

Waldfrid Hansson (enclosed
power of attorney)
Hale Björk
Sten Lindberg

Lundgrensgatan 16,
Göteborg den 7 nov. 1951

Dear friends,

I left Tsingtao on September 1st and Lorient on the 13th. I was thrilled to again enjoy freedom. I stayed ten days in Hongkong and spent a week in Israel. I arrived in Stockholm Oct 8th. It's fantastic to be able to leave Hongkong in the morning by plane and arrive the following day in Stockholm 11 Jan. But I waited 7 months for the permit after I had applied to leave China! What a happy reunion with my wife, mother, brother and members of the Board. The next day I gave a full report to the Board which was in session, spoke over the radio and later attended meetings in several churches. The last Swedish missionary out of China got a warm welcome home.

I intend to write an article for the Standard about the general missionary situation in Red China so I shall only mention something about Tsingtao. During 1950 missionary activity carried on much as before. About the beginning of 1951 things went from bad to worse. Pearl Johnson and I had to discontinue our work in the Theological Seminary. On account of government pressure foreign missionaries could not do any missionary work in the churches or institutions. We still attended services but even stopped that in April. The accusation meetings began in June and continued more than two months with publicity also

in the daily paper. They were instigated by the authorities who indoctrinated Church leaders in order to discredit your leadership and the missionary movement, because all were imperialistic and capitalistic purposes. Those who refused would of course be considered reactionary and could be imprisoned or sent to death. Terror and fear filled everybody's heart. Irene Forsythe, a Presbyterian missionary, was most severely accused and after two months deported. Her accuser, Hwang An-wei, a young preacher, had been in jail two months on account of what his father had done. He was let out in order to do this dirty job. Pearl John Southern Baptist, and "Pop" Hanson, Methodist, were also accused. My name was mentioned twice in the daily among "imperialists" but without special accusation. I have heard that my crime was "American connections." We expected to be arrested any time, but that did not happen. About 25 Catholic missionaries in Sointao have been arrested and about as many business people of different nationalities. Pastor Shu was told to accuse me and Hen Lindberg but he refused to do it.

When it was impossible to serve the church any longer I applied to return to Sweden. A missionary presence was no longer an asset to the Church but a liability. I was in charge of your mission property at Sletta Huk up to February 10th 1951 after which Pastor Shu took over. I am enclosing a copy of my power of attorney to him. As foreigners had to pull out I thought he was the logical man to look after the property. Earlier a Communist authority, Mr. Liu at the Foreign Affairs Bureau, asked me why Hale Björk turned the property over to me and not to the Chinese pastor.

All title deeds and legal documents have been handed over to them. About this time the house on First Tai Ping Church Road was rented ~~out~~ to P. O. Hanson and later the one on Second Chanshan Road to a Chinese family. The rent has been paid directly to pastor Phu.

Beginning with 1951 the Chinese church is not allowed to receive funds from abroad. I have not paid any rent on the church or chapel. Your church continued to pay rent a few months. As it is impossible at present to preach to outsiders the chapel was first given up. Then pastor Phu approached the authorities for a reduction on the rent of the church. The answer was an increase. The main building had to be given up, while he is going to try to keep the smaller building as living quarters.

I should give a proper account for the money whale handed over and other expenses. It is impossible to have anything written out of the country, so you will have to take my word. In addition to what I received from whale U.S. \$350.- has been used. Out of this amount \$200.- was handed over to pastor Phu for the two houses, i.e. for land & house tax, repairs and caretaker. This was given him in Jan. with the permission of Mr. Fui in the Foreign Affairs Bureau. Afterwards this was unnecessary because the houses were rented out and caretakers discharged. The \$200.- is however in his safe keeping. \$150.- was used for caretakers salaries during three months and also severance money to them for another three months, house and land taxes and photostats of documents that had not been photographed. As I have borrowed this money from the Southern Baptist Mission I would be grateful if U.S. \$350.- be

sent at your earliest convenience to Mr. C. K. Culpepper, 167-169 Boundary Street, P.O. Box 1625, Kowloon, Hongkong.

I regret that I have not been able to save Sten's motorcycle. It may have been possible when I first wrote to you but after the freezing of American money and property it was impossible. I had to hand over your documents for examination and later the vehicle was taken. You are by no means the only loser. Ch. Cowherd's car has also been turned in. Not to mention other people's property. I received a receipt from the Foreign Affairs Bureau, P'ao, but did not dare to take it with me. If you would like a formal statement from me re this matter I would be glad to write one.

Alice and Sten are in Japan. Congratulations. Egon is flying from Sweden on Nov. 21st and will soon join you out there. Alma and Wale - which was it a prince or princess? Congratulations! Glad to hear that Mr. Danielson has recovered and resumes the Mission Secretary post. Hellen enjoyed her stay in the States. I wish I would have had the chance to visit you, but may be another time.

I have not written any letters while in China on account of censorship. Excuse me for making a short cut here as I have so many ~~letters~~ letters to write for those who are still in P'ao. This letter or copies of it are hereby sent to Mr. Danielson (with the original copy of power of attorney) Wale and Sten. We are well and send you all our heart's greetings. Cordially yours,

Oscar Powell