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China Medical Commission
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Dear Ray:

A month ago we were getting out of San Francisco. We have certainly seen a lot since then. We keep in first rate health despite luncheons and Chinese dinner parties without a break. Louches + Burwell make agreeable as well as competent workers. I have been keeping Louches ^{in mind} as a possible Vice-Chief and I've seen nothing to qualify an increasing respect for his cautious common sense and devotion to the Chinese - and theirs to him. He is not a brilliant speaker but his sincerity and surefootedness and unselfishness have built him excellent relations with all the Chinese we have seen. Therefore Burwell makes his first visit to China and also sees a school markedly different from what he has known before but he is getting hold of the variations and the novelties and the complications very competently.

The situation unrolls itself bit by bit, I hope, in my diary. Most if not all the economic confusion depends directly upon the political situation. But that does not prevent the economic strains from making the political situation even worse. The PUMC buildings offer unmatched advantages to the most important group of politicians in China in work where comfort and efficiency contribute more helpfully to patience and good temper in negotiation than even the persons involved realize. But they are certainly grateful. There is no doubt of the value of the PUMC's performance in the past, but I think we all agree that ^{its} relations with the other medical schools in China need considerable change. Nothing worries me as much as the feeling that the Trustees will be reluctant to turn over a large amount of money to the C.M.B. and that without a large amount of money the tie with the Foundation cannot be cut effectively. Living costs will go down when

peace restores railway communications, export, manufacturing and general confidence. The status of American institutions could hardly be better. I never realized how impressive is the list of events which give the Chinese confidence in us: John Hay's reluctance on the subject of extra-territoriality, Theodore Roosevelt's initiative in returning the Boxer Indemnity, the maintenance of the best colleges and schools from American organizations, the freeing of the Philippines, the beating of Japan and forcing the Japanese to get out of China. We don't have to worry about Gov't interference in the PUMC but we do have to worry about political peace because I don't believe that the Americans here around Marshall are going to be patient for an indefinite period while the Kuomintang and the Chinese Communist leaders who have been fighting for power since 1926 continue to quarrel over something that is not the welfare of China. The PUMC can work under any government that has a decent dollar exchange rate eventually: it has had a favorable rate in the past but to try to open the school in 1946 September would have been foolish in many different ways, but mostly the economic. One of the reasons I decided to go into Communist territory for a few days next week is that it intimates that we have an open mind and are looking for evidence as to what kind of government has the medical welfare at heart. It will be good insurance against future possibilities. Lighton Stuart does not believe that Moscow controls the Chinese Communists. One hears from all Americans who have been in Communist territory of the honesty, loyalty and good discipline there but how long would it survive prosperity and power? I could write a long letter on the extraordinary performance

of the PDMC as tested by the war. I am more convinced of it than I expected to be. We are still making the assumption that a case has to be made from the ground up for anything we recommend. But I can't escape the realization that if we were to close the PDMC completely we could start no other undertaking in China free from the distrust and forfeited confidence which would attach to the Rockefeller name as a result. Nor could any completely new program be started without large expense and the prospect of long investment before returns would come in that would compare with the trained personnel, the equipment, the influence and good will of the effort started 25 years ago. The probability that the Gov't will arrange for the Japanese Hospital + Club property to become property of the PDMC must be counted as a valuable contribution of the Chinese to the school. It could not come from a hostile or even a cool attitude. This is the first time China has ever won a war outright and yet only thanks to the U.S. has China been able to expel the Japanese defeated though they may be.

The situation proves very complicated and intricate. We have to accept a schedule of luncheons and dinners that is incessant and get around almost as many exotic dishes as unusual problems. This note cannot possibly contain all that is offered as or even what we are absorbing. But it is a visit certainly worth making and with this I think you will agree when we return.

Best greetings to all

A.G.