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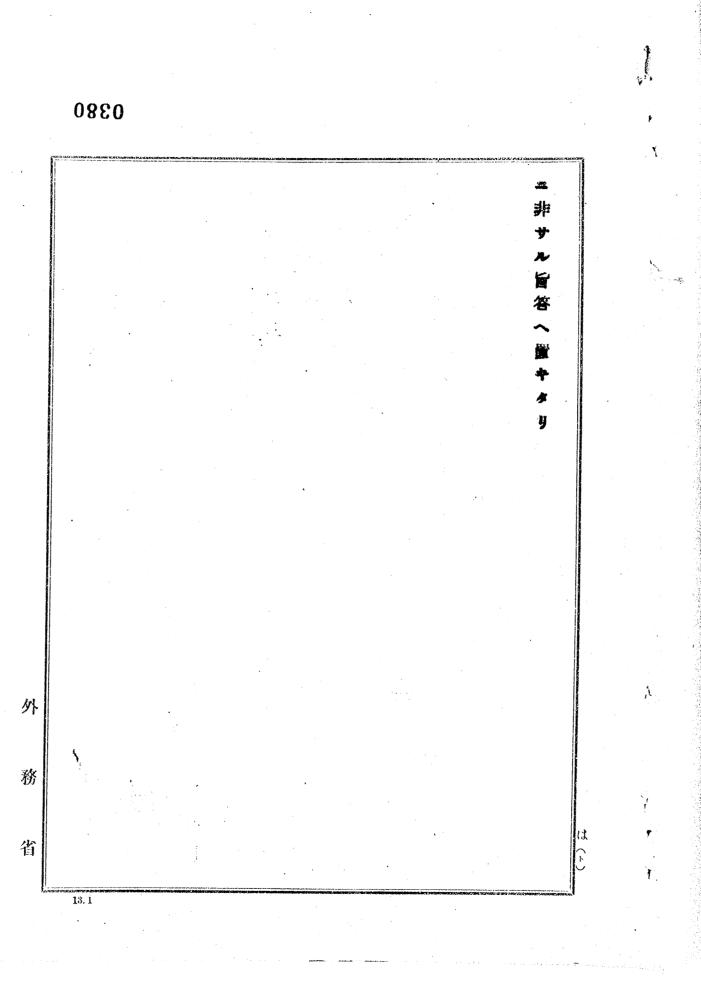
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Informal record of oral representations to the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs by the American Ambassador, January 29, 1938.

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abassador orally informed the Vice Minister of ace of two telegrams from Mr. Allison, Secretary rican Embassy at Nanking, as follows:

0, January 27, 2 p.m.

g the course of an investigation yesterday into lar entry of American property and the forcible a Chinese woman refugee therefrom, Mr. Charles American citizen, and myself, were slapped in by a Japanese soldier, and Mr. Riggs was further and had his collar torn. At the outset we were t in an arrogant and insulting manner by a army officer.

minor incidents which had marked the continued irregular entry of American property. During a general discussion of the matter the evening of January 25th, Mr. Fukui, of the Japanese Embassy, had stated to me that I was placing too much confidence in the statements of American missionaries which had been based in some cases upon stories told

In Fo edord of oral representations to the Vice Minister Laffairs by the American Ambassador, January 29,

The Ambassador orally informed the Vice Minister of the substance of two telegrams from Mr. Allison, Secretary of the American Embassy at Nanking, as follows:

No. 40, January 27, 2 p.m.

During the course of an investigation yesterday into the irregular entry of American property and the forcible removal of a Chinese woman refugee therefrom, Mr. Charles Riggs, an American citizen, and myself, were slapped in the face by a Japanese soldier, and Mr. Riggs was further attacked and had his collar torn. At the outset we were shouted at in an arrogant and insulting manner by a Japanese army officer.

This incident was the culmination of a series of minor incidents which had marked the continued irregular entry of American property. During a general discussion of the matter the evening of January 25th, Mr. Fukui, of the Japanese Embassy, had stated to me that I was placing too much confidence in the statements of American missionaries which had been based in some cases upon stories told

them by trusted Chinese employees. As a result of this conversation I determined to investigate personally the next case which came to light.

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It was reported to me on the 25th that about eleven o'clock the previous evening armed Japanese soldiers had forced their way into the Agricultural Institute shop of Nanking University, an American institution, and after searching one of the Chinese on the premises had taken away a woman, who return after two hours and reported she had been raped three times. On the afternoon of January 25, Mr. Riggs and Dr. M. S. Bates, an American professor, interviewed the woman who was able to identify the place to which she was taken. This proved to be a former residence of Catholic priests now occupied by Japanese soldiers. The matter was reported to the Japanese Embassy and on the afternoon of January 26 a consular policeman and gendarmes in civilian clothes came to investigate the matter and went to the place from which the woman was taken accompanied by Mr. Riggs and myself. After questioning the people there the Japanese took the woman and two Chinese to the building wherein rape was alleged to have taken place. At that point a discussion was held as to whether or not Riggs and myself should accompany the

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woman into the building while she attempted to identify her assailants. The gendarmes said we had better not go in the building but did not definitely say we could not. One of them finally took the woman and walked with her through the open gate of the compound whereupon he was followed by Mr. Riggs. I followed, and just inside the gate we stopped to discuss the matter. While doing so a Japanese soldier dashed up angrily and shouted in English "Back, Back," at the same time pushing me back towards the gate. I backed up slowly but before I had time to get out of the gate he slapped me across the face and then turned and did the same to Mr. Riggs. The gendarmes with us tried feebly to stop the soldier and one of them said in Japanese, "These are Americans" or words to that effect. We were then outside the gate on the street. As soon as the soldier heard we were Americans he became livid with rage, repeated the word "Americans" and again attempted to attack Mr. Riggs who was nearest him. The gendarmes prevented him but he succeeded in tearing the collar and some buttons off Mr. Riggs' shirt. In the meantime the officer in command of the unit appeared and shouted at us in an offensive manner. At no time did either Mr. Riggs or myself touch a Japanese soldier nor did we speak to any except the gendarmes with us. The Chinese men who had been brought along ran

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away during the fracas and I then insisted that the woman be brought with us to the Japanese Embassy. Full report was made to Mr. Fukui. Mr. Fukui's attitude was that we should not have been in the soldier's compound, even though at the time we were investigating the irregular entry of American property by Japanese soldiers, and that the soldier had told us to leave and was therefore seemingly within his rights in slapping us. I told Mr. Fukui there could be no excuse for the slapping and that I would expect a call from the military to explain the matter. He said he would report at once to the military authorities.

Upon leaving the Japanese Embassy we left the woman there for questioning, upon the verbal assurance of Mr. Fukui that she would come to no harm and that after the questioning she would be returned to the residence of Mr. Bates, located near the Japanese Embassy. The woman was left about 3:30 the afternoon of January 26 and at ten o'clock the morning of January 27 she had not yet been returned.

Eleven o'clock this morning Major Hongo came to the Embassy and on behalf of the commander of the Japanese forces expressed regrets for the incident and offered apologies. He stated that a strict investigation was being made of the unit responsible and that while this unit's

departure from Nanking had been scheduled for today it was being kept here for several days to complete the investigation. I told Major Hongo I appreciated his call and that while I personally accepted his apology I could not say what view of the matter would be taken by my Government, which might demand some further settlement.

No. 42, January 28, 7 p.m.

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My 40, January 27, 2 p.m.

I was astounded to hear over the radio this afternoon that according to the official Japanese version I had refused to leave the premises when the Japanese soldier challenged me and that I had insulted the Japanese military.

As stated in my 40, I was backing out of the compound when the assault took place and according to Mr. Riggs who was at one side in a position to see, I had actually been backed up against the gate and could not go further when the slapping occurred.

with regard to the alleged insult, Major Hongo mentioned no such thing when he called to apologize yesterday morning. I inquired of Mr. Fukui this evening how I had insulted the Japanese military and he replied that it was my going into their quarters without permission. I assured

him that I had no intention of insulting the military authorities and requested him so to inform them. I pointed out that I was making this statement merely in a desire to get right an obvious misunderstanding and that the seriousness with which I regard the action of the Japanese soldier.

The Ambassador, under instructions from his Government, emphasized that in weighing the gravity of the incident the American Government takes into account the fact that the whole incident, including the slapping by a Japanese soldier of a diplomatic representative of the United States Government, is not an isolated case, but represents one of many and cannot be dissociated from a series of cases of irregular entry of American property and disregard of American rights by Japanese soldiers. The Ambassador emphasized also that in the light of all these continuing incidents and of the statement made by Mr. Fukui of the Japanese Embassy at Nanking that Mr. Allison was placing too much confidence in the statements of American missionaries, it was important that the American Government's representative at Nanking ascertain the truth in regard to reports of the continued invasions of American property.

It might be pointed out that Mr. Allison was investigating an unauthorized and unwarranted entry of American property; that in company with a Japanese consular policeman and Japanese gendarmes Mr. Allison proceeded to the American property in question; that the investigation led from the American property to property which was a former residence of Catholic priests but now occupied by Japanese soldiers; that the purpose in going to the last mentioned property was to identify if possible the persons who had without warrant entered the American property in question; that Mr. Allison and Mr. Riggs without encountering any sentry or guard followed the Japanese gendarme inside the open gate of the compound occupied by the Japanese soldiers; that as soon as a Japanese soldier indicated that they should withdraw, they began doing so; and that the soldier slapped Mr. Allison before Mr. Allison had time to get out of the gate and while Mr. Allison was in process of backing out of the compound.

The Ambassador informed the Vice Minister that the American Government expects to receive a suitable expression of regret and an assurance that the Japanese Government will take adequate measures to punish the offenders.

The Ambassador further stated that in view of the versions of the incident which have been given out by the Japanese spokesman at Shanghai, the American Government has felt compelled to give to the press in the United States a statement based on Mr. Allison's telegrams under reference; also that the American Government hopes that it will be in position within a day or two to issue a further statement of the action of the Japanese Government by way of settlement to the end that public opinion in the United States may not be unduly aroused.