

TRANSLATION

Memorandum from Ministry of Foreign Affairs to H.B.M. Embassy

Dated & Despatched 15/9/47

No. Ou 36/19302

F 11003/340/10

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs present their compliments to H.B.M. Embassy and, with reference to the Ministry's memorandum No. Ou 14859 of 16th July regarding the attacks upon UNRRA personnel and supply convoys on June 10th, 13th and 14th by aircraft of the Chinese National Air Force, which attacks endangered the safety of a British employee [of UNRRA] have the honour to state that a reply has now been received from the competent authorities to the following effect:-

"Instructions were issued for investigation, as a result of which the circumstances under which the attacks were made in error were ascertained to be as follows:-

(1) As regards the attack made on the lighter at the ferry at Kao Ts'un, Tung Ming (東明高村) on June 10th, it is stated that no distinctive UNRRA markings to serve as identification were seen on the lighter at the time.

(2) As regards the attacks made upon the vessels at Yangchiaokou (羊角溝) on 13th and 14th June, the local military authorities, upon receipt of reports to the effect that large Communist forces in the vicinity of Laiwu were (萊蕪) crossing Hsiao Ch'ing River (小清河) to escape in a northerly direction and boarding vessels to escape to the sea in an easterly direction, despatched an aeroplane [or aeroplanes] to reconnoitre the place. It was then discovered that numerous junks, all without markings, were concentrated at Hsiao Ch'ing River and Yangchiaokou and they were therefore bombed.

(3) It was ascertained that at a place on the road five kilometres south of Chefoo a truck without markings was in fact attacked on the 14th. ~~was~~

The cause of all the above-mentioned attacks was that [the vessels or vehicles] were not marked so as to be distinguishable from Communist vessels or vehicles. In order to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents as a result of misunderstanding, UNRRA are being requested to place distinctive markings on all of their vehicles and vessels and to give notification in advance of their movements. The subordinate organs concerned have also been instructed to pay special attention [to identifying] their objects of attack."

As regards the action taken to dispose of the case of the s.s. WANSHEW, the Ministry have also received a reply from the organization concerned to the following effect:-

duties

"(1) The penalty of suspension from flying ~~duties~~ has already been imposed on the Air Force officer responsible for the incident.

"(2) As regards the compensation for the wound suffered by the British Captain R.B.C. Lee, it was ascertained by the doctor, on examination of the captain's wound, that he is permanently partially disabled in one of his limbs. The question of compensation was discussed with UNRRA and the sum provisionally fixed is US\$5,250. This sum roughly equals two and half years salary at US\$175 a month. The captain however stated that discussion of the question of compensation should be deferred for the time being, and payment not be made until the extent of his bodily injury could be definitely ascertained. Upon receipt of information that UNRRA and the British Government were pressing for the conclusion of the case, the captain is stated to have explained to the British representative on the UNRRA Committee of the Council for the Far East that he was willing to wait till he had recovered for the case to be settled."

(STAMPED)

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS