November 9, 1925

Mr. Owen Roberts
14 Wall Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Roberts:

I appreciate the frankness of your note. May I reply to it with equal frankness.

First- The students of Peking (Yenching) University have been such a moderation influence among the student bodies of Peking that the radical Left Wing of the students has broken off and these radicals compose about 2,000 out of a total of about 25,000 students in Peking. It was the moderation of our students which led to a correction of a previous anti-foreign and anti-christian attitude, and you will be interested to heard, if you do not already know, that last June the majority of the student body in Peking chose one of our students to be their representative to investigate the Shanghai shooting; that this representative was left to be chosen by our whole body of students and that the man chosen was a student volunteer for the ministry.

Second - You undoubtedly read last summer the statement made by our faculty members immediately after the Shanghai shooting. The only comment I may make about this is that its attitude seems to be very comparable with that interpretation of the American attitude expressed by Mr. MacMurray just before the present conference began, leaving out of course the Shanghai incident.

Third - It was well-known, of course, that the Soviet group has agents pretty well everywhere throughout China and in most of the important schools. We know that some of our own students were approached to enter the employ of the Soviet Government for propoganda work among our student body. Some of these students reported to President Stuart and we have no fear at all of any element of ~~that sort~~ getting out of control any more than the Liberal Group at Harvard makes the students of Harvard University a menace to the citizenship of the United States.

Fourth:- I think I know the Bolshevik crowd pretty well personally. I was in Russia during the Kerensky regime and during its overthrow I have kept in reasonable touch with the situation in Russia since leaving there. As a regime and as a philosophy I hold for them no more love than you do. I am very sure, however, that the Soviet influence in China has been magnified and a lot of things attributed to that influence which do not exist at all. We both know that China is trying to feel her way from her centuried of encystment and catch step with the Western World of 1925. This was a hard enough attempt in the two or three years before the war. When we are having such a dickens of a time right here in America - to say nothing of what is going on in Europe - to adjust ourselves to present day conditions, we certainly ought not to be too impatient over the struggles of China to find her way out. Of course there will be cross-currents. The Chinese will work their way out and those of us who are trying constructively to be China's friends will ultimately be happy in the proven worth of our friendship during this period of her groping.

Very cordially yours
H.W.Luce.

P.S. I am sorry I don't know you personally. Ralph Ward gave me the pleasure a year ago of meeting Mrs. Roberts. It was through Mrs. Roberts that I joined the China Society.