

工部局董事会会议录

第二十三册

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THE MINUTES OF SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Volume XXIII

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES

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工部局董事会会议录

THE MINUTES OF

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

(1925—1927)

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At the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, January 14, 1926, at 4.30 p.m

There are

Present:

Messrs. S. Fessenden (Chairman)

A.E. Baker

A.D. Bell

P.L. Knight

V.E. Lyman

P.W. Massey

S. Sakurai, and

The Acting Secretary.

Absent:

Mr. E.F. Mackay

The ~~Summons~~ calling the meeting is taken as read.

The ~~Minutes~~ of the last meeting are confirmed and signed.

The ~~Minutes of the meeting of the Works Committee of December 30~~ are submitted and are confirmed.

The ~~Minutes of the meeting of the Parks Committee of December 30~~ are submitted and are confirmed, with the exception of the recommendation relative to the extension of Jessfield Park. The Acting Secretary points out that the recommendation amounts to a proposed reversal of former decision by the Council and in the circumstances members require that this question be deferred for further consideration when the record of former decisions will be placed before the Council.

The ~~Minutes of the meetings of the Public Utilities Committee of January 5 and 12~~ are submitted and are confirmed.

The ~~Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee of January 6~~ are submitted and are confirmed.

The ~~Minutes of the meeting of the Foreign Education Committee of January 8~~ are submitted and are confirmed. With regard to the recommendation that the Public School for Girls at Yuenan Road be extended, Mr. Massey inquires whether new school buildings are carried to the maximum height allowed under the Building Rules when they are erected. In view of the high cost at which land has to be acquired for public buildings, he regards it as very desirable that the buildings should be planned so as to allow extension whenever practicable by the means of additional storeys rather than that additional land should have to be purchased. Members endorse this view which will be brought to the notice of the Commissioner of Public Works.

With regard to the Thomas Hanbury School for Girls, in view of the fact that the vendor of the additional land required desires payment before Chinese New Year, purchase is authorised.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Staff Committee of January 9 are submitted and are confirmed.

Local Political Situation and Residence of Military Leaders in the Settlement.-

20. The Chairman refers to the recent developments in the local political situation dealing with the question of Marshal Chi's residence in the Settlement. Members may have noticed the tendency in certain quarters to criticise the Council's action in allowing Chi to reside here, a comparison being made between the treatment accorded to Chi and that in the case of Little Hsu. He refers in detail to the circumstances which led to the arrest and deportation of Little Hsu, but in view of the fact that when Chi came to the Settlement no State of Emergency existed, and also that Chi entered the Settlement in the capacity of a private citizen, having expressed the intention of refraining from political and war activities, he does not consider there is any parallel between the two cases. When it was known that Chi was coming to reside in the Settlement, the Police asked for instructions as to what action should be taken. Capt. Barrett was informed of the attitude taken by the Diplomatic Body in Peking with regard to the residence of such military leaders in the Settlement, consequently the Police were instructed only to maintain a close watch on Chi's movements: if, however, satisfactory proof was forthcoming that he was using his residence in the Settlement as a base for plotting war or political activities, he would be informed that he must leave the Settlement. It was suggested by the Chairman that Major Hilton Johnson might be consulted. This was done and Major Hilton Johnson agreed with the Chairman that under the circumstances no precipitate action should be taken. There was a strong possibility of a serious situation arising between the various Forces in the vicinity of the Settlement who were more or less leaderless, and it seemed advisable not to unnecessarily incur the ill-will of Marshal Chi, who in the event of expulsion from the International Settlement could take up quarters in either the French Concession or Chapei.

At the same time, there was a more or less general impression that the French Authorities for some unknown reason were well disposed towards and inclined to favour Marshal Chi.

With regard to the action of the French Authorities in allowing thousands of troops to enter their Concession, it was pointed out that this indiscriminate admission of large numbers of soldiers into the French Concession was a danger to the International Settlement but no change was made in the Policy of the French Authorities. It was ascertained that the Consular Body convened a meeting yesterday to discuss this matter but the French Consul-General did not appear at the meeting. In the meantime, a rumour was current that Chi had undertaken to co-opt the troops who had entered the Settlement into his own army, which may account for the action

by the French Authorities. Upon the Chairman inquiring whether the Consular Body intended to take any steps for the removal of these soldiers from the International Settlement, and the French Concession, he learned that certain members of the Consular Body had been approached by influential Chinese who stated that they were prepared to finance the repatriation of the soldiers to their own Provinces to the extent of approximately \$500,000. A condition to this offer, however, was that the men should be allowed to take their arms and ammunition, which supports in a measure the view held in certain quarters that the Chinese making the offer were in sympathy with Marshal Lu and that they desired to get the men and their equipment to Nanking for his army. The Consular Body informed the Chinese that under no condition whatever would the men be allowed to take their arms and ammunition if they left Shanghai, and it is understood that the Consular Body has convened a meeting to-day for the purpose of discussing the question of the disposal of the men at present in the Settlement.

Meanwhile, the question of the disposal of these troops presents serious difficulties. At the moment there are some 13,000 troops quartered in the Settlement and the French Concession. Owing to the lack of food and shelter it is not unlikely that serious trouble may be started by the men themselves. All the Police available have been detailed for guarding purposes and a number of the Volunteer Corps have been called out to assist them. Protests have been received that the men are inadequately guarded and as the Commandant is not in favour of the Volunteer Corps being used for this purpose indefinitely representations were made to the Senior Consul requesting him to ask for several hundred marines to be detailed for this duty. Owing to the divergence of view which exists between the various Consuls and the attitude adopted by the French Authorities, it does not appear to be unlikely that the Council itself will be faced with the question of repatriating the interned troops. In this connexion, a Police report has been received recommending that the men be shipped either to Tientsin or Chefoo, and this proposal is endorsed by representatives of Marshal Chi, the latter advising that their transport to these places should be by foreign ship escorted by a foreign gunboat or cruiser, to avoid any possibility of their being diverted to landing after they have left Shanghai. The Chairman suggests that the most pressing question for consideration is that of feeding and sheltering the men, and that the matter of their repatriation might be dealt with by sub-Committee of the Council. His proposal that Messrs. Bell, Lyman and Massey should form a sub-Committee for this purpose is approved.

The Commissioner of Public Works then attends, and discussion takes place as to what action should be taken to provide for the immediate needs of the men. Mr. Harpur states that he has given instructions for the erection of matcheds and corrugated iron shelters; there are at the moment some 2,000 men at Sinza Depot, but he does not regard this Depot as suitable for internment purposes, on account of its locality and particularly in view of the lack of sanitary accommodation available. The Camp at Pingliang Road, however, will in time accommodate up to 10,000 men, but the erection of shelters must, of necessity, be slow and some time must elapse before the whole number can be accommodated. It is then suggested that the Rifle Range might be used as an internment Camp: the Commissioner favours this suggestion, having regard to the fact that it is well fenced in with barbed wire, and arrangements for light, water and sanitation, are good, but he points out that there are no shelters, nor is the ground well drained. Members generally favour the Pingliang Camp as being the most suitable, for the reason that there are but few foreign residences in the locality. After considerable discussion, members agree as to the immediate necessity of all possible steps being taken to provide shelters and food for these men, and the Commissioners of Public Works and Police will be authorised to make whatever provision is necessary. It is estimated that the cost of supplying food will be fifteen cents per day for each soldier. The Commissioner of Public Works then withdraws.

With regard to the question of repatriation generally, and that of military leaders being allowed to remain in the Settlement, the Chairman expresses the view that both these matters will have to be seriously considered by the Council, with a view possibly to prompt and independent action being taken. From experience gained during the recent conflict in September last, he is not inclined to place much reliance upon the Consular Body in matters so serious as those which now have to be faced. The Council's unanimous opinion as to its position regarding the adoption of measures for Settlement defence has recently been recorded, in view of which he considers that in matters of this nature it is the Council's duty to act upon its own initiative and to take whatever action is considered necessary, thereafter, if considered expedient, reporting such action to the Consular Body for information. He expresses the view that if the advice or co-operation of the Consular Body is sought prior to any essential action being taken an embarrassing situation will be created for that Body on account of the divergent views held by its various members, a situation of which the Consular Body might well wish to be relieved. He does not think, however, that any serious opposition will be forthcoming from the Consular Body if it is not notified until definite action which is considered necessary by the Council has been taken. Members