

December 17, 1937.

Officers of the Japanese Embassy,

Nanking.

Gentlemen:-

The reign of terror and brutality continues in the plain view of your buildings and among your own neighbors.

(1) Last night soldiers repeatedly came to our Library building with its great crowd of refugees, demanding money, watches, and women at the point of the bayonet. When persons had no watches or money, usually because they had been looted several times in the two preceding days, the soldiers broke windows near them and roughly pushed them about. One of our own staff members was wounded by a bayonet in this manner.

(2) At the Library building, as in many places through this part of the city last night, soldiers raped several women.

(3) Soldiers beat our own unarmed watchmen, because the watchmen did not have girls ready for the use of the soldiers.

(4) Last night several of our American-owned residences, with flags and Embassy proclamations upon them, were entered irregularly by roving groups of soldiers, some of them several times. These residences included houses in which three American members of our staff are living.

We respectfully ask you to compare these acts, which are small samples of what is happening to large numbers of residents of Nanking, with your Government's official statements of its concern for the welfare of the people of China, likewise of its protection of foreign property.

We do not wish to emphasize personal matters, and refer to two other incidents merely to indicate the degree of wild license among uncontrolled soldiers. Yesterday one American member of our staff was struck by an officer upon entirely false charges which the officer did not investigate, and also by soldiers. During the night another American and myself were pulled out of bed by a drunken soldier with a rifle.

This letter is not written to ask for special protection on behalf of the University, but to emphasize, by reason of the nearness of the University to yourselves, the urgency of peril to all peaceable people.

We believe that the Japanese Army has the power and the efficiency to maintain respectable conduct, and to give conquered people a chance to live and work under good order. We are unable to understand why it does not do so, and do it before further damage is done to local people and to Japan's reputation.

Faithfully yours,

Chairman Emergency Committee, University of Nanking.