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Nanking, Sept. 26. 1937.

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Rural Reconstruction

Dear Mike,

thanks for the forwarded letters. Also for yours of 16.

We had a hard day yesterday. From 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. with short intermission we had Jap. planes over our heads. We could count 50 of them and about 200 bombs were dropped. Except for the electr. plant there was no real aiming but bombing at random most of the bombs being dropped in the South-City destroying many small houses. All the bombs, except for two, were of very small caliber (50 or 100 lb. Those two large ones were 750 or 1000 kg. and both landed on the tennis courts of the Central Hospital. Our institutions had a very unfortunate day yesterday. C.H. nad C.F.H. St. compound got 11 bombs of which those two huge ones. None of the buildings were directly hit but all the windows were shot to pieces and much damage has been done to the doors, plasterings etc. Nobody was hurt of those who went into the dug-outs and buildings. Two killed and 6 wounded among those who remained outside to watch the planes. They were mostly drivers. Also Brians driver is wounded. Almost everybody remained at the compound because the alarm came just at about 12 a.m. For some unknown reason I decided to go home though most of the time I remained with them in the Weishengshu. I therefore did not even get the shock that everybody had. Jheng was behaving very good and so were the others. There was no panic.

The buildings are damaged but not very seriously. 30,000 \$ will repair everything at the first sight estimated. Of all the builds the Training Inst. suffered most. There were 6 bombs around the buildg at distances of 3 meters to 20 m where the two large ones dropped. One of the walls of the large auditorium was partly hit and collapsed. Roofs have not suffered so that today's rain can not do much damage. The place is being cleared of the debris and I am typing this in my office on Sunday morning. (heavy rain - no danger of planes). No decision made yet as to what are we going to do now. I guess we shall continue to remain on the premisses since there is no possibility to move the C.Hosp. and the beds are badly needed. Also the SanPa Lu health station was hit and partly destroyed but nobody was hurt. The C.University got also a small bomb into the Arts buildg. Little damage. Most of the damage was done in the electr. plant and we had no light yesterday and will continue for some time to be without. Candles are also good and there is still plenty kerosene available. Water is still functioning. Our dug-out is 6 meters deep and bombproof. Brians house not damaged but still empty because, again for some unknown reason I do not like to go there. Some of the Weishengshu people wanted to leave there but I did not allow it. May be we shall take it now for the office if we move. Shall see that all is done properly. Atchesson is officially taking care of the house and they are now all here. Johnson could have done better. He was doing nothing else that the others did but he put it on a big bell while the British and French said: "no we are not going" but they went nicely and moved even their gun-boats up river, which the Americans did not.

Cholera has appeared among the wounded soldiers. We had 30 cases yesterday (they all came from the Shanghai front). There are about 35,000 wounded in this line and all the hospitals are overrun. No service of any value on the front and the wounded simply drift on their own going as far as Hankow, some of them with arms. Rioting in hospitals is a daily occurrence. Jheng will not be able to do anything if this continues for a week or two longer.

We expect John here today or tomorrow. Jheng and Franklin

wanted him to come this way to discuss the urgent problems with him. He agreed to come also for the reason to get some first hand information before going to Hongkong. I think this is right. He can leave here after 2 or 3 days and fly to Hongkong via Hankow. He could fly all the way from Nanking. Jheng is very anxious to know if the R.F. would enter into the cooperation with Geneva. The Govt. has namely asked Geneva to establish a intern. epidemic commission for China under the auspices of the League of Nations. In addition Lulu proposes to collect funds to send 5 units a 100 beds with 3 foreign staff members to work in China during one year in connection with antiepidemic work. The Commission to be composed of 5 members, 1 Chinese and 4 foreigners. This proposal has been submitted to the Assembly on Saturday but I have no news yet if it was passed or not. We shall discuss all this with John who will then be able to explain to you in detail.

The other point they were very keen on was the collaboration of the R.F. in medical education during this emergency period. Main point in this line is the strengthening of a couple of provincial schools to replace those who are out of operation. Yunanfu college is one of those which should be helped with more teachers. C.K. Chu is in Nanking. R. Lim is also expected. He is out of Peiping and is supposed to leave Tientsin today. Yames Shen is already working here and the others from Europe (Marion Yang, Pan and Chang Wei are coming back soon. Our training will have to leave Nanking. The building is too much damaged. Probably to Nanchang. *I.C. Fang is here taking charge of an army hospital with 1500 beds.

Have not seen Franklin since I wrote to you. John will see him.

* Had all the documents regarding Training Inst. ready for you and intended to send them today. Now everything is already out of date.

We had mail and telegrams from John. No word about his family. Mail with Sh. is almost normal.

We are short of some articles particularly cigarettes. John is bringing some from Sh. Butter is scarce, and so are coffee, sugar, bread. Otherwise plenty to eat. Nanking has now not more than 300,000 population.

Can not say anything about my movements. Have to wait for news from Geneva. Maria is urging in every letter that I should come back.

My best to Carrol and to you.

Yours as ever

BYC
Rajchman

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