

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Nanking, December 4, 1937.

CONFIDENTIAL

The Embassy considers it advisable at this time to warn Americans who are planning to board the U.S.S. Panay that they should be prepared to evacuate at short notice. The Embassy hopes that the evacuation may be executed with as little inconvenience as possible and, barring a sudden emergency, will attempt to notify Americans several hours in advance. Since decision to evacuate at a particular time may depend upon varying factors, including conditions in the city, complete preparations for emergency evacuation should be made as a precautionary measure. Due to lack of space, the Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. Panay has necessarily limited baggage to one suitcase and one bedding roll per person. No extra bedding is available on the Panay and it is essential that each American take sufficient bedding, including blankets, sheets and pillow.

Reliable reports indicate that some Chinese units from the Chinkiang-Tanyang-Kintan-Liyang-Kwangteh line have retreated to a point not far east of Chuyung (Kuyung). This development may make evacuation to the naval vessel advisable by tomorrow.