Shanghai, China
April 2nt, 1937

To our friends in America:

"Tell me how things are going in West China", writes a friend of mine on furlough. "How can I raise funds for institutions which may now be closed?" So, taking my cue from his uncertainty, I am writing you these words.

First of all, we withdrew from Tzechow at the direct command of the United States Legation, which, after a series of telegrams which "advised", "urged" and "instructed", finally read, "Go immediately".

Secondly, we withdrew with the consent of our Chinese co-laborers who, feeling that no one could forecast the future, agreed with us that accidents or casualties to missionaries in the present tense situation might seriously jeopardize the friendly relationships of our countries.

Thirdly, we withdrew over the protest of non-Christian acquaintances, gentry and military – who, knowing that there was no feeling against us locally, could see no reason for evacuation. The ruling military authority went so far as to write a letter offering himself as a hostage for our safety and guaranteeing protection of mission property.

Fourthly, we withdrew in the belief that God's hand was guiding us in a two-fold way: we were thus relieving our government of the necessity of keeping the U.S.A. gunboats in Yangtse waters for our sakes, and so embarrassing Chinese Christians in their contacts with student-agitators; and we were giving the Chinese leaders in the church an opportunity to carry on with full freedom to adapt their policy so as to produce a more truly indigenous Christian church.

AND THEY HAVE CONSECRATED THEMSELVES TO THAT TASK!

They pledged themselves to co-operate with us in every way to divide our work among themselves so that we might go without too serious a break in administration. No easy task, this, else we would have left China long ago.

They are working out a new policy whereby certain work hitherto managed by the General Board and the WUMS separately can be combined and staff reduced without reducing efficiency.

The preachers have organized themselves into a "Flying Squadron" whereby they can report immediately at any point where the pastor is becoming overwhelmed by anti-Christian propaganda, by means of interviews, public meetings, and tracts or posters encouraging Christians and effecting reconciliations.
They have taxed themselves to provide for the budget. They have by written contract bound themselves to provide funeral expenses for any who may be slain by fanatics, and to provide for their widows and orphans.

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET

That China's present difficulties are caused by a militant minority working on the basis of certain injustices of western nations in the past,—if not in the present. The great majority are peace-loving.

That the "right wing" of the Nationalists or Cantonese army does not necessarily spell anathema, but may prove to be China's political salvation.

That more than ever our Christian Chinese brethren should not be deprived of American help or money-aid in carrying on.

That if Christianity with its Gospel of love fails now, it means surrender to materialistic, hatred-fostering, god Bolshevism. As long as there are avenues open for the transmission of funds to West China, we beseech your unflagging cooperation. The Finance Committee continues as the trustworthy distributing agency: the Chinese Christians are loyal. Can our home constituency be less so?

We thank you for the support rendered our work last year. We had not received all replies before we were ordered out, so we were compelled to sell all of our furniture and "luxuries" in order to be able to pay back the money advanced from the treasury, but when we learn of the many in other places who had to evacuate without anything but what might be packed in a suit-case, we are glad that our worldly belongings went to a better cause. This year work will be managed absolutely on the apportionment promised.

For the present, I have been allocated to the Research Staff of the National Christian Council of China with offices in Shanghai. Unless the situation shall later require complete evacuation, I may be addressed in care of

The Associated Mission Treasurers,
23 Yuan Ming Yuan Road,
Shanghai.

Faithfully yours,

In His service,

LEWIS F. HAYERMÆL.