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March 16, 1942

My dear Mr. Secretary:

News recently received from Peking in regard to the closing of the Peking-Union Medical College by the Japanese military authorities, the seizure of several of the college staff and the dangerous position in which others find themselves has naturally disturbed very much the officers and trustees both of The Rockefeller Foundation and of the China Medical Board.

The Peking-Union Medical College was founded by The Rockefeller Foundation in 1916, and in 1928 The Rockefeller Foundation caused the China Medical Board, Inc. to be organized under the laws of New York State and endowed it to the extent of \$10,000,000 for the primary purpose of supplying annually the funds needed to balance the Peking-Union Medical College budget. The Rockefeller Foundation has since made large additional grants to the China Medical Board, Inc. and is very deeply interested in the future of the College, in the advancement of medical education in China and in the maintenance of the gains in medical knowledge and practice already made.

Our information is that the following American members of the College staff are now in Japanese occupied territory in China: Dr. Hamilton H. Anderson, Mr. Trevor Bowen, Miss Mary E. Ferguson, Miss Elizabeth Hirst, Dr. Henry S. Houghton, Dr. H. H. Loucks, Miss Faye Whiteside, and that two of them, Dr. Houghton and Mr. Bowen have actually been taken into custody by the Japanese military authorities. We are also informed that the following members of the College Staff (including the wife and some of one still in Peking) are at Manila, presumably under the control, at least, of the Japanese military authorities: Dr. John Boots, Mrs. H. H. Loucks and son, Miss Mary McMillan, Dr. Frank Whitacre and Miss Margaret Wyne.

We are, of course, very anxious that all those named above (on both lists) be brought back as soon as possible and I am writing to express to you the hope that they may be included in the early exchange of Nations for which I understand negotiations between the United States and Japanese Governments are already under way.

I especially bespeak your interest in favor of Dr. Houghton and Mr. Bowen, for they are much needed here in determining what course should be pursued by the China Medical Board, Inc. in connection with such help as can be given by it to medical work in China during the war and in formulation of plans for afterwards.

Dr. Houghton has been in China for many years and we depend largely on his knowledge of the people and conditions there. The officers of The Rockefeller Foundation also consult him in regard to the Foundation's work in China and have great confidence in his judgment, Mr. Bowen would be most helpful in this same connection.

I regret the necessity of adding to your many burdens in these trying days and do so only because I believe the return of these people is very important and that Dr. Houghton particularly can be of great general service here in advising as to what can be done to succor those in China who need medical care at this critical time.

Very sincerely,

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR.

The Honorable Sumner Welles
Under-Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.