

2311 Massachusetts Avenue N. W.
Washington 8, D. C.
March 13, 1944

I am writing to ask whether you would be willing to consider a definite call to war service in China.

In order to reduce misunderstandings and frictions and to promote closer cooperation between the American and Chinese forces in China, the Chinese Government has proposed that a limited number of well-selected Chinese-speaking Americans be engaged immediately, for various forms of liaison work, either by the American Army or the Chinese Government or both.

I have recently arrived from China for a short furlough in the United States. I have been asked while here to give some time to the development of the proposed plan.

As a result of discussions in Chungking and in Washington, the War Department is now ready to engage immediately ten or twelve men as civilian employees to assist in interpretation and relations with Chinese student interpreters. Later, the Department will be ready to send forty more for other types of service, civilian or military: in the hostels for American forces in China, in business relations between Americans and Chinese, in the army orientation and education program, and in general liaison work.

Those who go out in civilian capacities would be engaged by the the War Department on definite contract for periods of one year or longer, and would be provided with rations and quarters in China, together with a salary to cover family needs in this country. Others may be commissioned as army officers. Some may be appointed to auxiliary branches of Army service, such as the Red Cross or chaplaincy. The smaller number who might be engaged by the Chinese Government would be on a contract with the Chinese Government and paid by them. In all cases travel to and from China would be arranged.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for Americans in this country who have had experience in China and who wish to return there to arrange for travel and to meet the high cost of living due to inflation. Here is an opportunity for fifty qualified Americans - missionaries, educators, business men, and others - to make a vital contribution to the united war effort in China. A larger number may be needed later. While this work will be concerned chiefly with the laying of foundations for closer cooperation when the major emphasis of the war shifts to the Far

East, it will also give opportunities for the building of permanent understanding and good will between China and America.

I am asking small responsible committees in New York and Washington to assist in the selection of suitable candidates whom we might recommend to the War Department and the Chinese Government. In doing this, I am acting at the request of the Chinese Government in an unofficial capacity and with the understanding of the American Army and Embassy in China and the State and War Departments in Washington.

Will you kindly let me know as quickly as possible whether you are ready to consider the war service in China proposed in this letter. Your reply and the information which you send us on the enclosed form will be treated confidentially and will not obligate you to accept an invitation if your name is selected. However, we would like to know whether you are merely interested in the proposal or whether you would definitely like to go to China for such work in the near future if the opportunity develops.

To former China missionaries I should like to emphasize the opportunity for Christian service in this plan: to further better understanding between the Chinese and American peoples, to serve American officers and men who are far from home and lonely in China, and to serve China and our Chinese friends in the armed forces, including a considerable number of Christians. In the Chinese army now are several thousand university students acting as interpreters for the American forces and a large proportion of these are from Christian colleges. In relations between the American Army and the civilian population of China, we would also render valuable service with far-reaching consequences.

I enclose an envelope for reply.

With my best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Frank W. Price
(China address: West China
Union University Campus,
Chengtu)