of fees, and those who get the third-class scholarship are getting only one-sixth of the total amount. I have written you previously about the need for more money to help the students, and we may have to add for this term at least US$500 to our budget as a Special Student Relief Fund.

"I mentioned the figure of US$1500 in a previous letter, but with a better rate of exchange and the stabilized price of rice we may be able to get along with one-third of the amount just for this term if I should use all my discretionary funds to help the students. My discretionary funds are getting very low because I have not been able to get in touch with my friends in America and in China."

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LETTER DATED 21 SEPTEMBER 1949
FROM FRANCIS WEI, HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY

"I was not able to send you our estimate of enrollment until Sunday, September 18, when the following cable went off:

'LC FENN 150 FIFTHAV NEWYORK (USA)
450 ENROLLMENT NEW STUDENTS ONETHIRD SUMMER EXAMINATIONS HELD NORMALLY

WEI'

"To explain: even now we have only a very rough estimate of our enrollment for this term, but every indication is that we may have 430 to 460. The number of new students will probably be about 150-170, and so our cablegram said, 'New students one-third' of total enrollment. The Senate and the Board of Directors decided to admit only 150 new students this term, but as you know, it is always difficult to estimate how many of the students who passed their entrance examinations will actually turn up to register. We had 620 candidates, and 185 were qualified, with 32 on the waiting list. Ordinarily we would expect two-thirds of the qualified students to come to college and one-half of those on the waiting list, but this year any estimate is only a wild guess. Wuhan University had over 900 candidates taking the examinations, and they qualified over 700. Similarly the percentage of students who passes the examinations for the national universities in Peiping is also very high. The great majority of the students who passed our examinations will have also passed examinations of the national universities, which charge no fees and have very generous scholarships for board and lodging. Therefore, it is quite difficult for us to know how many of our qualified students will come until they have actually registered. The number of students who took our entrance examinations was one-third that of a year ago, whereas in other universities the percentage dropped down to one-fifth or even less.

"Our registration is late this term because as I have written before, we were in the middle of our term examinations in June when the students had to go out to do propaganda work until the very end of the term. Therefore, we are now holding the examinations due during the last week of the spring term in June, and these examinations will last until the end of this week, which will be September 24. Registration will begin in the middle of next week because we also have supplementary examinations to give as well. In other words, we are not skipping any step in our normal program. Whatever examination was not taken has to be taken now before the new term actually begins.

"The faculty and staff remain practically the same except that Professor Paul Ward and the Rev. Alfred Starratt are getting their permits today to go to Shanghai. Paul Ward will try to get to Hongkong and bring his family back. That may take sometime, and therefore we cannot have him for teaching this term, and it is doubtful whether he will be able to get back the next term in February. Alfred Starratt is definitely going to America, and his wife and three children expect to fly to San Francisco to join him there. They are going home on account of the health of their eldest daughter, who is only seven years old with a diagnosis of TB. The doctor has advised Alfred to take the family back to America on advanced furlough, granted by the Mission and the Bishop here. It is our hope that he may be able to return in a year or so, because he likes his work here and is very much devoted to Huachung. He is a good teacher of New Testament, a good student worker, and a very fine colleague.

"For many years, as far back as the middle of the war, we had been trying to get Dr. Yuen Peh-ch'iao to join our faculty of Education. He is a graduate of Nanking University, was principal of a Christian middle school in Wuhu before he went to America in

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1934. He spent one year in the University of California and the second year in the State Teachers College of Colorado where he took his Ph. D. in Education. Just six weeks ago he wrote us that he was leaving the University of Nanking, and asked if we would need his services in our College of Education. We at once wired back, and he arrived with two of his children a week ago. He has been appointed Professor of Education to take the place of Mr. Hsiung Wen-min who left us last winter and whose vacancy had not been filled until Dr. Yuen's arrival. We are very glad that he is able to join us here; he is a fine Christian with both teaching and administrative experience, and he seems to fit into our environment very well.

"All the Christian middle schools in the Wuhan center have reopened. Most of them have only one-half of their normal enrollment, some even fewer. Boone is the only exception they will probably have 400 students, which would be 60% of their record enrollment of two years ago.

"We are doing everything possible to get our hostels and the buildings of the Christian middle schools vacated by the students of the Training School run by the government. Our arrangement is to allow them to use one of our men's hostels until about October 10. With our reduced enrollment this term we can do this without much difficulty, but Boone Middle School has still about 150 trainees occupying the same quadrangle as its own students; this makes things rather unpleasant, but if the evacuation will be inside three weeks, Boone has to stand it and make the best of the situation.

"Our curriculum remains about the same except that some of the courses will have to be modified. In addition, we have to give some political courses, and they are to be given by members of our own faculty. I have been asked by our Faculty Committee to teach the theoretical course in the political field, but I cannot do it as an extra burden, although I have been reading along the line of dialectic materialism ever since my days in London. We expect to work out all the problems, and the students seem to be still cooperative and are more willing to work than before the Liberation.

"The total fees charged this term amount to only about 85% of the fees charged a year ago, or in the spring, but still many of the students have found it difficult to pay them. The faculty are raising a fund to help the needy students. We have been trying to raise some money, as we did in the spring, from our business friends in Hankow, but it is difficult to get any money even to help poor students. I spent part of my day last Monday for this purpose, and I was able to get only 21 tan of rice, worth about US$150, whereas last spring I was able to get ten times as much in one visit to Hankow. The situation has certainly changed, because business is not so good just at the moment. However, exchange is more in our favor now, and so with our scholarship money we may be able to help 10% more of the students, but the stipends of our scholarships, as determined by the Scholarship Committee, are much lower than those in the last term. They reduced the stipends in order to spread the money over a larger number. No scholarship students get more than one-third of the total amount of fees, and those who get the third-class scholarship are getting only one-sixth of the total amount. I have written you previously about the need for more money to help the students, and we may have to add for this term at least US$500 to our budget as a Special Student Relief Fund.

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EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS DATED 27 SEPTEMBER, 4, 11, and 27 OCTOBER, FROM PRESIDENT WEI HUACHUNG UNIVERSITY

(NOTE: In view of the unavoidable duplication that creeps into the frequent and detailed letters that Dr. Wei sends us, it has seemed best to combine two or three letters in one rather than to copy them in toto. W. P. F.)

"George Bien, professor and head of the department of Chemistry, brother of Dr. Richard Bien, is unable to return from Hongkong, owing to the health of his wife, and so he has resigned from his professorship here. We have tried to get his second brother Paul, with the same training as George had, to fill the vacancy, but the telegram has come, saying that Paul is unavailable. We are now contacting another chemist, who is in Nanking, and a reply may come in two or three days. Aside from the cases I have reported, the faculty remains the same with the addition of Dr. Yuen who is filling the vacancy left by Mr. Hsiung in the College of Education. Mr. Hsiung left last winter.

"One of our Chinese professors who is over sixty years old and eminent in his own field is planning to give to our University Library his own collection of Chinese books in the field of Chinese Literature and History. The total collection consists of over 70,000 Chinese volumes. The books are now in Wushih between Nanking and Shanghai; and when his formal notice has come to us, we shall make arrangements to send somebody to Wushih and get the books up by boat. They will be a wonderful addition to our library, but this is not official yet.

"The Rt. Rev. Stephen Tsang, Bishop of Hankow, is very anxious to have the Boone Library School rejoin Huachung. I have given to the Bishop the action taken by the United Board on the Library School, and Bishop Tsang is going to write Bishop Bentley of the National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States to ask him to take up the matter of the Boone Library School rejoining Huachung with the United Board. If Bishop Bentley should raise this question with you, you will know that the matter has my own approval and the concurrence of the Senate and Board of Directors. You may consider on what conditions you would permit this return of the Boone Library School to Huachung, and let me know as soon as you have reached a decision. As you know, Miss Mary Elizabeth Wood started the Library Movement in China and was the first promoter and organizer of the library schools. For many years the Boone Library School was the only library school in the country and has turned out a large number of trained librarians, both when the school was a part of Boone and then Huachung University, and later as an independent school. If it should become a part of our university again, we shall be able to improve its standards and the quality of its teaching staff. It would be a pity if it should be left an independent institution in times like these with all the financial and other problems.

"The most popular departments are apparently this term English, Biology, and Physics in that order. Chemistry and Education hold their own. Chinese Literature has a slight drop. History is small, and Economics has the largest drop from the previous years. It is difficult to explain all these changes, but the tendency seems to be towards more practical courses. In our Biology department we are offering more practical courses and, therefore, the attraction. The Institute of Hospital Technology has not decided yet to become a part of Huachung. Its Board is going to meet within the next fortnight, and they have asked me to become one of its new members.

"MissMargaret Bleakley, who has served in Huachung as head of the department of English and Registrar for the last twenty years, is due to retire in the middle of this academic year. The London Mission is considering the possibility of sending to us the Rev.

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Thomas Hawthorn, M. A., Oxford, to take Miss Bleakley's place in the teaching of English Literature. He took his honors degree in Oxford in "Greats," that is, Classics, and had his theological training also in Oxford. He has been in Wuchang for over a year, and we have found him a very congenial person. His wife and two little children, however, are in Hongkong. They went there last winter, and we are making enquiries as how they may come back to Wuchang. That may mean a long tedious process.

"I am cabling you for US$500 in order to meet the needs of many of the students in paying their fees. The Committee on Scholarships and Financial Aids had a long meeting after careful investigation and decided to grant 184 tan of rice to about 150 students, in addition to their scholarships which are always granted according to scholastic records of the previous year. 184 tan of rice, thus granted to students as relief, would cost about US$1,000, but we have been able to raise locally one-half of the sum from among the faculty and a few of the business people in Hankow. You can realize how difficult it is to raise any money at all in the Wuhan Center these days, but we have made some small success.

"The University Farm is working out slowly. Professor Tseng has got 4 cows, two big and two small, and only the bigger ones are giving milk. He expects to be able to let each one of the shareholders buy a half pound of milk a day, and the milk is certainly good. The dairy project is on a cooperative basis. Each share cost JHP 50,000, which is about US$13-14 per share. The farm is growing largely vegetables, and the products will be ready for marketing in a month or so.

"With practical farming and hospital technology our Biology students will find outlets in Agricultural Science and in Public Health. Similar projects along practical lines ought to be undertaken by the Physics and Chemistry department. The Chemistry department is already making contacts with some of the factories in Hankow, which send to us their problems. Physics would like to have some kind of training in handling simple machines and running motors, with a sort of pre-engineering, largely along the line of electrical and mechanical engineering. Some of the students, of course, will remain in the field of pure Physics and Chemistry, but others would like to have some training which will fit them for useful work in this modern society. I wonder whether it is possible for the United Board to make us a grant so that our departments of Physics and Chemistry may develop in a modest way along the lines I have outlined. As I have written in other connections, the next period of two to three years will decide whether we have any surviving value or not. We must do two things to hold our own: first, we must prove that we are really doing good work; and second, we must make our work as practical as possible at the university level. The latter can be attained by us here in Huachung only in a modest way, but it is almost inevitable.

"Our registration up to date is as follows:

Seniors	103
Juniors	84
Sophomores	71
Freshmen	114
Total	372

A few more freshmen are still on their way. They are coming from Hunan, and the bad weather on the lake has delayed them much. Possibly our total number of freshman will be over 120, to bring our entire enrollment up to 380.

"Again, I wish to emphasize the necessity of spending more money on scholarships and financial aids to the students for the next two or three years until economic conditions in our part of the country return more-or-less to normality. We have no desire to

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compete with the national universities in the size of the student body, but it is of little use to have a good faculty and fair equipment when the best students are not attracted to us. It is heartbreaking to see so many of the Christian students, even from Christian families, going to non-Christian institutions after their graduation from the Christian middle schools, largely for financial reasons. Of course, there is still the general feeling that there is greater prestige in one's going to a national university, and it takes a long time for people to learn the lesson that prestige is not the only thing of value. In the meantime we have to do whatever is within our ability in order to attract the Christian students and the good students to our own university here. We enjoy a good reputation for the quality of our work, our democratic spirit, and our good discipline, not only among the general public, but especially among people of the New Government. But this has not been strong enough to counteract the feeling of the young people which I have mentioned above.

"Our religious program is going strong. The chapel attendance has been most encouraging. We had last Sunday, October 9, the first formal Sunday evening service for the University. There were at least 100 in the congregation and 40 in the choir. This was as good an attendance as we could ever expect with the reduced size of our student body, and consequently the reduced number of Christian students in our midst. For the last week the Daily Chapel in the middle of the morning has had a congregation of 70 to 90. The Chapel speakers have been the leading members of the faculty, as has been our custom every term. The four Christian fellowships, representing the four church groups in Huachung, are joining together for most of their activities, leaving however sufficient room for the individual denominational groups to have their own program, if so desired.

"It is very encouraging to observe that the Christian students are showing a great deal of enthusiasm for Christian work, and the Christian members of the faculty are determined to give them as much help as possible.

" The general morale on the campus is splendid. We required the students to complete all the examinations not finished at the end of last term, and the students took these examinations without a murmur. There has been less noise made by our own students, and there is every sign that they will settle down to work again.

"Seven students in the sophomore class have started the study of Theology in the combined course. Under the present circumstances it is very heartening to see so many students wanting to prepare themselves for church work after graduation from Huachung.

"Alfred Starratt is now on his way with Paul Ward to Hongkong. Mr. Starratt's subject is New Testament, and the New Testament courses are being taught by the Rev. George Osborn of the Methodist Church, who is the principal of the Central China Union Theological Seminary, now cooperating with us. The Seminary has moved to our neighborhood, which makes cooperation easier. Many of their students are coming to Huachung for some of their non-theological courses. Most of our theological courses are not available to them because of our requirement of a better knowledge of the English language, but they are coming for some of them which are given in Chinese and require little reading in the English language.

"Sometime ago we paid the stamp tax on the University land, and now the Government is beginning to levy the land tax, which as I have written before is going to be $15 per $1,000 of the land value. Our land consists of two parts: first, the land that the University has acquired during the last fifteen years in the name of the Board of Directors, and is therefore strictly university land; and second, the Boone Compound with small pieces outside of the main compound owned by the National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States. The National Council has decided that all this Boone land is to be turned over to be used by Huachung University; about

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one-half of it is at present occupied by the Boone Middle School, which has been contemplating the plan of a new site outside the old city wall. As soon as the middle school moves out, all the Boone land will come under the control of Huachung. The decision of the National Council was communicated to me by Bishop Gilman a year ago, and now Bishop Tsang of the Diocese of Hankow, successor to Bishop Gilman, has given me a testimonial in Chinese to the same effect.

"Last Friday I sent a petition to the new Ministry of Education in Hankow, together with the supporting documents, and we asked permission to have exemption from the land tax. On Sunday the Ministry of Education sent us a written reply, saying that the Ministry had already communicated with the Tax Bureau with regard to our exemption from the land tax. A man went from my office to the Land Tax Bureau yesterday, but they had not received the communication from the Ministry yet because it had been sent to the Provincial Government, and therefore it will take sometime to get to the Bureau. There does not seem to be any difficulty in getting the exemption, but we are waiting to see what the final results will be.

"The Government is also levying taxes on buildings, but according to the regulations, buildings used by schools and colleges are to be exempted from taxes. I believe that this includes faculty residences.

"The Senate met yesterday and decided to suspend classes on October 31 and November 1 in order to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of Huachung University. Our Founders Day is November 1, which is also our formal Matriculation Day. I hope the United Board, and especially the Huachung Committee and the cooperating missions, will remember this day if my letter should get to you before the end of this month. The Senate has decided not to spend too much money on the celebration, but will ask the faculty, students, and alumni to celebrate the occasion in such a way as to cost as little money as possible.

"Day before yesterday I sent you a cablegram as follows:

'CELEBRATING TWENTYFIFTH ANNIVERSARY NOVEMBER FIRST INFORM MISSIONS AND FRIENDS'

"The institution has been growing steadily during the last twenty-five years with serious interruptions twice, which however have not damaged seriously our plan of development, except that they have certainly delayed our construction program.

"Please assure all friends who may read my weekly letters that I have been writing my letters rather freely. There are certain things which I do not say, but no one has told me not to say them. The purpose of my letters is to report the developments in the university from week to week, and I have not held back anything essential. Everything that I have written is entirely factual and according to my best judgment.

"We have not heard yet from the authorities whether both land tax and house tax have been exempted for us, but according to various indications there is no question about our exemption. A Christian middle school in Hankow under the Chung Hwa Sheng Kung Huei, with property entirely held by the mission, has already got exemption officially from the taxes.

"On Monday of this week after the meeting of the Christian workers held in Hankow, four of us went to see one of our friends high up in the government, and among various questions we asked was whether theological seminaries would have to register with the educational authorities. Their answer was that there had been no decision made by the government as yet on this matter. When I asked them whether Huachung would be free to teach religious and theological courses, he answered that we would certainly be free to do so, provided the courses were not required of students but on the elective basis.

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Our theological and religious courses have always been electives. Both the London Missionary Society and the Methodist Church in Wuhan have reported the Central China Union Theological Seminary as part of their work, and they have had no criticism from the government. The Seminary is carrying on as usual with some of the students electing courses in Huachung, and this has been a part of our agreement for cooperation with the Seminary.

"It seems quite clear that before formal recognition of the present government by Washington, it will be very difficult for any American missionaries including teachers to enter China from abroad, even for such people as Paul Ward and his family to return from Hongkong. Mr. Hawthorne of the London Missionary Society is trying to get his wife and two small children back into Wuchang from Hongkong, and they may also have to wait until recognition by Great Britain, which we hope may not be very long.

"The rate of exchange is slowly going up, bur prices are rising parallelly."

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