

Sub-enclosure No. 1 to despatch to the American Legation No. 1-712 of Willy's R. Peck, American Consul General at Nanking, China, dated December 23, 1934, entitled "Investigation of the Murder of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Stam by Communist Bandits."

COPY.

Tsingteh, An.,

Dec. 6, 1934.

China Inland Mission,

Shanghai.

Dear Brethren:

My wife, baby and myself are today in the hands of the Communists in the city of Tsingteh. Their demand is twenty thousand dollars for our release.

All our possessions and stores are in their hands, but we praise God (for) peace in our hearts and a meal tonight. God grant you wisdom in what you do, and us fortitude, courage, and peace of heart. He is able, and a wonderful Friend in such a time.

Things happened so quickly this A. M. They were in the city just a few hours after the ever-persistent rumours really became alarming, so that we could not prepare to leave in time. We were just too late.

The Lord bless and guide you, - and as for us, - May God be glorified whether by life or by death.

In Him,

(Signed) John C. Stam.

Sub-enclosure No. 2 to despatch to the American Legation
No. L-712 of Willys R. Peck, American Consul General at
Nanking, China, dated December 25, 1934, entitled "In-
vestigation of the Murder of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Stam
by Communist Bandits."

(Translation)

San Chi,

EXPRESS

December 11, 1934.

Mr. Kohfield,

China Inland Mission, Tunki.

Dear Mr. Kohfield:

My wife and I arrived at Miaosheo on December 6.
At 11:00 a.m., December 7, the Red forces arrived. I
was then captured also. Fortunately, through the mercy
of God, I spoke words which I should have spoken, and
escaped from the hands of the bandits. We took refuge
on top of a large hill behind Miaosheo for two days
and nights. We were hungry, thirsty and cold. For
this reason, my son Yuan Seng got seriously ill. We
went down the hill yesterday. I suddenly heard that
my dear Mr. and Mrs. Stam were murdered by bandits
at Shang Chieh Tou, Miaosheo. Condition was so
miserable that I can not describe it in detail. Out
of pity I bought coffins and put the bodies in, just
as a temporary measure. I have found the orphan girl,
and will bring her back to Kingsien today. My son
Yuan Seng is, also, little better. Please inform the
Superintendent as soon as possible.

Lo Ke-chou

COPY.

China Inland Mission,

Chingto, An.

December 12, 1954.

Dear Mr. Gibb:

May the blessing of the Triune God be with you. This is to inform you that our Mr. and Mrs. John Stam were seized by the Reds on the 6th inst. On the 7th they were taken to a village to the west, Miao Show. They were kept there for a day, and on the 8th at 10 a.m. the Reds shouted: "We shall kill the foreigners and let the people see." When the time came, our beloved Mr. Stam and his wife were murdered on the street in Miao Show, in a small clump of pine trees. They were both naked, and their hands were tied behind their backs. Mr. Stam's throat was cut and he died, and Mrs. Stam was completely decapitated, the circumstances are too tragic for words. After the Reds had gone, all those who saw it could not but shake their heads and weep.

On the 6th, I had taken my wife and child to the home of Mrs. Wang in Miao Show. On the 7th, over 5,000 Reds came without warning. I was unprepared and was taken by them, as they claimed that I was the local head-man. Praise the Lord, a local man gave clear evidence that I was not, and thus I escaped danger. I then took my wife and child, and with Mrs. Wang's daughter-in-law, fled to the top of a hill behind Miao Show. I was there for two days and two nights, both terrified and hungry and thirsty. At night it was exceedingly cold, and my child, who is delicate, is very seriously ill from exposure, and has neither spoken nor eaten for four days.

Fortunately

Fortunately, by the grace of the Lord, on the 9th, the Reds moved towards Kiang Ts'un and Pe Ti, and the official troops came to Miao Show, so I came down from the hill, and heard the people saying that our beloved friends had been killed. I at once went to look for the remains - it was an unbearable tragedy. I then went with Mrs. Wang's son, Shih-ho and procured two coffins. There was no tailor to make garments, so we simply wrapped the bodies in four lengths of white calico, bought some lime and put the remains in the coffins. The total sum expended was \$59.70.

I also found that the Reds had thrown away the dear baby girl. When I found her, she was still alive, so I immediately brought her back and found a woman to nurse her. On the afternoon of the 9th, I heard that the Reds were returning. The people all fled in terror. I was in a difficulty, having two babies, one for whom there was no milk, and one seriously ill. I could not go up the hill again, and therefore took my wife and fled towards San Ch'i, and taking the movable things, with the two babies, I returned to Kinghsien. There I found that about one-third of the people had fled. I have arranged that tomorrow (12th) my wife will take the Stan baby to Hsuan Ch'eng for a time, until we see how things work out. I also intend to return to Hsuan Ch'eng with her and from there go alone to Ching Te to ascertain the conditions there. I have no ready money left, my expenses coming and going amounted to over \$30.00. My father had given me some financial assistance, but the Reds took that money. In all, including both money and things my losses amount to over \$70.00. I do not know whether you can assist me in this matter, or whether you could advance me an instalment of next year's salary in order to meet the emergency. I earnestly hope and pray that you may be able

At Niao Shou, Mrs. Wang's home has suffered severely. The Reds have taken all her rice, and the broken rice has been emptied into the pond. The homes in these districts are all empty, the cries ascend day and night, and no one knows whether the issue will be life or death. I entreat that you will remember Mrs. Wang's whole family, also Mr. Chang Hain-sheng, who, because they (or perhaps he means, he) begged for the release of Mr. and Mrs. Stam were taken captive and up to the present we do not know whether they are alive or dead. Please pray for them.

Praise the Lord that during the last two days my child has been very much better.

All the above is strictly true and in accordance with the facts. Please take note and let me have a reply.

Yours,

Lo K'eh-chou.

(Translation)

Kingsien, December 12, 1934.

Dear Superintendent Hanna:

My dear Mr. and Mrs. John Stam were kidnapped by Red bandits on December 5, and brought to Miaochee on the 7th. At 10 a.m. of December 8, the bandits shouted asking the masses to kill foreigners. My dear Mr. and Mrs. Stam were finally killed at 10 o'clock in a small pine forest at Shen Chieh Tou, Miaochee. Conditions then were very miserable. Mr. Stam died after his gullet was cut. Mrs. Stam's head was connected with the rest of her body by only little skin. Both of them were naked and the lower part of their bodies had sword cuts. The spectators all wept bitterly after Red bandits departed.

My wife, child and myself arrived at Wang's house at Miaochee 4 p.m. of December 6. I was also captured by bandits on the 7th at 10:30 a.m. Fortunately, through the ability of our Saviour, I escaped from danger 15 minutes later. My wife and child, Mrs. Wang's daughter-in-law, and I then took refuge on top of a hill behind Miaochee for two days and nights. We were very much frightened, hungry, thirsty and cold. For this reason, my son Yuan Song got very ill and was unable to eat or speak for four days. On December 9, the Red bandits retreated to Hsiang Tsun, and government troops arrived at Miaochee. When I went down the hill, I heard that Mr. Stam had been killed. I found the bodies, and it was

so grievous that I was not hard-hearted enough to look at them. There were birds flying above and dogs all around them. I was very much shocked. Accompanied by Mrs. Wang's son, I bought on the local market two coffins on credit. Since there were no tailors to make dresses I used 4 pieces of white cloth and wrapped the bodies. Just as a temporary measure, the bodies were put in coffins in order not to be hurt by birds and dogs. I spent altogether \$59.70. I also found the daughter of Mr. Stan. In the afternoon of December 9, people at Niashao were still in a threatening condition and had to evacuate. I had two children in my care. One of them had no milk to drink while the other was very sick. Had I taken refuge again on the hill, it would really be impossible for me to keep either child alive. So we ran to Sun Chi Cheng and returned to Kinghsien. One-third of Kinghsien people had already evacuated the city. I prepare to have my wife and myself send Mr. Stan's daughter to Sun-cheng on December 13. My wife will stay in Suncheng for a while. I alone wish to make a trip to Tsingteh to see the condition of our church. However, the money I paid for the return trip mentioned above and things which bandits looted amounted to a total of more than \$70. The treasurer paid me \$18 of which I only took \$8 at Suncheng. The remaining amount of \$10 was in the hands of Mr. Stan which amount I wanted to draw after arriving Tsingteh. Unfortunately, Mr. Stan was murdered. The Lord keeps me alive in order that I may take care of Mr. Stan's daughter as well as of the bodies of the late couple. I have spent all my money and do not know whether you can be of relief to me.

Mrs.

Mrs. Wang at Miaochee suffered gravely from banditry. The bandits ate all/^{the} rice she had. All houses in Miaochee and the Kingtsh region had been emptied, and the people have no means to maintain their living. Chang Hsiu-sung, a Christian at Miaochee, was also taken by bandits because he pleaded for the release of Mr. Stan, and his fate is now unknown. Kindly pray the Lord for him.

All above are true facts. I hope that you will not neglect the matter.

The treasurer made a remittance to Kinghsien through the post office. Since Mr. Stan was murdered before arriving Kinghsien, please take steps to have the money returned by the post office.

I received a letter from Cecilia Li this afternoon stating that the Red bandits looted all movable property in the church. This morning I addressed a communication to Magistrate Peng requesting him to protect everything left in the church and the coffins of Mr. and Mrs. Stan.

What action should be taken when conditions become peaceful in the future?

Lo Ke-shou,
Church at Kinghsien.

No. 1-712 of Wally M. Peck, American Consul General at Hankin, China, dated December 25, 1934, entitled "Investigation of the Murder of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Stan by Communist Bandits."

Letter from Superintendent of the
Second Administrative District of Anhwei
To Mr. Birch, China Inland Mission, Suifu.
Dated: December 13, 1934.

Sir:

I was verbally informed by you that Mr. and Mrs. Stan, missionaries at Tsingteh, and their infant were kidnapped by bandits. You requested that steps be taken to rescue them from the danger. Separate telegrams were despatched making inquiries, and Chairman Liu at Chih-teh was informed by telegram with the request that he instruct all bandit suppression forces to obtain the rescue of the captives. A confidential telegram dated 11th has now been received from Chairman Liu at Chih-teh stating as follows:

"Your telegram of 11th has been noted. With reference to the fall of Tsingteh and the American missionaries who fell into the hands of the bandits, the various troops had been repeatedly ordered to take every possible step to obtain their rescue. A telegram dated December 8, about 11 p.m. ("Hai period") was received yesterday from Brigadier General Li Wen-ping stating that the Niangai bandits were defeated that noon and Kiao-shou recaptured. When cleaning the battlefield, there were found the bodies of Pastor Stan, an American preacher, and of a lady of about 30 years of age. Besides, a child of 7 years old was carried away by bandits. The local authorities have been

directed

Directed to put the two bodies - American nationality - in coffins. The telegram concluded that steps are being taken to locate the child carried away by bandits and to obtain its rescue.

"Aside from reporting the matter to Chairman Chiang and Vice Commander-in-Chief Chang and instructing Brigadier General Li and other troops to exert every effort to obtain the release of the child, you are requested to inform Mr. Birth of the above."

I am very sorry to hear the above news. Besides despatching telegrams to the bandit suppression forces on the front to rescue the kidnapped child from danger and communicating with you further when this is done, I beg leave to indite this letter for your information.

Yang Chu-jea,
Superintendent.